FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
February 14, 2011
3:15 p.m., 601 Rudder Tower
http://facultysenate.tamu.edu


Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Speaker Strawser at 3:15 P.M. There was one senator from Qatar present via videoconferencing.

Speaker Comments:
Speaker Strawser recognized students Cole Smith and Chad Chalker, who presented “Big Event,” the annual student service project. They expect about 15,000 community projects will be performed on March 26th this year, and invited faculty to promote Big Event, to volunteer, or even to request a job. The website is bigevent.tamu.edu.

Speaker Strawser next recognized Peter Lange, Associate Director of Transportation Services, who presented an update on the Ross Street construction project as well as two upcoming Wellborn Street crossings. He said Ross Street began to collapse in 1995, but the repairs are due to be completed by this September. Fish pond will be moved across the street, and Military Walk will be extended all the way to Sbisa. Access gates will be installed to minimize through traffic on Ross Street except for buses. Northgate improvements include making Houston Street one-way from University Drive to Sbisa. Details are posted at transport.tamu.edu/parking/forums/2011/RossStUpdate.ppt. He said paratransit for handicapped faculty and staff was transitioned to Brazos Transit but that has created some issues; the problem with moving back to TAMU service is that transit is funded by student fees. The Dean of Faculties is funding paratransit temporarily while working on a permanent solution.

Speaker-Elect Benedik reminded senators to sign up for the joint meeting with the University of Texas Faculty Council in Austin March 7th; there will be no regular March meeting here.

Secretary Daugherity reported on the System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (SEBAC) meeting held February 8, 2011. A number of changes are anticipated for the next academic year, at the federal, state, and system levels. At the federal level, Obamacare has already removed some items from Payflex on January 1st, resulting in a tax increase on those items, and has other requirements effective September 1st (such as covering dependents to age 26) which will cost the system about 2.5 million dollars in the next fiscal year for these unfunded federal mandates.

*At the state level, benefit plans must be rebid at least every six years, so this year dental, vision, and long-term disability plans will be up for change next year medical, drug, and flexible spending plans will be up. For September TAMUS is looking at $500 and $700 deductible plans instead of $350 and $1,250, since the $1,250 plan subscribers (mostly younger employees and lower-salaried employees) end up subsidizing the $350 plan subscribers (mostly older employees and higher-salaried employees). The University of Texas and the state Employee Retirement System have already gone to a single plan. It was reported that the percentage of employees selecting HMO’s (Scott & White and FirstCare) was about 30% and dropping. A random 50% of employees will be required to submit documentation verifying their dependents’ eligibility in the next two months. SEBAC currently expects about an 8% change for the next academic year in increased costs and decreased benefits, such as an increase in office visit copays and a reduction in lab and X-ray coverage from 100% to 80%.

The annual Faculty Senate Aggie Spirit Award will be presented in May; donations are solicited today and also at the April meeting.

The Richard Stadelmann Faculty Service Award was presented to Guido Kanschat with a plaque and a check.

The December 13 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Consent Agenda Without objection, the consent agenda was passed.
GRADUATE COUNCIL

New Courses - December 3, 2010
- ANTH 644 Classical Archaeology
- BUSH 636 Quantitative Methods II: Game Theory Emphasis
- PSAA 670 Public Information Systems Management
- CVEN 752 Smart Structures
- HLTH 641 Foundations in Health Education
- HLTH 642 Health Education Ethics
- HLTH 643 Introduction to Epidemiology
- MGMT 663 International Transfer Pricing

Motion Passed FS.28.88

New Courses - January 6, 2011
- AFST 601 Methods of Inquiry Into Africana Studies
- BIOL 610 Evolution
- BMEN 625 Biophotonics
- CHEM-670 Physical Methods in Biological Chemistry
- CSCE 664 Wireless and Mobile Systems
- HIST 635 Writing History
- HORT 645 World Agriculture and International Plant Breeding
- ISEN 643 Strategic Construction and Engineering Management
- MSEN 603 Fundamentals of Soft and Biomaterials
- OCEN 677 Environmental Fluid Mechanics
- SCSC 645 World Agriculture and International Plant Breeding

Motion Passed FS.28.89

Course Changes - December 3, 2010
- INTA 603 American Diplomacy
- PHIL 661 Seminar in the History of Philosophy
- PHIL 662 Seminar in Ethics and Value Theory
- PHIL 663 Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology
- PHIL 664 Seminar in Applied Philosophy

Motion Passed FS.28.90

Course Changes - January 6, 2011
- CHEM 660 Nuclear Chemistry
- CVEN 654 Strategic Construction and Engineering Management
- HISP 606 Spanish of the Southwest
- HISP 614 Hispanic Dialectology
- NUEN 618 Nuclear Control Systems
- NUEN 630 Monte Carlo Methods for Particle Transport

Motion Passed FS.28.91

Special Consideration - December 3, 2010
- College of Architecture
  - Department of Visualization
    - Master of Fine Arts in Visualization.

Motion Passed FS.28.92

Special Consideration - January 6, 2011
- College of Liberal Arts
  - Request for a Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

Motion Passed FS.28.93

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

New Courses - December 10, 2010
- ALED 223 Practicing Diverse Leadership and Cultural Exploration
- ALED 313 Culture Theory, Orientation and Adaptation
- ALED 401 Advanced Professional Leadership Development
- ALED 439 Agricultural Extension Philosophy and the Land-Grant Mission
- ANTH 444 Classical Archaeology
- ASIA 325 International Business Behavior

Motion Passed FS.28.94
ASIA 330  Modern Mediterranean World  
ASIA 335  Cultures of Central Asia  
ASIA 355  Modern China  
ASIA 358  Chinese Cultural History  
ASIA 360  Archaeology of the Old World  
ASIA 365  Asian Governments and Politics  
ASIA 401  Slavery in World History  
ASTR 119  Big Bang and Black Holes: Laboratory Methods  
BIOL 452  Fungal Functional Genomics  
CLAS 444  Classical Archaeology  
COMM 452  Cultural Studies of Communication Technology  
COMM 453  Communication and Video Games  
JOUR 215  Interviewing: Principles and Practices  
JOUR 230  Communication Technology Skills  
JOUR 250  New Media and the Independent Voice  
JOUR 365  International Communication  
JOUR 450  Political Reporting  
JOUR 458  Global Media  
MUSC 328  Japanese Traditional Performing Arts  
PHYS 119  Big Bang and Black Holes: Laboratory Methods  
SCEN 201  Self-Directed Experiences with Adolescents  
SPAN 452  Hispanic Sociolinguistics  
THAR 328  Japanese Traditional Performing Arts  
THAR 435  New Technology for Designers  
THAR 445  Design as Performance  
THAR 482  Topics in American Theatre and Performance  

Course Withdrawal - December 10, 2010  
ANTH 351  Classical Archaeology  

Change in Courses - December 10, 2010  
ALED 301  Topics in Agricultural Leadership  
ALED 340  Professional Leadership Development  
ALED 426  Methods of Adult Agricultural Education  
ALED 440  Principles of Technological Change  
AMST 210  American Expressions  
AMST 220  Constructing Identities  
AMST 230  Civic Engagement  
AMST 240  Cultures of Science and Technology  
AMST 250  Comparative Border Studies  
AMST 350  Materializing America  
ANTH 225  Biological Anthropology  
ARCH 205  Architecture Design I  
ARCH 206  Architecture Design II  
ARCH 207  Architecture Design III  
ARCH 305  Architectural Design III  
ARCH 405  Architectural Design IV  
ARCH 406  Architecture Design V  
ARCH 407  Integrated Home Architecture Studio  
ARCH 408  Experimental Home Architecture  
ARCH 491  Advanced Architecture Innovation Research  
BUSN 101  Freshman Business Seminar  
ENDS 105  Design Foundations I  
ENDS 106  Design Foundations II  
ENGL 353  History of Rhetoric  
ENGL 354  Modern Rhetorical Theory  
ENTC 369  Software Systems Technology  
JOUR 490  Journalism as a Profession  
MATH 147  Calculus I for Biological Sciences
MATH 151 Engineering Mathematics I
MATH 152 Engineering Mathematics II
MATH 171 Analytic Geometry and Calculus
MATH 172 Calculus
MATH 221 Several Variable Calculus
MATH 251 Engineering Mathematics III
MATH 253 Engineering Mathematics III
MATH 304 Linear Algebra
MATH 311 Topics in Applied Mathematics I
MATH 323 Linear Algebra
MATH 423 Linear Algebra II
MKTG 447 Advertising Procedures
NUEN 460 Nuclear Plant Systems and Transients

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Architecture
Department of Architecture
B.E.D. in Environmental Design
Architectural Studies Option

Motion Passed FS.28.95
Attachment F

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Architecture
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning
B.L.A. in Landscape Architecture

Motion Passed FS.28.96
Attachment G

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
Dwight Look College of Engineering
Department of Aerospace Engineering
B.S. in Aerospace Engineering

Motion Passed FS.28.97
Attachment H

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
Dwight Look College of Engineering
Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution
B.S. in Industrial Distribution

Motion Passed FS.28.98
Attachment I

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Liberal Arts
American Studies Program
B.A. in American Studies

Motion Passed FS.28.99
Attachment J

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Liberal Arts
International Studies Program
B.A. in International Studies

Motion Passed FS.28.100
Attachment K

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Communication
B.A. in Telecommunication Media Studies

Motion Passed FS.28.101
Attachment L

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Science
Department of Chemistry
B.A. and B.S. in Chemistry

Motion Passed FS.28.102
Attachment M

Change in Curriculum - December 10, 2010
College of Science
Department of Mathematics
B.A. and B.S. in Mathematics

Motion Passed FS.28.103
Attachment N
B.S. in Applied Mathematical Sciences

Administrative Change - December 10, 2010
College of Architecture
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning
B.S. in Urban and Regional Sciences
Request to change degree name to B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning

Motion Passed FS.28.104
Attachment O

Special Consideration - December 10, 2010
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Animal Science
Request for a Certificate in Dairy Management

Motion Passed FS.28.105
Attachment P

Special Consideration - December 10, 2010
College of Liberal Arts
Minor in Religious Studies – requirement changes

Motion Passed FS.28.106
Attachment Q

Special Consideration - December 10, 2010
College of Science
University Studies Degree
Area of Concentration
Mathematics for Business
Mathematics for Pre-Professionals
Mathematics for Teaching
Change in grade requirement

Motion Passed FS.28.107
Attachment R

Special Consideration - December 10, 2010
College of Science
Department of Chemistry
Minor in Chemistry – requirement changes

Motion Passed FS.28.108
Attachment S

Texas A&M University at Galveston
New Course - December 10, 2010
MARS 423 Ecological Economics

Motion Passed FS.28.109
Attachment T

Change in Courses - December 10, 2010
NVSC 201 Naval Ship Systems I
NVSC 302 Naval Operations and Seamanship
NVSC 401 Naval Systems
NVSC 402 Leadership and Ethics

W-COURSES
December 16, 2010 Report
W certification:
MARS 431 Earth's Climate

Motion Passed FS.28.110
Attachment U

C certification:
ACCT 489 Improving Accountants' Communication Skills
MGMT 425 Human Resource Selection

W recertification:
HIST 280 The Historian's Craft
MARS 430 Global Tectonics

January 26, 2011 Report
W certification:
ANTH/WGST 404 Women and Culture

Motion Passed FS.28.111
Attachment V
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Revisions to Student Rules 57, 57.1.1, 17.3

End of Consent Agenda

Committee Reports
CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL
Executive Summary Report
Attachment X
Attachment X was moved and seconded, and then discussed by Andrew Klein, chair of the Core Curriculum Council, who explained that the core curriculum must be revised at least every ten years for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The motion passed.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE
Amendment to the Bylaws
Attachment Y
Attachment Y was moved and seconded. Dale Rice explained the proposed simplifications to the voting process and offered an amendment to change paragraph G3 to “elections shall be scheduled during a two-week period in April.” The amendment was seconded and passed. The motion as amended was passed.

Amendment to the Constitution (For Discussion Only)
Attachment Z
Attachment Z was brought up for discussion only. It is to clarify who is eligible to serve in the senate, and also to eliminate term limits. Kim Hill (Liberal Arts) noted that the wording could be improved as was invited to submit his suggestions.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Elimination of Distinguished Professor Rank (For Discussion Only)
Attachment ZZ
Attachment ZZ was brought up for discussion only. Dean of Faculties Antonio Cepeda-Benito explained that “distinguished professor” rank nomination and approval procedures are not consistent with other ranks, and so “distinguished professor” needs to be changed to an honor or award. He confirmed that the “distinguished professor” title is given only for research. Interim Provost Karan Watson noted that “distinguished professor” was an honor till 1997, when it was changed to a rank, so it is now being proposed to change it back to an honor.

Doug Biggs (Geosciences) asked if there would be a numerical cap; Karan Watson replied that there will be no more than five per year.

Secretary Daugherity urged that in addition to distinguished researchers, distinguished teachers also be recognized as “distinguished professors.” He also recommended that some Association of Former Students awardees be included on the distinguished professor selection committee.

Rafael Lara-Alecio (Education and Human Development) agreed that we need to award and recognize faculty across all their endeavors.

Chris Mathewson (Geosciences) suggested that since Regents Professors like him received that honor for service, and “distinguished professor” is for research, there should be a “distinguished teaching professor” award too.

Speaker Strawser recommended that the title explicitly say “Distinguished Researcher” or “Distinguished Research Professor.” Karan Watson replied that the “Regents Professor” title did not say “Regents Service Professor.”

Beth Tebeaux (Liberal Arts) asked about “University Professorships.” Karan Watson said that at other universities these professors are not assigned by a department of a college but by the university.

Unfinished Business
Committee of the Whole
Speaker Strawser then called on Speaker-Elect Benedik to convene the Committee of the Whole.

Chris Mathewson (Geosciences) said that the task force on university emergencies on which he serves reported that fewer than 30% of faculty are registered with CodeMaroon for text messages; he urged faculty to register. Secretary Daugherity added that (at least on some phones) alerts can still be received with the phone on silent or vibrate.

Speaker-Elect Benedik again reminded senators to RSVP for the joint UT-TAMU meeting.

Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 P.M.