FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
September 12, 2011
3:15 p.m., 601 Rudder Tower
http://facultysenate.tamu.edu


Call to Order:
Speaker Benedik called the meeting to order at 3:17 P.M. and reminded senators of the Academic Convocation September 16th. He introduced Distinguished Professor and Founding Speaker John McDermott, who briefly recounted the history of the faculty senate’s founding and of the last few years, and urged administrators and senators to recognize that the faculty are responsible for the academic well-being of the university. He then administered the oath of office to new senators and welcomed them.

Guest Speakers:
Speaker Benedik introduced John Sharp, the incoming chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. Chancellor Sharp said shared governance is the most important idea in the world, on which this nation was founded, and promised not to bring any idea of his to the Board of Regents without input from all stakeholders. He said that if lean state revenues continue, he will first cut items which don’t affect teaching and research. He noted that TAMU is young as a university and has much room to grow and improve.

Chris Mathewson (Geosciences) asked him about service in addition to teaching and research; he replied that he assumed that being involved in public service was a given, but he would make service more explicit.

Kim Hill (Liberal Arts) asked for more detailed plans. He replied that the current recession/depression is a blessing/opportunity to recruit top faculty from other schools under more stress; he wants to put together a 200-250 million dollar principal fund and to use the income from that fund to recruit. Stephen Miller (Liberal Arts) said that during the past year many on the College Station campus felt that the regents did not recognize that the College Station campus is different (not better or worse, but different), and asked why the regents picked him. He replied that he hoped that they think he is able to deal with the legislature and to raise money.

Jonathan Coopersmith (Liberal Arts) asked the chancellor to add K-12 public education to his list of stakeholders, and not to overlook the needs of the other System schools. He replied that he would like to see a website for students to plan their four years and make sure all their courses count, etc.

Speaker Benedik then introduced President Loftin, who listed upcoming academic events with Gordon Gee and John Gladysz speaking, and previewed his academic convocation address, which will highlight progress toward Vision 2020, reaffirmation of those goals, and specific ways to measure progress and to reach those goals. He noted several related campus discussions are scheduled over the next few months and invited faculty to participate.

He reported that the new Emerging Technologies and Economic Development building is now fully occupied, the MSC will reopen April 21, 2012, and the new Liberal Arts and Humanities Building is on schedule to be occupied in July, 2012. The Wellborn and Old Main grade separation project will begin soon. He will publicize three options for Joe Routt Boulevard and the space between the MSC, G. Rollie White, and Kyle Field, and invite input.

He said that although the university tried to hold freshman enrollment to 8100 this fall, there were more acceptances than anticipated [resulting in 9540 freshmen, according to the Office of Institutional Studies and Planning]. This increase adversely impacts the faculty/student ratio, as does the decrease in faculty from 105 accepting the Voluntary Separation Program which concluded in August.

Clint Magill (Agriculture and Life Sciences) asked, on behalf of someone else, if TAMU is breaking a contract on athletic conference alignment.

Ed Harris (Liberal Arts) asked if he had heard of a case of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. He replied that he was not familiar with any specific such case. Patrick Burkart (Liberal Arts) said perhaps the issue was spousal benefits for partners; President Loftin said that issue was at the system level.

The July 11, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion Passed FS.29.18
Attachment A
**Consent Agenda**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**New Courses - July 7, 2011**

- ATTR 651 Clinical Education I
- ATTR 652 Clinical Education II
- ATTR 653 Clinical Education III
- ATTR 654 Clinical Education IV
- ATTR 655 Clinical Education V
- ATTR 656 Clinical Education VI
- ATTR 660 Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries
- ATTR 661 Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries Lab
- ATTR 662 Clinical Examination and Diagnosis-Lower Extremity
- ATTR 663 Clinical Examination and Diagnosis-Lower Extremity Lab
- ATTR 664 Clinical Examination and Diagnosis-Upper Extremity
- ATTR 665 Clinical Examination and Diagnosis-Upper Extremity Lab
- ATTR 666 Physical Rehabilitation
- ATTR 667 Physical Rehabilitation Lab
- ATTR 668 Therapeutic Modalities
- ATTR 669 Therapeutic Modalities Lab
- ATTR 670 General Medical Conditions and Therapeutic Medication
- ATTR 671 Organization and Administration in Athletic Training
- ATTR 672 Professional Preparation and Issues in Athletic Training
- ECON 633 Energy Markets and Policy
- EPSY 655 Item Response Theory
- HLTH 645 Health Education Research and Program Evaluation
- VIBS 616 Advanced Developmental Neurotoxicology

**Motion Passed FS.29.19**

**New Courses - August 4, 2011**

- AGLS 600 Agriculture and Life Sciences Graduate Study Abroad
- MGMT 613 Management Macroeconomics

**Motion Passed FS.29.20**

**Course Changes - July 7, 2011**

- ECEN 690 Switching Power Supplies
- HISP 671 Bilingualism in Hispanic Literature
- VIBS 612 Mammalian Embryology

**Motion Passed FS.29.21**

**Course Changes - August 4, 2011**

- AGE 633 Economics of Underdeveloped Agricultural Areas
- ENGL 640 Topics in Children’s Literature and Culture

**Motion Passed FS.29.22**

**Course Withdrawal - August 4, 2011**

- PLPA 625 Plant Pathogenic Fungi

**Motion Passed FS.29.23**

**Special Consideration - July 7, 2011**

**College of Liberal Arts**

- Request to discontinue and officially remove the MA in Comparative Literature Program from the TAMU Degree Inventory

**Motion Passed FS.29.24**

**Special Consideration - July 7, 2011**

**Mays Business School**

- Request to update university records and graduate catalog to indicate that the MS in Management program has reduced the number of prerequisite/preparatory hours for the program from 12 to 9

**Motion Passed FS.29.25**

**Special Consideration - August 4, 2011**

**College of Engineering**

- Request for Non-Thesis Option to MS SENG via Distance Education

**Motion Passed FS.29.26**
UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

New Course - August 11, 2011

- AGEC 435 Personal Financial Planning for Professionals
- ANSC 423 Issues in the Equine Industry
- CHEN 301 Engineering Workplace Writing
- ECON 433 Energy Markets and Policy
- ESSM 201 Exploring Ecosystem Science and Management
- ESSM 306 Plant Functional Ecology and Adaptation
- ESSM 311 Biogeochemistry and Global Change
- ESSM 313 Vegetation Sampling Methods and Designs in Ecosystems
- ESSM 318 Coupled Social and Ecological Systems
- ESSM 459 Spatial Databases and Programming
- ESSM 460 Advanced Remote-Sensing Based Field Survey
- ESSM 464 Spatial Project Management
- RELS 340 Folklore and the Supernatural
- RELS 364 Diversity Lessons from Medieval Spain
- RELS 418 European Intellectual History from Ancient Greece to the Early Middle Ages
- RELS 419 European Intellectual History from the High Middle Ages to the 17th Century
- RELS 480 Religious Communication
- SCSC 205 Problem Solving in Plant and Soil Systems
- SCSC 307 Crop Biology and Physiology
- SCSC 309 Water in Soils and Plants
- SCSC 311 Principles of Crop Production
- SCSC 402 Crop Stress Management
- SCSC 410 International Agricultural Systems
- SCSC 427 Sports Field Construction
- SCSC 441 Crop Production Systems
- SCSC 444 Forage Ecology and Management
- SCSC 446 Weed Management and Ecology

Withdrawal of Courses - August 11, 2011

- FRSC 101 Introduction to Forestry
- FRSC 102 Introduction to Spatial Science
- FRSC 291 Research
- FRSC 306 Forest Measurements
- FRSC 308 Tree Structure and Function
- FRSC 311 Wood Properties and Utilization
- FRSC 314 Forest Economics and Valuation
- FRSC 404 Forest Management
- FRSC 409 Manufacturing and Applications of Wood Products
- FRSC 414 Modeling Forest Resources
- FRSC 430 Introduction to Tree Improvement
- FRSC 484 Internship
- FRSC 485 Directed Studies
- FRSC 489 Special Topics in…
- FRSC 491 Research
- RLEM 103 Introduction to Ecological Restoration
- SPSC 398 Interpretation to Aerial Photographs
- SPSC 444 Remote Sensing in Renewable Natural Resources
- SPSC 462 Advanced GIS Analysis for Natural Resource Management

Change in Courses - August 11, 2011

- ENGL 251 Language of Film
- FILM 201 Introduction to Film Analysis
- FRSC 203 Dendrology
- FRSC 300 Forest Practices
- FRSC 302 Fundamentals of Environmental Decision-Making
FRSC 304  Forest Ecology
FRSC 305  Silviculture
FRSC 307  Forest Protection
FRSC 398  Interpretation of Aerial Photographs
FRSC 405  Integrated Forest Resource Analysis and Planning
FRSC 406  Forest Policy
FRSC 461  Geographic Information Systems for Resource Management
PHYS 221  Optics and Thermal Physics
PHYS 222  Modern Physics for Engineers
PHYS 225  Electronic Circuits and Applications
PHYS 304  Advanced Electricity and Magnetism I
PHYS 401  Computational Physics
PHYS 408  Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics
PHYS 412  Quantum Mechanics I
RENR 444  Remote Sensing in Renewable Natural Resources
RLEM 102  Introduction to Rangeland Systems
RLEM 301  Range and Forest Watershed Management
RLEM 302  Rangeland Plants of North America
RLEM 303  Agrostology
RLEM 304  Rangeland Plant Taxonomy
RLEM 315  Vegetation Inventory and Analysis
RLEM 316  Range Communities and Ecosystems
RLEM 317  Rangeland Vegetation Manipulation
RLEM 320  Landscape Restoration
RLEM 415  Range Analysis and Management Planning
RLEM 416  Fire and Natural Resources Management
RLEM 420  Ecological Restoration of Wetland and Riparian Systems
RLEM 430  Advanced Restoration Ecology: Current Concepts and Emerging Issues
RLEM 481  Seminar
SCSC 405  Soil Microbiology
SCSC 422  Soil Fertility and Fertilizers
SCSC 432  Soil Chemistry and Fertility Laboratory
SCSC 455  Environmental Soil Science
SCSC 481  Agronomy Seminar

Special Consideration - August 11, 2011
College of Liberal Arts
Minor in Film Studies – requirement changes

Special Consideration - August 11, 2011
College of Science
Department of Physics and Astronomy
B.A. and B.S. in Physics
Request to establish admission criteria to upper level Physics courses

W-COURSES
July 19, 2011
W certification:
COSC 175  Graphics in Construction
RPTS 426  Tourism Impacts

End of Consent Agenda
Committee Reports

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Change in Curriculum - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
B.S. in Renewable Natural Resources
Secretary Daugherity moved Attachment N. In the discussion on the motion, Mort Kothmann was recognized to speak to the senate; he explained that Attachments N through R were the result of curriculum redesign following the merger of two departments. A lengthy senate discussion ensued, primarily concerning the reduction in courses in science (specifically botany) and mathematics (specifically calculus), after which Mark Clayton (Architecture) moved to table Attachment N and ask that the proposing department have further consultations with the College of Science. The motion to table passed.

Change in Curriculum - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
B.S. in Ecological Restoration
Attachment O was moved by Secretary Daugherity, discussed by the senate, and tabled on the motion of Brian Perkins (Science).

Change in Curriculum - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
B.S. in Forestry
Attachment P was moved by Secretary Daugherity, discussed by the senate, and tabled on the motion of Brian Perkins (Science).

Change in Curriculum - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
B.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Management
Ranch Management Option
Rangeland Resources Option
Attachment Q was moved by Secretary Daugherity, discussed by the senate, and tabled on the motion of Brian Perkins (Science).

Change in Curriculum - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
B.S. in Agronomy
Turfgrass Management Option
Request to change option to a stand alone B.S. in Turfgrass Science degree
Secretary Daugherity moved Attachment S; Jim Heilman was recognized; he described the web-based “Delphi process” of 100 consultants to develop the content of new courses. Several senators questioned the reduction and changes in math and science courses, after which Jose Fernandez-Solis moved to table Attachment S and ask that the proposing department have further consultations with the College of Science. The motion to table passed.

Special Consideration - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
B.S. in Agricultural Communication and Journalism
Request to correct degree program name
Motion Passed FS.29.31

Special Consideration - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Animal Science
Request for a Certificate in Equine Science
Motion Passed FS.29.32

Special Consideration - August 11, 2011
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
Attachment V
Special Consideration - August 11, 2011

TABLED

B.S. in Forestry
Urban Forestry Option
Forest Resource Management Option
Request to discontinue degree options

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
B.S. in Plant and Environmental Soil Science
Plant Science Career Emphasis
Environmental Soil Science Emphasis
  Request to replace existing emphasis with two new emphases:
  Crops Emphasis and Soil and Water Emphasis

Secretary Daugherity moved Attachment W. Janice Epstein (Science) expressed concern about removing a full year of calculus, and changes to the requirements for writing courses and physics, and moved to table Attachment W and ask that the proposing department have further consultations with the College of Science. The motion to table passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Proposed Revisions to University Rules 12.99.99M5 and 12.99.99M6 (Discussion Only)

Attachment X was opened for discussion only, and will be voted on in the October 10, 2011, meeting. The discussion elicited the points that department heads/deans could be reappointed for more than two terms, without limit, with the approval of two-thirds of the relevant faculty (by confidential vote) and dean/provost.

New Business

Speaker Benedik then suspended the meeting to allow senators to meet as college caucuses and select a caucus leader and appoint members to certain committees. When the senate meeting resumed, he turned the chair over to Speaker-Elect Stallone to convene the Committee of the Whole.

Committee of the Whole

Jonathan Coopersmith (Liberal Arts) noted that the student senate had voted that the selection of the non-voting student regent was “tarnished” by irregular procedure.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, Speaker-Elect Stallone returned the chair to Speaker Benedik, who adjourned the meeting at 5:00 P.M.