FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
May 6, 2002
3:15 p.m., 601 Rudder Tower


Douglas, Watson, Van Riper


Present New: Baldauf, Bies, Boyd, Clark, Gunn, Harris, Hobbs, Hunter, Johnson, Klutke, Kolari, Kulm, Magill, Myers, Miller, Moreira, Presley, Sirakaya

Not Present New: Moyer, L. Parrish, P. Parrish, Peters, Slack, Vadali

Call to Order

The 12th meeting of the 19th session of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:20 PM by Speaker Richard Carson, presiding, Michael Greenwald, Secretary.

Speaker Comments

The Speaker welcomed newly elected Senators and all Former Speakers who were in attendance. The Speaker reminded new and returning Senators that information is disseminated as much as possible via e-mail and the Faculty Senate’s web site. This allows the Senate to not only communicate with the Senate on a timely basis but to also utilize resources more efficiently. Senators are encouraged to check e-mail often.
Those who are representing their caucus as a Committee on Committees member will be contacted via e-mail throughout the year for recommendations on appointments to both Faculty Senate and University committees, which allows faculty input on committee appointments. This is one of the most important functions of the Senate because it allows the Senate to have a voice in the decision making processes of the University which are largely proposed via committees.

**Faculty Senate Aggie Spirit Awards**

The Faculty Senate Aggie Spirit Awards program was created this past year to recognize those showing outstanding courage and determination in the face of adversity while attending Texas A&M University. This awards program is funded by personal, anonymous voluntary donations from Faculty Senators. Nominations were solicited this Spring from throughout the University. The Senate presented eight awards this year:

- Lisa Blackwell
- Jessica Brenner
- Breah Ann Goerlich
- Helen Denise Huddleston was not present for the ceremony.
- Kari Pryor
- Kristen Rector was not present for the ceremony.
- Ry Rose
- Summer Simnacher

**Appreciation**

Resolutions of appreciation were presented to Senator Diane Kaplan, Senator Jonathan Smith, Dr. Ruth Schaffer, Senator James Flagg. Senator Kochevar was not available to receive her presentation.

The Speaker presented flowers to the Office of the Faculty Senate staff to thank them for their efforts on behalf of the Senate.

**Speaker Comments**

Handouts included:

- Officer and Executive Committee Bio Sketches
- Faculty Senate Minutes for last month’s meeting
- Copies of Standing Committee Annual Reports
- Senator Standing Committee Preferences Chart
- The new Faculty Senate directory—Senators are requested to review their entries and submit any changes to the Office of the Faculty Senate
- Section 9.3.5 of System Policy 12.01 - Revised Attachment I
- Resolution on Academic Misconduct - Attachment J

**Approval of April 8, 2002 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved as distributed. **FS.19.124**
Consent Agenda

Senator Smith asked that EDCI 643 be removed from the consent agenda. Senator Woosley asked why INST 210 was not included on the consent agenda; he was informed that it was returned to CCC for clarification. The remainder of the Consent Agenda was approved.

Graduate Council

Course Changes: ATMO 621, ATMO 635, CPSC 615, CPSC 675, ELEN 683, ELEN 687, OCNG 632, SPSY 614 FS.19.125

University Curriculum Committee

New Courses: BUSH 470, MEPS 316, PHYS 205, POLS 307, POLS 310, POLS 320, POLS 326, POLS 351, POLS 352, POLS 358, POLS 423, POLS 424, POLS 432, POLS 455, RLEM 324, THAR 102, THAR 381, THAR 382
Course Withdrawals: POLS 422
Course Changes: POLS 340, POLS 454, RLEM 314, THAR 150 FS.19.126

EDCI 643

Senator Smith asked for a clarification as to what is meant by “urban environments” and how teaching in urban environments differs from traditional teaching. Senator Woosley explained the term and the course content. Senator Smith expressed reservations about the term “environment”. Senator Howard Kaplan noted that the item came to the Senate moved and seconded from Committee and that a vote was in order. Senator Stadelmann moved (Amoss second) to return the item to Committee. Former Speaker Diane Kaplan clarified the current use of the term “environment” as it is used in the College of Education. Senator Thompson argued that the Senate ought to allow individual departments to write their course descriptions. The motion to return to committee was defeated. FS.19.127

The original motion on the Consent Agenda re EDCI 643 was approved. FS.19.128

Graduate Council, New Course, EDCI 643

Reports from Reporting Committees

Secretary Greenwald moved approval of each of the following Reporting Committee items:

Graduate Council

Bush School to be exempted from requirement for final examination in Master’s Degree for Public Service and Administration. Discussion: Senator Blasingame noted that exam requirements can be moved at the Committee level. Senator Halter explained that exams are not ordinarily used for professional degrees. The motion passed. FS.19.129

The Graduate Council at the October 19, 2001 meeting approved a proposal for the Bush School to be exempted from the requirement for a final examination of candidates in the Master’s Degree in Public Service and Administration. The program now has a final semester capstone course in which all students are required to do a graded assignment which pulls together their work in their master’s degree. This constitutes the best measure of their successful mastery of the degree program materials. This course will be substituted for the final examination.
Graduate Council

Proposal Regarding Change in MBA Requirements. Motion passed. **FS.19.130**

*Effective with the MBA class entering Fall 2002 a new MBA curriculum will be in place. The new curriculum has 48 hours of required courses. With the exception of one 3 credit hour “specialization” course, all courses are specified. There are no electives in the new curriculum. A comparison of the current MBA curriculum and the new curriculum is shown on attachment 1. The new curriculum meets AACSB accreditation standards. Students wishing to add elective courses to their MBA program may do so through a variety of flexible options. The change in the curriculum is being made to respond to changing national market conditions.*

Reports from Standing Committees

Deputy Speaker Amoss, chair of the Bylaws Committee, moved approval of the next two items.

Bylaws Committee

Adding Honors Program Advisory Committee to Reporting Committees. Motion passed. **FS.19.131**

II. L. 2. e. Honors Program Advisory Committee

1. Membership shall consist of the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships (OHPAS) (ex officio and chair), Associate Director for Honors Programs (OHPAS) (ex officio), and Chair of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee (ex officio). Committee membership shall also include one faculty representative from each college, selected by the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees after consultation with the college deans and caucuses (with preference given to honors faculty), and 2 students and 3 honors faculty appointed by the Executive Director. Each of the above named members shall be voting members of the committee. Ex officio, non-voting members may be appointed by the Chair.

2. This reporting committee provides advice on standards and policies related to honors programs at the University. The committee will act as a resource and advice/support group to the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships on the concerns of the University community regarding Honors Programs and related issues including, but not limited to, University and Foundation Honors, University Undergraduate Research Fellows, Latin Honors, Honors Courses, Honors Sequences, and recognition of achievements in honors. The committee is intended to represent the University perspective. Consequently, every effort will be made to have broad representation in the committee membership.

3. The Honors Program Advisory Committee shall communicate in writing, through its chair, its recommendations to the Faculty Senate on policies and procedures dealing with Honors Programs at Texas A&M University by way of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and simultaneously to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Academic Services.
Bylaws Committee & Election Committee

Election Bylaws Change. Motion passed. **FS.19.132**

VII. G. Elections

4. Absentee ballots may be cast by mail, fax, or e-mail for a period of one week (five working days) prior to the scheduled Senate election day. All absentee ballots shall be returned to the Office of the Faculty Senate no later than the last working day before the day of the election. Absentee ballots may also be cast at the Office of the Faculty Senate during this same pre-election period.

9. Ballots will be counted the evening of the general vote by members of the Election Committee. Members of the press shall be invited and other interested individuals may be present during the count. Election outcomes Results will be publicly announced as soon as possible; election results will be available in the Office of the Faculty Senate.

Secretary Greenwald moved approval of each of the following items:

Emeritus Status Committee & Executive Committee

Position Statement on Emeritus Status for HSC Faculty. Motion passed. **FS.19.133**

The Committee on Emeritus Status recommends endorsing University emeritus status for retiring Health Science Center faculty who have spent the majority of their careers with Texas A&M University. This offer would be limited to faculty retiring within five years from the date of separation of the College of Medicine from Texas A&M University. After August 31, 2005, all emeritus status should be granted to Health Science Center faculty by the Health Science Center.

Executive Committee

Revisions to System Policy 12.01, Section 9.3.5. Motion passed. **FS.19.134**

9.3.5 The faculty member selected for termination shall be given an opportunity to respond in a hearing before an appropriate faculty committee. In this hearing the burden of proof rests with the institution to demonstrate by some credible evidence that a bona fide financial exigency exists or that educational considerations led to the reduction or discontinuance of a program. The faculty committee shall formulate findings, whether or not, in its judgment, a bona fide financial exigency exists or that educational considerations led to the reduction or discontinuance of a program. The faculty committee’s findings, and recommendation, if any, shall be conveyed in writing to the CEO and to the faculty member. In such case, the university’s decision will be overturned only if the faculty member proves that the decision to terminate was based on unlawful discrimination or was arbitrary or capricious.
Resolution on Academic Misconduct

Former Senator Ritter (Chair of the CAFRT Hearing on Mary Zey) was introduced by Senator Halter and expressed his reservations about the resolution and suggested that the resolution either be tabled or strike the first “whereas.” Senator Hellriegel argued that urged that the resolution be voted down because it deals with a personnel issue. Senator Blasingame raised concerns about the “members in good standing” clause. Senator Thompson urged that the structure that created the problem be addressed. Senator Finlay moved that the issue be tabled (Stadelmann second). The Parliamentarian ruled that a motion to table is not debatable. The motion was defeated.

Senator Louder spoke in favor of the resolution, noting that the process is flawed. She moved that the first “whereas” be deleted (Amoss second). Senator Amoss raised concerns about student reaction to the issue and argued that the faculty must take a stand on plagiarism. Senator Hellriegel argued against the resolution and stated that student opinion was not relevant in this case. Senator Smith supported Senator Louder’s amendment, citing his experience on CAFRT and the Executive Committee as a basis for his support of the resolution as a whole. Senator Lewis supported the amendment and advocated a resolution that affirmed academic integrity. Senator Luttbeg asked for a clarification as to what was being debated. The motion to delete first “whereas” in the resolution was passed. FS.19.135

Senator Stadelmann opposed the resolution because of the words “are officially held,” which he believed to be ambiguous. Senator Amoss argued that “academic misconduct” is spelled out in 15.99. Former Senator Hobbs was recognized and addressed the “faculty member in good standing” issue. Senator Blasingame moved (Halter second) that the resolution be sent to Academic Affairs for revision and that the Senate devise a statement on academic integrity. The motion was defeated. FS.19.136

Senator Tiffany-Castiglioni cited her experience on the Investigation Committee in the Zey case and argued against the resolution. She moved (Halter second) that the resolution be returned to the Executive Committee for revision. Former Speaker Strawser urged the Senate to take a strong position on academic integrity and argued that the resolution needs to be redefined. Senator Halter agreed that the revision needs reworking and supported the motion. The motion to return the resolution to the Executive Committee for revision was passed. FS.19.137

Bonfire Resolution. Senator Smith clarified the rationale behind the resolution (i.e., an item brought by Senator Stadelmann to the Committee of the Whole). The motion passed. FS.19.138

Resolution on the Bonfire Memorial

Whereas, The university is committed to a permanent memorial to the twelve students killed in the 1999 Bonfire collapse; and

Whereas, At least one student was killed constructing on earlier Bonfire; therefore be it

Resolved, That a complete list of all students killed or seriously injured in the construction of all Bonfires be compiled; and be it further

Resolved, That these students be appropriately memorialized as part of the planned memorial.
Ad Hoc Committee on CAFRT

Revisions to University Rule 12.01.99.M2, University Statement on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, Tenure and Promotion. Motion passed. **FS.19.139**

9.1.1.5 In the ensuing hearing, the burden of proving that the proposed dismissal is for good cause shall rest with the institution. Findings of the CAFRT shall be limited to determining whether or not the decision to dismiss was for good cause. In cases involving University Rule 15.99.03.M1 (Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship) the burden of proving that the dismissal is based upon valid academic misconduct and dismissal is warranted also shall rest with the institution. In addition, the CAFRT may make recommendations to the President regarding possible resolutions.

9.1.2.3 In the ensuing hearing, the burden of proving that the proposed dismissal is for good cause shall rest with the institution. The findings of the CAFRT shall be limited to determining whether or not the decision to dismiss was for good cause. In cases involving University Rule 15.99.03.M1 (Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship) the burden of proving that the dismissal is based upon valid academic misconduct and dismissal is warranted shall also rest with the institution. In addition, the CAFRT may make recommendations to the President regarding possible resolutions.

9.1.3.5 In the CAFRT hearing, the burden of proving a violation of the rights of non-tenured faculty members shall rest with the faculty member. The findings of the CAFRT shall be limited to determining whether the decision not to renew the appointment was in violation of such rights. In cases involving University Rule 15.99.03.M1 (Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship) the burden of proving that the dismissal is either not based upon valid academic misconduct or the dismissal is not warranted shall also rest with the faculty member. In addition, the CAFRT may make recommendations to the President regarding possible resolutions.

9.5.1 When a faculty member requests a hearing (in accord with 8.1, 9.1.1.4, or 9.1.2.2 above), or when the Preliminary Screening Committee recommends a hearing for a non-tenured faculty member in accord with 9.1.3.4 above), the CAFRT Hearing Committee shall then set a time for the hearing that will allow the faculty member a reasonable time in which to prepare for the hearing and shall notify the faculty member of the time and place. The faculty member and the University administration shall exchange witness lists indicating the general nature of the testimony of each witness prior to the hearing at a time specified by the CAFRT Hearing Committee. Witnesses should be present at the hearing so that the faculty member, the university, and the panel may question them. In the event that the presence of a witness is not possible, a conference call may be established by prearrangement with and approval of the chair. The committee may accept written documentation, including statements and depositions, at its discretion. In cases concerning University Rule 15.99.03.M1 (Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship) the CAFRT Hearing Panel shall review the entire final report and appendices from the Investigating Committee. Witnesses may be added at a later date for good cause.

Revisions to University Rule 15.99.03.M1.04, Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship. Senator Harding suggested an editorial change brought by Former Senator Hobbs: delete the first “respondent” and make “upon” lower case. The motion passed with the suggested editorial change. **FS.19.140**
1.1 Appeal

The respondent may appeal all or any part of the CAO’s final decision by filing a written appeal to the President of the Texas A&M University within ten working days of receiving the final decision. This time limit may be extended for good cause and must be documented in the record. The appeal shall state:

1. that there is new evidence that was not available to the investigative committee; or
2. that the recommended sanction is not commensurate with the severity or intent of the alleged misconduct; or
3. the decision is not supported by the evidence; or
4. that there exists a serious breach of this procedural process.

The appeal shall be conducted by the President of Texas A&M University using written documents only. No live testimony or hearings will be conducted. Unless Section 2.0 of this administrative procedure applies, the respondent shall have only one appeal. If the recommendation is to terminate employment of the respondent, see Section 2.0. In all other cases, upon the President’s decision, the respondent shall have exhausted all of his/her options.

2. Termination and Subsequent Appeals

If the CAO of Texas A&M University elects to terminate the employment of the respondent, the respondent may request a hearing before the appropriate University committee established in accordance with the System policies and pursue the available means of appeal following such a hearing. The response from the appropriate University Committee concerning dismissal should be obtained by the President prior to the President’s decision. For cases in which the respondent(s) is a faculty member, refer to section 8.2.3 of System Regulation 12.01. For cases in which the respondent(s) is a staff member, refer to System Regulation 32.01.01.

Research Committee

Revisions to SAP 15.99.03.M1.01, Duties of the Designated Officer, and Revisions to SAP 15.99.03.M1.02, Conducting an Inquiry. Senator Amoss moved approval of the revisions and outlined the history of the issue as it came to the Research Committee and clarified the Committee’s intentions. Senator Blasingame asked if the faculty has given up anything by deleting ‘right to counsel;” Senator Amoss said that the Research Committee does not believe faculty rights are being infringed upon. The motion passed. FS.19.141

Annual Standing Committee Reports

The Chairs of the Standing Committees presented a summary of their committee’s Annual Reports:

Senator Blasingame - Academic Affairs Committee
Senator Jordan - Budget Information Committee. Provost Douglass clarified items concerning “formula funding.”
New Business

Dean of Faculties Watson reported that the layout for faculty seating will not change for the May graduation, but there may be some changes for the August graduation. She requested faculty input as changes are considered.

Annual State of the Senate Address

The Annual State of the Senate Address was presented by Speaker Carlson.

Deputy Speaker Amoss presented a resolution and a gavel honoring Speaker Carlson for his outstanding service this past year to the Senate.

Installation of New Faculty Senators

Re-elected and newly elected Faculty Senators were installed by Speaker Carlson.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members-at-Large

Senator Chester, Chair of the Election Committee, conducted the elections for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Secretary-Treasurer, and Executive Committee Members-at-Large. The results were:

Speaker - Robert Strawser
Deputy Speaker - Gary Halter
Secretary-Treasurer: Martha Loudder

Executive Committee Members-at-Large
Martyn Gunn, College of Agriculture
John Fike, College of Engineering
Kenn Harding, College of Science
Tom Blasingame, College of Engineering
Michael Greenwald, College of Liberal Arts
Arthur Hobbs, College of Science
Election of Standing Committees by Caucus

Election of the membership for the following Standing Committees were approved.

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Committee of the Whole

Deputy Speaker Halter took the Senate into the Committee of the Whole

Report on Previous Committee of the Whole Business

Problems re: on-campus clubs and burden on advisors to attend orientations. The Executive Committee will request that the individual responsible for Advisors Orientations for Student Activities meet with the Executive Committee and explain these procedures.

Concerns about the Faculty Club, the number of resignations by Club personnel and need for more faculty voice in the governance of the Faculty Club. The Executive Committee will request that Vice President Sippial attend an Executive Committee meeting to discuss the management and problems of the Faculty Club.

There was no new Committee of the Whole business requiring actions.

Deputy Speaker Amoss then turned the meeting over to Speaker Strawser.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Senators then attended the President’s reception in 292 MSC.