FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes
January 22, 2007


Watson (Dean of Faculties)
Bazzi, Thornton (Qatar Senators)

Absent: Abbott, Arant-Kaspar, Beskok, Blasingame, Boyd, Carrigan, Cetinkaya, Collisson, Curry, Gunn, Hall, Harris, Loudder, Luiselli, Mahapatra, McIntyre, Meagher, Merrell, Petersen, Straube, Strawser, Thornton, Toliyat, Valasek, Vedlitz

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 3:20 by Speaker Slack

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Eddie Joe Davis, Interim President
Dr. Davis outlined his goals for advancing TAMU during the search for a new president. He noted that he has long been a champion of shared governance, having suggested to then newly appointed President Frank Vandiver that establishing a Faculty Senate at TAMU (as was done) would aid administration in making sound academic decisions. While pledging to continue the priority programs initiated by Dr. Gates (faculty reinvestment, increasing faculty and student diversity, implementing the undergraduate University Studies degree program and increasing graduate student numbers as well as providing the space needed for these programs), Dr. Davis noted there are significant monetary obstacles to overcome. Escalating building costs, uncertain funding from the legislature with formula funding that is inadequate for the unique educational opportunities and payoffs provided by tier-1 research universities, and the hope of providing merit pay raises for faculty and staff were given as specific examples. Dr. Davis presented a model for enhancing diversity in which a pool of state-provided funds would be matched by University funds to provide scholarships for underrepresented students. He feels private companies that are also seeking to hire well-educated minorities could readily be convinced to partner with TAMU to provide funds for the matching component.

Dr. Davis pointed out that there is a continuous need to educate legislators and the general population on the work that faculty members actually do as opposed
to the perception. He suggested that getting legislators here for “show and tell” opportunities could help, but just getting them to look at documents such as the Faculty Senate’s “Faculty Facts” pamphlet would be a step forward. Another area he pointed out for attention was to make sure that the TAMU branding effort emphasizes academic excellence as a primary message. Finally, based on his experience with the Development Foundation, he pointed out that individual faculty, departments and colleges could help in raising scholarship and other funds by being more proactive in providing promotional material.

Speaker Comments:
Speaker Slack pointed out that 1/3 of the Presidential Search-Advisory Committee will be made of faculty members, requested candidates names be submitted, and promised to keep the Senate updated on progress.

Professor Clint Machann was sworn in as a Senator representing the College of Liberal Arts.

Minutes of the December 11 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed and are available on the Senate website.

Consent Agenda

Graduate Council

Change in Course Requests – Oct 5, 2006

Title Change
- BUSH 624 International Economic Development
- STAT 608 Least Squares and Regression Analysis
- STAT 610 Theory of Statistics I
- STAT 611 Theory of Statistics II
- STAT 613 Intermediate Theory of Statistics
- STAT 614 Probability for Statistics

Title Change, Description Change
- BUSH 655 The Structure and Policy of the European Union
- MGMT 660 Strategic and Global Human Resource Management

Title, Description Change, Prerequisite Change, and Cross Listing
- POSC 625 Least-Cost Feed Formulation

University Curriculum Committee

New Courses - Dec 8, 2006
- ATMO 321 Computer Applications in the Atmospheric Sciences
- ATMO 456 Practical Weather Forecasting
- COSC 301 Construction Surveying
- MKTG 484 Marketing Internship

Change in Courses - December 8, 2006

Student Learning Center
- Change in course prefix for CAEX courses to SLCX
- Change in course prefix for CAEN courses to STLC
Dwight Look College of Engineering  
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering: change in course prefix for all INEN courses to ISEN  
ELEN 248 Introduction to Digital Design - prerequisite change

Committee Reports (all moved for approval by the Secretary of the Senate)

University Curriculum Committee (Recommended Approval) Motion Passed F.S.24.73  
Attachment D  
Change in Curriculum – December 8, 2006  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
B.S. in Biomedical Science  
Executive Committee (Recommended Approval) Motion Passed F.S.24.74  
Attachment E  
W Courses – New Course Request - December 20, 2006  
COMM 407 Women, Minorities, Mass Media  
COMM 410 Radio, Records, and Popular Music  
COMM 415 New Media and Civil Society  
COMM 420 Gender and Communication  
COMM 425 Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement  
COMM 431 Rhetoric of Social Movements  
COMM 460 Contemporary Issues in Communication  
EHRD 484 Professional Internship  
HIST 410 Russian History to 1801  
HIST 444 American Military History Since 1901  
VIBS 443 Biology of Mammalian Cells and Tissues

Old Business  
There was no old business.

New Business  
There was no new business

Committee of the Whole  
Rick Carlson (GEOS) asked that a mechanism be devised that would permit one on one teacher/student courses to be used for satisfying the writing course requirement. He suggested that 485W or 491W courses or preparation of an undergraduate thesis would be appropriate vehicles. Bob Bednarz (GEOS) suggested that such a mechanism may already exist, based on a template 491 provided by Robert Webb, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research. The University Writing Center should be able to provide any specifics.

Arthur Hobbs asked that the EC be charged with making sure the “Faculty Facts” is updated.

Adjourn  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.