FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes
July 10, 2006
3:15 p.m., 601 Rudder Tower
http://www.tamu.edu/faculty_senate


Watson

Not Present: Anthony, Beskok, Blasingame, Boyd, Centikaya, Collisson, Curry, Dorsey, Ellis, Grant, Hall, Han, Harms, Harris, Ing, Kirkendall, Klein, Lusielli, Machann, McIntyre, Meagher, North, Petersen, Reddy, Sharkawy, J. Smith, R. Smith, Stallone, Swearingen, Toby, Vaid, Valasek, Whiteacre, Zellner

Inactive: Bassichis, Bendarz, Cagin, Carrigan, Fackler, Fink, Gawande, Geva, Gunn, Hyman, La-Pastina, McCann, Messina, Moreira, Pearl, Portales, Rich, Schultz, Ward, Woosley

Call to Order

Speaker Slack welcomed the visitors to the Faculty Senate meeting.

The second meeting of the 24th Session of the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University was called to order.

Speaker Comments
Speaker Slack announced the plans for the Faculty Senate Retreat to be held on 24 August at 8:15 at Christopher’s World Grille, and handouts were provided.

Approval of June 12, 2006 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  Attachment A
Motion Passed with changes incorporated

F.S. 24.05

Consent Agenda

University Curriculum Committee (Recommended Approval)

Motion Passed F.S. 24.06

New Courses  Attachment B
FRSC 102 Introduction to Spatial Science
MATH 469 Introduction to Mathematical Biology

Course Changes
OCNG 205 Introduction to Ocean Studies
OCNG 401 Introduction to Oceanography
OCNG 430 Introduction to Ocean Studies

New Course at Galveston
MASE 212 Engineering Science in Thermodynamics
MASE 344 Reinforced Concrete Structures

Course Changes at Galveston
CVEN 346 Structural Steel Design
MASE 301 Dynamics of Waves and Structures

Committee Reports
Executive Committee (Recommended Approval)

Motion Passed F.S. 24.07
W Courses
Attachment D
D Backup

Motion Passed F.S. 24.08
Rules and Regulations Committee (Recommended Approval)
Attachment E
E Backup

Appendix VIII Texas A&M Alcohol Rules and Laws … Section III
Student Rule 41- Student Organizations, Section 41.2.2.1

Motion Passed F.S. 24.09
University Curriculum Committee (Recommended Approval)
Attachment F

Special Consideration
Dwight Look College of Engineering
Certificate in Polymer Specialty
New Courses:
AERO 406 Polymer Nanocomposites and their Applications
BMEN 482 Polymeric Biomaterials
MEEN 451 Viscoelastic Materials

Motion Passed F.S. 24.10
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Change in Curriculum
Department of Marine Science

Attachment G
BS in Marine Science

New Courses
MARE 242
MARE 243
MARE 261
MARE 313
MARE 441
MARE 451

Old Business

New Business

Comments from the Dean of Faculties: Karan Watson reported that a candidate for the vacant position of Vice President for Diversity has been identified and the nomination awaits approval by the Board of Regents.

Committee of the Whole

Former Speaker John Fike reported that the next-generation Electronic Information System being purchased to replace SIMS is supposed to be capable of handling +/- grades should the Faculty Senate decide to implement such a system in the future.

Senator Tom Vogel reported that a subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee is making progress toward a proposal for a University Studies degree. Institution of the University Studies degree is one part of a plan to alleviate the "access to majors problem" (students who meet University standards for graduation but with GPAs lower than are required for some majors). Current thoughts are that in addition to core curriculum requirements, the degree will require an "area of concentration" (21-24 credits) and two standard minors with at least one in a college other than the area of concentration. Student advising would be provided in the department or college of the area of concentration and oversight of the whole program would be provided by the Department of General Academic Studies. It is anticipated that most Freshmen interested in a University Studies type program will still first enroll in General Studies and then transfer once areas of concentration and appropriate minors are identified. Departments or curricula interested in the degree will identify courses suited for areas of concentration and minors as is currently done; the only stipulation will be that anyone with a 2.0 GPA and appropriate required courses must be admitted to the program.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.