

## **TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

May 11, 2020

3:00pm

Via Zoom

<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Speaker Andrew Klein called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Due to ongoing social distancing practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was fully conducted via Zoom. Speaker Klein began by reminding Senators of details of how to participate remotely via Zoom using the hand-raising, polling, and chat features.

### **AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

The annual Richard Stadelmann Faculty Senate Service Award, given to a Senator in their first term who has displayed uncommon devotion to the mission of the Senate, was presented to Dr. Bobby Reece, College of Geosciences, after hearing some words from his nominator. He expressed his surprise, and thanked the Senate.

A new Faculty Senate Service Award, given to a Faculty Senator who has displayed uncommon devotion to the mission of the Senate, was presented next. Speaker Klein explained the genesis of this award. A long-term Senator, former Speaker, and Parliamentarian retired last year and the Executive Committee chose to honor his service by creating this new service award bearing his name: the Walter Daugherty Faculty Senate Service Award. In attendance, Dr. Daugherty thanked the Senate for this recognition.

After hearing words from two nominators, Speaker Klein announced the first recipient of this award, Dr. Janice Epstein, College of Science. Dr. Epstein expressed her surprise, her pleasure at serving, and her thanks.

These award recipients will receive the framed award certificates at a later date in person.

Traditionally, a guest speaker would be next, but the decision was made to forego a speaker to provide ample time for end of the year business.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dr. Jocelyn Widmer**, Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation

**Dr. Juan Garza**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Services & Director of Provost Information Technology Office

Drs. Widmer and Garza provided their monthly update on the progress of implementing the new learning management system (LMS). This included technical items, integration of Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI's) and non-LTI integrations, the release of the next iteration of the Keep Teaching website, and next steps. (*See attachments for greater detail and slides.*) Dr. Widmer closed with a thank you to Speaker Klein for his service on the LMS Advisory Committee, his contributions as a current Canvas user, and his support in ensuring faculty and students' needs were met over the past few months.

Dr. Widmer and Dr. Garza took questions from the following Senators:

Catharina Laporte, College of Liberal Arts  
Julie Harlin, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences  
Clint Magill, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences  
Deb Banerjee, College of Engineering

## **SPEAKER COMMENTS**

Speaker Klein began by reflecting on the unusual semester just concluded. He recognized faculty concern surrounding planning for the 7.5% budget reduction, and what the University is doing to ensure the health and safety of the faculty, staff and students. He assured the Senators that the University leadership is well aware of these concerns and that they are a top priority. Speaker Klein encouraged patience as the details for the fall semester get worked out. He and Secretary Ferdinand are representing faculty on the task force that is making recommendations to the Provost, and encouraged suggestions be sent to Alva or him.

Updates on Senate business included:

- The Faculty Senate elections were successfully concluded, after being conducted totally online.
- Next year's Faculty Senate leadership team was officially announced: soon-to-be speaker John Stallone will be joined by Speaker-Elect Dale Rice, College of Liberal Arts, and Secretary Alva Ferdinand.
- Speaker Klein welcomed the Executive Committee members beginning their year-long term after this meeting:
  - Deb Banerjee, College of Engineering
  - Rebecca Burns, College of Nursing
  - Julie Harlin, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Catharina Laporte, College of Liberal Arts
  - Bruce Neville, University Libraries
  - Angie Hill Price, College of Engineering
  - Heather Ramsey, College of Science
  - Grace Townsend, Galveston
  - Jim Woosley, College of Education & Human Development
- Committee chairs were reminded to submit their written reports by Friday, May 15.
- Senators were reminded to complete the Request for Summer Inactive Status form by May 20; the link was included in today's email.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The motion passed to approve the March 16, 2020 minutes as distributed. ***Attachment A1 – Passed***

The motion passed to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes as distributed. ***Attachment A2 – Passed***

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The motion passed to approve the May 11, 2020 Consent Agenda as presented. ***Passed***

(Full **Consent Agenda** with FS #'s can be found below *Adjournment*.)

## COMMENTS ON CURRICULAR ITEMS

As curricular approval is core to the Senate's mission, from this Consent Agenda Speaker Klein highlighted the graduate classes just approved for the MS Analytics program in the Mays Business School. They reminded him that Texas A&M has been teaching in less conventional ways for some time. This program is taught face-to-face at Houston CityCentre and also live streamed on Tuesday for working professionals. Speaker Klein found it interesting to see that many of the analytical skills taught in this program are the same skills he is hearing are of interest to students in other professional programs.

He then asked if any Senators wished to highlight any other curricular items; there were no comments.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was conducted.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Core Curriculum Council Course Report – Attachment B – Passed – FS.37.351**

The motion passed to approve the Core Curriculum Course Report as presented. (Full CCC Report can be found below *Adjournment*.)

## OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Proposed Revisions to Minimum Syllabus Requirements - Attachment C – For Informational Review and Discussion – FS.37.352**

Speaker Klein encouraged Senators to review prior to next month as the Senate will be voting on these at the next meeting. Provost Fierke asked to be recognized. She wondered if temporary language regarding COVID-19 would be included. No one was present to answer to this. Senator Angie Hill Price recommending approving this document as is, and then approving a special rider addressing COVID-19 issues separately. This would prevent the need for the Minimum Syllabus Requirements to be approved again.

Senator Clint Magill had a question regarding accommodations for students with impaired hearing. Speaker Klein stated he believed this section applied to written documents rather than videos.

### **Proposed Revisions to Student Rules**

Student Rule 41 – Student Organizations – **Attachment D – Passed – FS.37.353**

Student Rule 42 – Activities of University-Recognized Student Organizations – **Attachment E – Passed – FS.37.354**

## **Resolution affirming Faculty Senate support of the Student Course Evaluation Task Force Recommendation Report – *Attachment F – Passed – FS.37.355***

Report can be viewed at:

<http://dof.tamu.edu/STUDENT-COURSE-EVALUATION-TASK-FORCE-RECOMMENDATIONS>

### **State of the Senate Address – *Attachment G***

Speaker Andrew Klein

### **Appreciation of Out-going Executive Committee Members and Parliamentarian**

Speaker Klein recognized the work of this year's outgoing Executive Committee: Dan Collins, Secretary-Treasurer Alva Ferdinand, Julie Harlin, Catharina Laporte, Rajesh Miranda, Angie Hill Price, Heather Ramsey, Dale Rice, who also served as Parliamentarian, Mark Sicilio, Speaker-Elect John Stallone, Grace Townsend, and Jim Woosley. Traditional certificates will be presented in person when possible.

Senator Laporte shared a message from Provost Fierke who had to leave the meeting:

"I'd like to thank the Speaker, Executive Committee, and all the Senators for their outstanding work this semester. I am particularly thankful for the collegiality and spirit of working together. Thank you, Carol."

### **Appreciation of Out-going Speaker – *Attachment H***

Continuing the tradition of the incoming Speaker, Speaker-Elect Stallone presented a resolution to outgoing Speaker Klein honoring him for his contributions. Speaker-Elect Stallone read the resolution. He then thanked Dr. Klein for his outstanding service, and welcomed him to *The Order of the Broken Gavel*, the group of former Speakers.

### **Passing of the Gavel**

The gavel was passed virtually. Speaker Stallone then invited Speaker-Elect Dale Rice to convene the Committee of the Whole.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Speaker-Elect Dale Rice convened the Committee of the Whole.

### **Deb Banerjee, College of Engineering**

Senator Banerjee wondered if the Faculty Development Leave program would be affected by budget cuts this year. Dean of Faculties Blanca Lupiani shared that there are no plans to reduce funding for leaves at this time.

### **Rajesh Miranda, College of Medicine**

Senator Miranda thanked former Speaker Klein for his service this year.

### **Angie Hill Price, College of Engineering**

Senator Price expressed her thanks to former Speaker Klein, and asked for a round of applause for him.

Speaker-Elect Dale Rice turned the meeting back over to Speaker Stallone.

## ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Stallone shared that a framed copy of the Resolution for Dr. Klein will be forthcoming, as will be well-earned gifts. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

**ATTACHMENTS BELOW: Approved Consent Agenda, Core Curriculum Council Report**

## CONSENT AGENDAS for March and April 2020

### GRADUATE COUNCIL

#### **New Courses – *Passed* – FS.37.333**

[ANLY 605: Visualizing and Understanding Data with Modern Tools](#)

[ANLY 608: Linear and Logistic Regression and Visualization](#)

[ANLY 615: Data Wrangling Tools and Techniques](#)

[ANLY 626: Time Series, Machine Learning and Visualization](#)

[ANLY 630: Analytics for Financial Reporting](#)

[ANLY 656: Machine Learning and Advanced Analytics Applications](#)

[EDCI 706: Narrative Inquiry in Curriculum and Instruction I](#)

[EDCI 707: Narrative Inquiry in Curriculum and Instruction II](#)

[PHSC 621: Biostatistics](#)

#### **Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.37.334**

[CVEN 601: Environmental Engineering Processes III](#)

[CVEN 620: Environmental Engineering Processes II](#)

[PETE 628: Horizontal Drilling](#)

#### **Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.37.335**

##### **College of Engineering**

Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

[ECEN 603: Time-frequency Analysis and Multirate Signal Processing](#)

#### **Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.37.336**

##### **College of Medicine**

Department of Medicine

[HCPI 557: Contemporary Healthcare Issues](#)

#### **Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.37.337**

##### **College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

[SCSC 631: Prerequisite Programs for Feed Industry HACCP](#)

#### **Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.37.338**

##### **College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

[SCSC 632: Feed Industry HACCP - Principles and Plan Development](#)

#### **Change in Courses – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.37.339**

##### **College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences

[SCSC 633: Feed Industry HACCP - Advanced Plan Development](#)

## UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

### **New Courses – Passed – FS.37.340**

[NUEN 330: Monte Carlo Radiation Transport and MCNP Code](#)

### **Change in Courses – Passed – FS.37.341**

[BIOL 401: Critical Writing in Biology](#)

[COMM 203: Public Speaking](#)

[MEEN 201: Introduction to Mechanical Engineering](#)

[MGMT 209: Principles of Business Regulations and Law](#)

[PSYC 235: Introduction to Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience](#)

[PSYC 305: Psychology of Adjustment](#)

[RPTS 472: Grant Writing and Program Evaluation for Youth Development Organizations](#)

[SOC1 207: Introduction to Gender and Society](#)

[SOC1 217: Introduction to Race and Ethnicity](#)

[SOC1 304: Criminology](#)

[VTPP 427: Biomedical Physiology II](#)

### **Change in Programs – Passed – FS.37.342**

#### **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

[CERT-CG4: Agriculture eLearning Development - Certificate](#)

### **Change in Programs – Passed – FS.37.343**

#### **College of Engineering**

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

[MCS-CPSC: Master of Computer Science in Computer Science](#)

### **Change in Programs – Passed – FS.37.344**

#### **College of Engineering**

Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution

[MS-ENTC: Master of Science in Engineering Technology](#)

### **Change in Programs – Passed – FS.37.345**

#### **College of Engineering**

Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering

[MS-INEN: Master of Science in Industrial Engineering](#)

### **Change in Programs – Passed – FS.37.346**

#### **College of Engineering**

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

[PHD-CECN: Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Engineering](#)

### **Change in Programs – Passed – FS.37.347**

#### **College of Engineering**

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

[PHD-CPSC: Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science](#)

### **Program Inactivation Proposal – Passed – FS.37.348**

#### **School of Law**

School of Law

[JM-HCLW: Juris Master in Health Care Law](#)

## W&C COURSES

**Courses Submitted for C Certification – Passed – FS.37.349**  
[HLTH 440-C: Contemporary Issues for Community Health Interns](#)

**Courses Submitted for W Certification – Passed – FS.37.350**  
[ARCH 205-W: Architecture Design I](#)  
[JOUR 490-W: Journalism as a Profession](#)

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*End of Consent Agenda*

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**CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL COURSE REPORT - Attachment B – Passed – FS.37.351**

**New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy & Culture**  
[PHIL 282-GE: Ethics in a Digital Age](#)

**New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Life & Physical Sciences**  
[AGSM 105-GE: The World has a Drinking Problem: Global Water Scarcity](#)

**New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Social & Behavioral Sciences**  
[SOC1 213-GE: Gender and Health](#)

**Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Creative Arts**  
[PERF 328-GE: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts](#)

**Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy & Culture**  
[ENGL 362-GE: Latino/a Literature](#)

**Recertification for Foundational Component Area: Social & Behavioral Sciences**  
[SOC1 217-GE: Introduction to Race and Ethnicity](#)

**New Courses – Cultural Discourse**  
[AGSM 105-CD: The World has a Drinking Problem: Global Water Scarcity](#)  
[ENGL 104-CD: Composition and Rhetoric](#)

**New Courses – International and Cultural Diversity**  
[FINC 445-ICD: International Finance](#)

**New Courses – International and Cultural Diversity - Galveston**  
[MARB 416-ICD: Marine and Coastal Biology of Patagonia, Argentina](#)