

## **TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

October 14, 2019

3:00pm

Rudder 601

<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Speaker Andrew Klein called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Speaker Klein introduced guest speaker Ross Bjork, TAMU Athletic Director, and welcomed him to the podium.

AD Bjork began by speaking about the need for continuity of leadership in Athletics, and the importance of building trust. He believes in the common goal of developing students to their full potential. He introduced Joe Fields, who leads the student-athlete Academic Development program. This past spring semester the student-athletes had over a 3.0 cumulative grade point average – the first time this has happened in the University's history.

- Mr. Bjork emphasized that Athletics is a part of the University's mission, but it is not the most important thing. As the most highly visible part of the University, they have a responsibility to make sure Athletics aligns with the mission.
- Abiding by the University's Core Values is an important part of Athletics.
- The role of the Athletics Director includes making sure the right coaches and staff are in place to serve the student-athletes, resource acquisition, ensuring student-athletes have a life after sports, and that teaching and educating are at the forefront of all they do.

AD Bjork then fielded questions from the following Senators:

Angie Hill Price, College of Engineering  
Bob Strawser, Mays Business School  
Darlene McLaughlin, College of Medicine

Speaker Klein thanked Ross Bjork for speaking to the Senate.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Heather Wilkinson, Associate Dean of Faculties, provided an update on the work of the task force looking at student course evaluations as well as its role in promotion and tenure. She encouraged faculty to look for and complete a survey they would be receiving the following day to provide feedback on the questions recommended by the task force.

Dr. Wilkinson responded to questions from the following Senators:

Stefanie Harris, College of Liberal Arts

Hank Walker, College of Engineering  
Dana Gaddy, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences  
Jay Ramadoss, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences  
Adam Kolasinski, Mays Business School  
Joan Wolf, College of Liberal Arts

## **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION HONORING DR. ROBERT KNIGHT**

Speaker Klein invited Dr. Bob Knight to the podium to present him with a resolution honoring his years of service to the University's Undergraduate Curriculum Council.

## **SPEAKER COMMENTS**

Speaker Klein started with several rounds of introductions:

- He first introduced some of the Senate's regular guests, administrators including Provost Carol Fierke, Dr. Tim Scott, Dr. Mike Stephenson, Dr. Heather Wilkinson, and Dr. Claire Katz.
- Next, he introduced this year's Executive Committee members: Speaker-Elect John Stallone, Secretary-Treasurer Alva Ferdinand, and at-large EC members Dan Collins, Catharina Laporte, Rajesh Miranda, Angie Hill Price, Heather Ramsey, Dale Rice (also Parliamentarian), Mark Sicilio, Grace Townsend, and Jim Woosley, and ex-officio members Dean of Faculties Blanca Lupiani, and former Speaker Julie Harlin.
- The Senate's new Caucus Leaders were then introduced:
  - Gary Kunkel, College of Agriculture
  - Geoffrey Booth, College of Architecture
  - Danny Davis, the Bush School
  - Allen Honeyman, College of Dentistry
  - Tony Boucher, College of Education & Human Development
  - Deb Banerjee, College of Engineering
  - Bobby Reece, College of Geosciences
  - Saurabh Vishnubhakat, School of Law
  - Dale Rice, College of Liberal Arts
  - Bruce Neville, University Libraries
  - Greg Heim, Mays Business School
  - Mark Sicilio, College of Medicine
  - Matt Hoffman, College of Nursing
  - Heather Ramsey, College of Science
  - Hamed aly Ismail, College of Pharmacy
  - Alva Ferdinand, School of Public Health
  - Grace Townsend, Galveston
  - Albertus Retnanto, Qatar
  - Jay Ramadoss, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Speaker Klein highlighted the following information:

- Former Senator, Speaker, and Parliamentarian Walter Daughterity was thanked – along with Senators Julie Harlin and Hank Walker – for convincing the University to delay for a year changes to the pre-tax parking benefit for faculty and staff. Dr. Harlin is now co-chair of the Transportation

Services Advisory Committee, and she and Speaker Klein have been placed on a task force looking at this and other parking tax related issues.

- The members of the Bylaws and Election Committees were thanked for their ongoing work on amending election procedures and bylaws. Their suggested changes will soon be on the Senate's agenda.
- The Senate continues to have representation on committees involved with the Student Success Initiatives.
- Speaker Klein has formed a working group with leadership of the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees, among others, to look at the course approval process and the minimum syllabus requirements. The minimum syllabus requirements will come to the Senate this year for a vote. Hopefully, the curriculum approval process will be streamlined to allow faculty to focus on more substantive curricular changes while retaining the Senate's appropriate oversight over curricular matters. Any ideas are appreciated.
- Speaker Klein has been working with student government leadership and looks forward to this continuing relationship. They brought a concern about paying for proctoring of exams and the Senate was able to help address these concerns with Provost leadership.
- He encouraged everyone to bring any concerns to him or the EC.
- Speaker Klein then spoke about the role of the Senate, sharing the role as identified in our Constitution. One of his goals this year is to continue to improve communication between the faculty and administration to demonstrate that this body can collectively provide constructive and timely feedback on important University issues. This is how shared governance is fostered and the voice of faculty is elevated.
- He encouraged Senators to remember that when communicating, we speak as more than an individual faculty member, quoting from the 1940 AAUP Statement on Academic Freedom, "be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the options of others." This is the best way to further the faculty's cause among colleagues and administration, ensuring that the Senate's collective voice remains powerful and faculty opinions cannot be simply dismissed as uninformed or intransigent.
- Speaker Klein encouraged Senators to participate in at least one of the four Open Forums supporting strategic planning, soliciting assistance with scribing at the Forums.
- He further encouraged those unable to attend President Young's State of the University Address to view it online, and encouraged Senators and colleagues to apply for Presidential Transformational Teaching Grants.
- He emphasized the importance of attending Faculty Senate standing committee meetings. This is where much of the important work of the Senate is conducted.

Speaker Klein stated that November's guest speaker will be Chancellor John Sharp, and closed his remarks by soliciting suggestions for guest speakers for the spring.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The motion passed to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes as distributed. ***Attachment A – Passed***

## **CONSENT AGENDA *Attachments B-U – Passed***

The motion passed to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. (Full *Consent Agenda* with FS #'s can be found below *Adjournment*.)

Speaker Klein highlighted the courses in Marine Engineering Technology found in Attachment S from Galveston, noting that he had the privilege of working with two former Sea Aggies when sailing in the Antarctic, who were critical to the successful operation of the aged ship.

He then encouraged other Senators to highlight curricular items from their own colleges to help make more visible this important work of the Senate.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business was conducted.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Core Curriculum Council Course Report**

The motion passed to approve the Core Curriculum Course Report as presented. (*CCC Report* with FS #'s can be found below *Adjournment*.)

### **Other Committee Reports**

No other committee reports were heard.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was conducted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Disability Resources Proposed Syllabus Statement – *Attachment W – FS.37.061***

This statement was presented for review only, as it will be required to be added/revise on the syllabi for spring semester. The statement represents an attempt to minimize legalese in favor of plain language. It was clarified that this statement is required on all syllabi, not just a link to the statement. Several questions from Senators were fielded. Senator Angie Hill Price requested the statement come up for a vote at the November meeting.

Before moving into Committee of the Whole, Senator Julie Harlin presented a card to Speaker Andrew Klein, and Senator Hill Price led the Senate in the “Happy Birthday” song, to celebrate Andrew’s birthday.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

In Speaker-Elect John Stallone’s absence, Secretary-Treasurer Alva Ferdinand convened the Committee of the Whole.

### **Adam Kolasinski, Mays Business School**

Senator Kolasinski raised a question concerning the student evaluation questions to be used for Tenure and Promotion purposes, inquiring as to whether those questions will come before the Senate for a vote. Provost Fierke responded saying that feedback is welcomed, but a vote is not necessary.

**Angie Hill Price, College of Engineering**

Senator Hill Price spoke to the concerns about the student evaluation questions, that she had seen them and found them relatively benign, and found the best thing to be that they cannot be averaged into one number.

**Stephanie McCartney, College of Science**

Senator McCartney raised concerns about the impact of the University’s calendar on faculty and staff on those who have children. The calendar is at odds with the local public schools on multiple occasions, as well as Federal holidays. She wondered if a task force might be set up to look at this. Provost Fierke shared her thoughts and encouraged ongoing conversations on the issue. Speaker Klein shared there might be other ways to assist with temporary child care. Senator Dan Collins supported the concerns about the mismatched calendars.

**Jim Woosley, College of Education & Human Development**

Senator Woosley requested that the Committee of the Whole recognize Provost Carol Fierke.

**Carol Fierke, Provost**

Provost Fierke made a strong plea for everyone to come to the Strategic Planning Forums. They are not Town Halls, but working groups requiring input from everyone.

**Clint Magill, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**

Speaking on behalf of the Planning Committee, Senator Magill shared a couple items that came up including IT security that prevents faculty from working, and concerns about intersections on campus. He requested charges from the EC.

**Bruce Neville, University Libraries**

Senator Neville, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, solicited any suggestions for revisions to the Bylaws. The changes to Bylaws regarding elections will be done this fall, with further work on the Bylaws done in the spring semester. Speaker Klein thanked Bruce for his hard work to date.

**Andrew Klein, Speaker, College of Geosciences**

Speaker Klein was asked to share that the SAP on Deans and Department Head rules has been approved and put into practice. This received applause from the Senate.

Secretary-Treasurer Ferdinand turned the meeting back over to Speaker Klein.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29pm.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**New Courses – Attachment B – Passed – FS.37.040**

ECEN 718 Neuro-electronics System

ECEN 719 Advanced Digital System Design

ECEN 776	Unconditionally Secure Electronics
FILM 643	Sex, Gender and Cinema
IDIS 651	Distribution Customer Experience
IDIS 652	Digital Distribution
INTA 698	Advanced Analytic Tradecraft
ITDE 610	Introduction to Engineering Innovation in Medicine
ITDE 614	Journal Club for Engineering Innovation in Medicine
ITDE 684	Professional Internship
MEEN 696	Bio-inspired Design
OCNG 626	Ocean Pollution
SYEN 684	Professional Internship
TCMT 639	Team Leadership Coaching

**Change in Courses – Attachment C – Passed – FS.37.041**

ANTH 605	Conservation of Archaeological Resources I
ANTH 606	Conservation of Archaeological Resources II
BICH 656	RNA World
CSCE 625	Artificial Intelligence
CSCE 705	Introduction to Computing Systems
CSCE 710	Fundamentals of Software Analysis
CSCE 713	Software Security
ECMT 678	Advanced Topics in Econometrics
EPSY 689	Special Topics in...
PETE 681	Seminar
SPSY 691	Research

**Change in Programs – Attachment D – Passed – FS.37.042**

**Mays Business School**

Department of Information & Operations Management  
 CERT-CG68 Business Intelligence and Analytics - Certificate

**Change in Programs – Attachment E – Passed – FS.37.043**

**College of Dentistry**

Department of Comprehensive Dentistry  
 CERT-PROS Prosthodontics - Certificate

**Change in Programs – Attachment F – Passed – FS.37.044**

**College of Medicine**

Department of Medicine  
 MD-MDMD Doctor of Medicine

**Change in Programs – Attachment G – Passed – FS.37.045**

**College of Education & Human Development**

Department of Teaching, Learning & Culture  
 MED-EDCI Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

**Change in Programs – Attachment H – Passed – FS.37.046**

**School of Public Health**

Department of Public Health  
 MPH-OCSH Master of Public Health in Occupational Safety and Health

**Change in Programs – Attachment I – Passed – FS.37.047**

**College of Engineering**

Department of Computer Science & Engineering  
 MS-CPSC Master of Science in Computer Science

**Change in Programs – Attachment J – Passed – FS.37.048**

**College of Engineering**

Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering

MS-ENSM      Master of Science in Engineering Management

**Change in Programs – Attachment K – Passed – FS.37.049**

**College of Science**

Department of Statistics

MS-STAT      Master of Science in Statistics

**Program Inactivation Proposal – Attachment L – Passed – FS.37.050**

**Mays Business School**

College of Business

CERT-CG7      Business Management - Certificate

**Special Consideration Item – Attachment M – Passed – FS.37.051**

**School of Public Health**

Department of Public Health Studies

BS/MPH-PHLT/PHEP-PPH      Public Health - 5-year Bachelor of Science/Master of Public Health in Epidemiology

**Special Consideration Item – Attachment N – Passed – FS.37.052**

**Mays Business School**

College of Business

CERT-BUSI      Business - Certificate

**Special Consideration Item – Attachment O – Passed – FS.37.053**

**College of Nursing**

Department of Nursing

CERT-PMHN      Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Certificate

**Special Consideration Item – Attachment P – Passed – FS.37.054**

**College of Science**

Department of Biology

MS-EEBL      Master of Science in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**New Courses – Attachment Q – Passed – FS.37.055**

GEOS 110      Disasters and Society

SPMT 460      Sport Business Planning

**Change in Courses – Attachment R – Passed – FS.37.056**

CSC 420      Artificial Intelligence

ENGR 181      Engineering Honors Seminar I

HLTH 335      Human Diseases

HLTH 353      Drugs and Society

HLTH 415      Health Education Methodology

HLTH 425      Health Program Evaluation

HLTH 440      Contemporary Issues for Community Health Interns

HLTH 482      Grant Writing in Health

KINE 318      Athletic Injuries

KINE 386      Sport Physiology

KINE 406      Motor Learning and Skill Performance

KINE 407      Motor Control and Learning Lab

KINE 427      Therapeutic Principles

KINE 433      Physiology of Exercise  
KINE 482      Seminar  
KNFB 416     Middle and Secondary School Physical Activities

**Change in Courses – Galveston – Attachment S – Passed – FS.37.057**

MARA 424     Intermodal Transportation  
MARE 200     Basic Operations  
MARE 300     Intermediate Operations  
MARE 400     Advanced Operations  
MART 200     Deck Sea Training I: Basic Communications, Navigation and Seamanship  
MART 300     Deck Sea Training II: Intermediate Communications, Navigation and Seamanship  
MART 400     Deck Sea Training III: Advanced Communications, Navigation and Seamanship  
MAST 350     A History of Wooden Ship Construction

**W&C COURSES**

**Courses Submitted for W Certification – Attachment T – Passed – FS.37.058**

ESSM 405-W    Forest Resource Assessment and Management  
PHIL 381-W    Ethical Theory  
VIBS 443-W    Biology of Mammalian Cells and Tissues

**Courses Submitted for W Certification—Galveston – Attachment U – Passed – FS.37.059**

MARE 405-W    Fundamentals of Naval Architecture  
MAST 425-W    Thesis and Technical Writing

---

*End of Consent Agenda*

---

**CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL COURSE REPORT – Attachment V – Passed – FS.37.060**

**New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Lang, Phil, Culture**

RELS 202-GE    Religion in America

**New Courses Submitted for Foundational Component Area: Life & Physical Sciences**

GEOL 208-GE    Life on a Dynamic Planet

**New Courses – Cultural Diversity**

PHIL 282-CD    Ethics in a Digital Age

**New Courses – International and Cultural Diversity**

ENTO 210-ICD    Global Public Health Entomology  
KINE 282-ICD    Culture of Wellness  
URPN 203-ICD    Smart Cities: Bit, Bots and Beyond