

TAMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2020

3:00pm

Via Zoom

<http://facultysenate.tamu.edu>

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker John N. Stallone called the second meeting of the 38th Session 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 Stallone began by reminding Senators of details of how to participate remotely via Zoom using the hand-raising, polling, and chat features.

GUEST SPEAKER

Speaker Stallone welcomed guest speaker Dr. Carol Fierke, Provost of Texas A&M University, along with members of her leadership team: Dr. Michael Stephenson and Mr. Joe Pettibon. Dr. Fierke began by sharing the two primary goals for fall semester operations: 1) providing the best education possible to meet our land grant mission as safely as possible, and 2) making decisions based on best available scientific and medical data, taking advantage of all of the experts at TAMU. She provided multiple updates for the fall.

- Currently planning on face-to-face (F2F) classes
- Working hard to balance educational mission, safety, and financial health; fewer F2F classes will lead to layoffs and furloughs
- Decisions are fluid and can be changed as circumstances change
- Remote courses are a safety option to minimize exposure to students who test positive for COVID-19, while allowing them to continue their education
- Committees are working on options for exams and proctoring
- Every classroom will have cameras and microphones, and guidance on use will be provided
- TAMU now has a bring-your-own-device policy for students
- Planning to work with local hospitals to manage load due to student illness
- Various measures are being put in place to ensure safety of faculty and staff; colleges are expected to have a back-up if faculty are too ill to teach remotely
- Administration will be tracking illness on campus via a dedicated portal and Workday
- Face covering policy is in place; non-compliant students can be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and faculty have the option to move their class online for that day
- The amount of fresh air being circulated in buildings is being increased to hospital levels, and classrooms will be cleaned multiple times daily
- Maximizing study spaces, including tents on campus to avoid congregating in halls
- Operations will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis
- Training, monitoring, testing and contact tracing are in place; free testing for faculty and staff who are symptomatic will be available via the student health center. Turnaround time is

expected to be 30-48 hours. Testing will also be available for those who are notified by contact tracers that they have been exposed.

- Students who are COVID-19 positive will be quarantined in hotels set up for this purpose.
- TAMU School of Public Health has teamed up with the Brazos Valley Health Department to develop a contact tracing group. Portal reporting goes directly to this group.
- Working on a wastewater COVID-19 testing protocol to test for viral load

Dr. Fierke then took questions from Senators, some of which were aggregated by Senator Andrew Klein who was monitoring the Chat. (The full video recording of the meeting can be accessed on the Faculty Senate website[link].)

Speaker Stallone thanked Dr. Fierke for speaking to the group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Jocelyn Widmer, Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation

Dr. Widmer provided her monthly update on the progress of implementing the new learning management system (LMS). This included a technical update, the Opt-in App, Canvas “by-the-numbers”, shells in Canvas, Canvas out of the box & 3rd party tools, Zoom in Canvas, and what’s next. For greater detail, see Dr. Widmer’s slide presentation and notes.

SPEAKER COMMENTS

Speaker Stallone reflected on the two challenges confronting faculty: the COVID-19 pandemic and how it will impact teaching in the fall, and racism on campus. The full text of his comments can be found here [link].

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion passed to approve the June 15, 2020 minutes as distributed. **Attachment A – Passed**

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion passed to approve the July 13, 2020 Consent Agenda as presented. **Passed**

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Report on the S. Ross Statue Survey – Attachment B – FS.38.041

Senator and Executive Committee member Julie Harlin presented the report found in *Attachment B*.

CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL – No COURSE REPORT for July, 2020

STANDING COMMITTEES – SPRING 2020 REPORTS – *Attachment C – FS.38.042*

Academic Affairs Committee – Senator Jay Ramadoss

Budget Information Committee – Senator Greg Heim

Personnel & Welfare Committee – Senator Len Bierman

Planning Committee – Senator Clint Magill

Research Committee – Senator Tom Sullivan

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEBAC Report for May 2020 – *Attachment D – FS.38.043*

SEBAC Representative – Senator Greg Heim

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Amendments to Minimum Syllabus Requirements:

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness – *Attachment E – Passed – FS.38.044*

The motion passed to approve Attachment E without discussion.

COVID-19 Temporary Amendment – *Attachment F (to be revised) – Passed – FS.38.045*

Senator Angie Hill Price, College of Engineering, asked for the Senate to recognize faculty member ‘Jon Jaspersen. Dr. Jaspersen served on the committee drafting the Minimum Syllabus Requirements, and detailed extensive suggested revisions to this amendment. After much discussion and input from Associate Provosts Michael Stephenson and Michael Benedik, the Faculty Senate approved a motion to allow the Executive Committee to make final approval of the amendment after revisions, due to the extremely short turnaround time required to get this amendment on fall syllabi. There followed a vote on *Attachment F* “as amended,” which passed.

Recommendation of August 2020 Degree Candidates

TOTAL – 1,897
TAMU-Main – 1,671
TAMU-Galveston – 93
TAMU-HSC – 100
TAMU-Law – 21
TAMU-Qatar – 12

Secretary Ferdinand made the motion to certify the August 2020 Degree Candidates; the motion passed.

Senator Deb Banerjee shared an announcement of the passing of a colleague and mentor in the College of Engineering, Dr. Hisham Nasr-EI-Din.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Senators Raymond Arroyave, College of Engineering, and Clint Magill, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, both shared their experiences in the Recreation Center of students not wearing masks while using the facility. Senator Adam Kolasinski also shared a circumstance of demonstrators without masks on campus.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA for July 2020

GRADUATE COUNCIL – No items in July, 2020

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

New Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.029

[CHEM 484: Internship](#)

[COSC 222: Social Issues in the History of the Construction Environment](#)

[SCMT 334: Purchasing Practices](#)

Change in Courses – *Passed* – FS.38.030

[BIOL 414: Developmental Biology](#)

[CHEM 119: Fundamentals of Chemistry I](#)

[CHEN 482: Bioprocess Engineering](#)

[EDCI 353: Early Childhood through Adolescent Education](#)

[EDCI 364: Creativity and the Young Child](#)

[ENGL 104: Composition and Rhetoric](#)

[LBAR 203: Foundations of the Liberal Arts: Humanities](#)

[MASC 351: Problem Solving in Mathematics](#)

[MASC 450: Integrated Mathematics](#)

[MATH 150: Functions, Trigonometry and Linear Systems](#)

[MATH 151: Engineering Mathematics I](#)

[MEFB 452: Curriculum and Instruction for Middle Grades](#)

[MEFB 497: Supervised Clinical Teaching](#)

[MGMT 363: Managing People in Organizations](#)

[MGMT 466: Strategic Management](#)

[MGMT 485: Directed Studies](#)

[MUSC 201: Music and the Human Experience](#)

[MUSC 228: History of Electronic Music](#)

[OCEN 363: Dynamics and Vibrations](#)

[PHIL 111: Contemporary Moral Issues](#)

[POLS 206: American National Government](#)

[RDNG 372: Reading and Writing across the Middle Grades Curriculum](#)

[RDNG 470: Reading/Language Arts Methods in Middle Grades Education](#)

[RDNG 472: Teaching Writing in Elementary and Middle Grade Classrooms](#)

[RDNG 490: Assessment in Reading Instruction in Middle Grades](#)

[TEFB 371: Dynamics and Management in Multicultural/Inclusionary Learning Environments](#)

[TEFB 410: Social Studies and the Humanities in the Elementary School](#)

[TEFB 426: Supervised Clinical Teaching](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.031

College of Engineering

Department of Nuclear Engineering

[BS-NUEN: Nuclear Engineering - BS](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.032

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Department of Animal Science

[CERT-CU24: Equine Science - Certificate](#)

Change in Programs – *Passed* – FS.38.033

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Department of Poultry Science

[MINOR-POSC: Poultry Science - Minor](#)

Change in Programs – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.034

College of Education & Human Development

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-EDSM: Sport Management Lower-Level](#)

Change in Programs – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.035

College of Education & Human Development

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-SPMT-SPI: Sport Management - BS, Internship Track](#)

Change in Programs – Inactivation Proposal – *Passed* – FS.38.036

College of Education & Human Development

Department of Health & Kinesiology

[BS-SPMT-SPN: Sport Management - BS, Non-internship Track](#)

Special Consideration Item – *Passed* – FS.38.037

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Liberal Arts

[MINOR-GNHT: Gender and Health - Minor](#)

Miscellaneous: Bulk/Mass Prefix Change – *Passed* – FS.38.038

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Department of Nutrition and Department of Food Science

[Undergraduate Courses \(NFSC to NUTR/FSTC\)](#)

W&C COURSES

Courses Submitted for W Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.039

[CSCE 331-W: Foundations of Software Engineering](#)

[GEOG 309-W: Geography of Energy](#)

[HIST 280-W: The Historian's Craft](#)

[HORT 315-W: Issues in Horticulture](#)

[INTS 405-W: War and Memory](#)

[PSYC 301-W: Elementary Statistics for Psychology](#)

Courses Submitted for W Re-Certification – *Passed* – FS.38.040

[PERF 310-W: History of Performance in the Ancient World](#)

[PERF 311-W: History of Performance in the Common Era](#)

[PERF 312-W: History of Performance Modern Era](#)

[PERF 453-W: Seminar in Performance Ethnography](#)