

SRSU Rio Grande College

Faculty Senate Meeting, Uvalde auditorium

September 24, 2010

Minutes

- I. After determining that a quorum was present, the meeting was **called to order** by President Daniel Foley at 9:15 a.m.
- II. Dr. Foley reminded everyone that the **minutes of the previous meeting** had been forwarded to all faculty via email for their approval shortly after that meeting. He nevertheless attached a copy of those minutes to the agenda which was distributed. Since there were no corrections at that time, the minutes were deemed to have been approved.
- III. Dr. Foley then proceeded to the **election of officers** for the 2010-2011 term.
 - a. Dr. James Wood was nominated for president and elected by acclamation. Dr. Wood conducted the remainder of the meeting.
 - b. Dr. Ferris Byxbe was nominated for vice-president and elected by acclamation.
 - c. Dr. Randal Stitts and Dr. Paul Province were nominated for secretary and Dr. Stitts was elected.
- IV. A discussion of **faculty senate committee assignments** then ensued. It was noted that there has been a good deal of confusion with regard to the membership list and respective terms for many of the committees. Perhaps as a result of various changes in the administration, some prior changes to committees did not appear on the listing furnished. It was decided that the senate should proceed with our current listing as a starting point, but that all committee terms should now be for a two-year period ending 9/30/2012. Dr. Wood will furnish the list of committees and assignments as recommended by the senate .
- V. Dr. Moreman then provided an update on the **status of the QEP**. She discussed the opening of the writing centers in Uvalde and Eagle Pass, the pilot program for the center in Del Rio, the initial meeting of a Toastmasters Club in Del Rio, and then requested that the faculty complete a survey regarding the QEP.
- VI. Dr. Wood then asked Dr. Foley to discuss the **directive concerning Student Evaluations of Faculty**. Referring to the agenda, Dr. Foley noted that Vice-President Coers had requested that the RGC senate join with the faculty assembly in Alpine in making a recommendation about revising our current Student Evaluation instrument. Dr. Foley suggested that we could form a committee comprised of 3 members, one from each of our academic departments. After some discussion, Dr. Wood called for volunteers and the following faculty were appointed to the new committee. Dr. Clay Balch, education, Dr. Randal Stitts, business, and Dr. Gregory Stone, liberal arts.

VII. Dr. Wood then took up the issue of **weekend availability of our computer labs**. Dr. Ferris Byxbe began the discussion and explained that he thought it was time to revisit this critical issue. During the discussion it was noted that our students pay computer fees and deserve access to computers at least as much as their cohorts in Alpine and at other universities. Our students do much of their work on computers and yet many do not own their own computer. Although some computers are available at the Junior College, this is not a substitute for making our own labs available. Students should be able to access our computer labs on weekends. Dr. Stone noted that for years, we have asked the administration to open labs on weekends. The cost should be minimal since the facilities could be staffed by qualified part-time employees or work studies; it would not be necessary to have highly skilled OIT staff on call. Upon a motion by Dr. Moura and second by Dr. Moreman *the following resolution was unanimously adopted:*

The administration should move quickly to examine the feasibility of opening all RGC computer labs for a period of time on Saturdays and/or Sundays.

VIII. Dr. Wood then took up the issue of **summer salaries**. Dr. Tindol led the discussion and began by noting that our ability to teach summer classes at the current rates serves as an important recruiting and retention tool in what is otherwise an environment of very low comparative nine-month salaries. We have been consistently told in the past that if we increase enrollment our salaries could be increased and we have been told that if we increased tuition rates, our salaries could and would be increased. Since these things did not transpire, our ability to teach in the summer is even more critical. After further discussion a motion was made by Dr. Tindol, seconded by Mr. Adames and passed unanimously. The senate adopted the following resolution:

The current faculty salary structure with regard to summer teaching should be maintained, including the ability to teach a full course load of 12 sch.

There being no further business Dr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 9:55.