

**Minutes**  
**Faculty Assembly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 2017**  
**Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm**

I. Call to Order

*Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:38 pm.*

*Present: April Aultman Becker, Rosemary Briseno, Theron Francis, Eric Funasaki, Sharon Hileman, Rob Kinucan, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Francine Richter, Hamin Shabazz, Rebecca Splan, Kathy Stein, Barbara Tucker, Joseph Velasco, and Bonnie Warnock.*

*Absent, but counted in the quorum: Steve Bennack, Jamie Boyd, Angela Brown, Suyu Dong, Avram Dumitrescu, Christopher Estepp, Betsy Evans, Carol Fairlie, Donald Freed, Thea Glenn, Ilda Gonzalez, William Green, Bibiana Gutierrez, Alex Hardison, Jim Hector, Christopher Herrera, Kristofer Jorgenson, Ken Laviers, Cynthia McAlister, Jeffery Meyer, C.J. Richardson, Lorie Rubenser, Gregory Schwab, Gregory Tegarden, Martin Terry, Liza Ware, Scott Wassermann, and Filemon Zamora.*

II. SGA Report (Vince Apodaca)

*SGA will be holding a pep rally with the Sul Ross cheerleaders to get people involved in Homecoming. SGA is hosting traffic court today. Next month SGA will begin working on Red Out by starting to look for sponsors.*

III. Guest Speakers

A. Rob Kinucan (grant proposal submissions)

*This summer the Executive Committee passed new policies for submitting grant proposals. Handouts on the new policies as well as new forms that need to be filled out were distributed. The Executive Committee is concerned about proposals that institutionalize positions that start out as grant funded and the amount of indirect cost recovery funds coming back to the university. The new policies require that proposals with positions to be institutionalized or indirect cost recovery funds less than 32% be preapproved by the Executive Committee before being submitted to them for approval. The Executive Committee also wants to have sufficient time to review proposals for approval. Thus, faculty are encouraged to not submit grant proposals to the Executive Committee for approval at the last minute. Marilyn McGhee mentioned that in light of these new policies, items that need to be addressed early on in the writing of grant proposals (which she can help grant writers with) are cost share and cost matching, 32% indirect costs, and institutionalizing of positions. There will be workshops on grants on November 11 and 13 as well as in late January.*

- B. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACSCOC update) and April Aultman Becker (QEP)  
*The current top priority for SACSCOC accreditation purposes is university involvement in the QEP. April Aultman Becker reminded faculty that the QEP is focused on communication skills across the curriculum. She is looking for faculty presenters (5-10 minute presentations with a \$200 stipend) for the QEP Faculty Development subcommittee's panel presentations on October 27 at RGC and on November 1 in Alpine. The plan is to have at least 6 presenters with great ideas on teaching communication skills at each session.*

IV. Approval of Minutes (9/13/17)

*Bonnie Warnock moved to approve the minutes from September 13 and Ryan O'Shaughnessy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. Meeting with Dr. Kibler

*Joseph Velasco met with Dr. Kibler to discuss the Sul Ross updates to be presented at the upcoming TSUS Faculty Senate and TCFS meetings. They talked about the budget and financial challenges facing Sul Ross. In particular, how the special item funding cut of 30% by the legislature will impact Sul Ross because this funding is used to get projects started and pay faculty salaries. Joseph Velasco will press the TSUS Chancellor and Vice Chancellors on what the legislature is doing to study the impact of special item funding. The TSUS Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is forming a committee to study distance education at system institutions. Since distance education at Sul Ross is different than at other system institutions, the effect of any new policies mandated by the system on Sul Ross is a concern. Joseph Velasco asked if anyone had other issues he should bring up at the TSUS Faculty Senate and TCFS meetings. Bonnie Warnock is concerned about the system wanting Sul Ross to increase its student to faculty ratio. She feels that the system does not recognize the type of underprepared students that attend Sul Ross who benefit from greater faculty attention and interaction. Rob Kinucan added that the higher student to faculty ratios at larger system institutions cannot be applied to smaller institutions like Sul Ross. Smaller institutions need lower student to faculty ratios in order to have enough faculty in every discipline to be able to cover all of the courses being offered. Please send any other thoughts or comments to Joseph Velasco.*

B. Meeting with Dr. Case

*Joseph Velasco did not meet with Dr. Case because Dr. Case has been very busy as of late.*

C. Resolution on Deans on Executive Committee

*Dr. Kibler would like to hear from the Dean's Council (which is meeting on Monday) on this resolution before making a decision.*

VI. Vice President's Report (Kathy Stein)

A. Committees and Councils membership

*Kathy Stein has been hearing concerns about the makeup of certain Committees and Councils. This is a function of who volunteered to serve and not the Executive Council stacking Committees and Councils in any way. Department Chairs should encourage their faculty to serve on Committees and Councils. Bonnie Warnock suggested that Committees and Councils could consider whether they can get by with fewer members.*

VII. Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Eric Funasaki)

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report (Bonnie Warnock)

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

A. Effects of HB 2223 (Kathy Stein)

*HB 2223 requires that all developmental education students (mathematics, reading, and writing) be placed in paired college level courses starting in Fall 2018. This could impact enrollment in the paired college level courses, grades in the paired college level courses, and financial aid. Kathy Stein wants to start a discussion on this bill and its consequences. In particular, how to deal with these students and place them into paired college level courses.*

XI. Committee Reports

A. Bookstore Relations Committee (Joseph Velasco)

*The committee has met and will be chaired by David Watson. The committee will continue the discussion started at the last Faculty Assembly meeting and is looking for more members. Please send any thoughts or comments to David Watson.*

XII. Council Reports

A. Teaching Council (Theron Francis)

*The Teaching Council budget for academic year 2017-18 is \$6300. There will be 3 deadlines with about \$2100 being awarded after each deadline. The first deadline is October 20.*

XIII. Announcements

A. Poindexter Speaker Series (Hamin Shabazz)

*State Senator Jose Rodriguez and State Representative Poncho Nevarez will be giving the Poindexter Speaker Series lecture on Friday, October 20 at 7 pm in Marshall Auditorium. Please encourage students to attend.*

- B. Graduate Student Center Open House (Sharon Hileman)  
*The Graduate Student Center will hold an open house on Thursday, October 12 from 2-4 pm.*
- C. Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble Concert (Jeffery Meyer)  
*There will be a Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble concert on Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 pm in Marshall Auditorium.*
- D. Candlelight Vigil and March (Kathy Stein)  
*As part of Domestic Violence Awareness month there will be a candlelight vigil and march this evening. The march starts in front of the library at 6:30 pm and ends at the courthouse.*

XIV. Adjourn

*David Leaver moved to adjourn and Bonnie Warnock seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.*