

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2018
BAB 304, 3:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Present: April Aultman Becker, Anirban Bhattacharjee, Rosemary Briseno, Suyu Dong, Jay Downing, Betsy Evans, Eric Funasaki, Thea Glenn, Bibiana Gutierrez, Christopher Herrera, Sharon Hileman, Rob Kinucan, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Jennifer Miller, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Billy Jack Ray, Francine Richter, Kathy Stein, Alicia Trotman, Joseph Velasco, Tiffiny Vincent, David Watson, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: Steve Bennack, Jamie Boyd, Avram Dumitrescu, Christopher Estep, Carol Fairlie, Donald Freed, Alex Hardison, Kristofer Jorgenson, Marina Kimball, Ken Laviers, Cynthia McAlister, Jennifer McCormack, Jeffery Meyer, Samuel Renfro, Dona Roman, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Saka, Gregory Schwab, Gregory Tegarden, Barbara Tucker, Kevin Urbanczyk, Julie Vega, and Bonnie Warnock.

II. SGA Report (Vince Apodaca)

III. Guest Speakers

A. Tim Parsons (Online Distance Education)

A draft of the new online course guidelines was distributed and presented. The guidelines are based on SACSCOC and Blackboard guidelines. Look at the guidelines and think about how best to implement them. Please send any feedback to Tim Parsons.

B. Jeanne Qvarnstrom and Jimmy Case (SACSCOC update)

Jeanne Qvarnstrom thanked faculty for their support in getting Sul Ross ready for the SACSCOC onsite review. A focus report responding to the SACSCOC offsite review of Sul Ross' compliance report is being prepared. One issue being addressed is the evaluation of part-time faculty. Jimmy Case said that there is no current policy for evaluating part-time faculty. Hence, a policy for evaluating part-time faculty is being established for chairs to use. A draft of the policy will be presented to the Executive Committee tomorrow. Chairs will need to review syllabi, meet with part-time faculty during the semester, and conduct an evaluation at the end of the semester. The policy and evaluation form will be a part of the SACSCOC focus report. The policy will be put in place right away, but could be modified by Faculty Assembly later on. Jeanne Qvarnstrom has been corresponding with the chair of the SACSCOC onsite review committee. She will find out what programs and departments the committee wants to interview and let folks know as

soon as possible. Lastly, work is being done on academic assessment reports, in particular, incorporating the mission statement into the reports.

IV. Approval of Minutes (11/7/17)

Billy Jack Ray moved to approve the minutes from November 7 and Bibiana Gutierrez seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. Resolution on Deans on Executive Committee

A handout with Dr. Kibler's decision to not approve the resolution was passed out. Consequently, having more academically invested individuals on the Executive Committee still needs to be addressed.

B. Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting

Joseph Velasco will be attending the meeting at which Evan Smith (CEO of the Texas Tribune) will moderate a panel discussion on higher education in Texas. Raymund Paredes (Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) and Donna Howard (Texas House of Representatives, District 48) will be on the panel. Please send Joseph Velasco any questions that you would like asked during this panel discussion.

VI. Vice President's Report (Kathy Stein)

A. Texas State University System Faculty Senate meeting

Topics that were discussed included: the evaluation of presidents and provosts by faculty, having collegiality as part of tenure and promotion, the reworking of the Regent's teaching and research awards, the reassessing of the Grow Your Own program, dealing with free speech issues on campuses, the creation of new sexual assault trainings, expecting no Hazelwood relief, and reviewing how ORP is funded versus how TRS is funded.

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

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report (Bonnie Warnock)

IX. Old Business

A. Border County Doctoral Loan Repayment Program

Joseph Velasco will try to bring this up at the TCFS meeting. Please send him any comments that could help craft questions to be asked at the TCFS meeting.

B. Class Scheduling

Carol Greer has not gotten back to Joseph Velasco about her feasibility study on not holding Friday classes.

C. Faculty Development Funds

At the last Faculty Assembly meeting Hamin Shabazz brought up having Sul Ross provide more funds for faculty development. In light of the current budget situation, Joseph Velasco felt this would

be difficult to accomplish, but still should be pushed for. David Leaver asked about the availability of research enhancement funds. Rob Kinucan stated that these funds may be gone for good.

X. New Business

A. Sul Ross Legacy Plan and Campus Open Forums

Joseph Velasco noted that there had not been any faculty only forums on the Legacy Plan. Thus, a discussion on the Legacy Plan took place with numerous questions being raised and thoughts being presented. Tiffiny Vincent (one of two faculty representatives on the Legacy Plan committee) encouraged faculty to use the online forum to anonymously send the committee ideas on saving money.

B. By-law Change for Faculty Affairs Council Membership

The Faculty Assembly by-laws states “tenured faculty members” and the Faculty Assembly website states “tenured full professors.” This inconsistency needs to be fixed. The Executive Council will propose a by-laws change at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

C. Non-tenure-track Faculty Evaluation Form

This was discussed during Jeanne Quarnstrom’s SACSCOC report.

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Council Reports

A. Sustainability Council (Betsy Evans)

The documentary “How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can’t Change” will be screened twice and is being sponsored by the Library. The first screening will be at Turner Range Animal Science at 6:30 pm on February 19. The second screening will be sometime around Earth Day.

XIII. Announcements

A. QEP (April Aultman Becker)

The QEP is coming into final form. The online version will be updated in the next couple of weeks. Proofreading help is needed. Also, suggestions are still being accepted. The QEP Professional Development subcommittee will be holding an event in March.

B. Sul Ross Ultimate (Joseph Velasco)

The Sul Ross Ultimate team hosted the Big Bender Tournament and won the tournament by beating Angelo State in the finals.

C. Library Open House (April Aultman Becker)

The Library is hosting a Valentine’s Day Open House at 2 pm.

XIV. Adjourn

Billy Jack Ray moved to adjourn and Ryan Luna seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm.