

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm.

Present: Jay Downing, Avram Dumitrescu, Carol Fairlie, Theron Francis, Eric Funasaki, Jim Hector, Christopher Herrera, Sharon Hileman, David Leaver, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Billy Jack Ray, Francine Richter, Esther Rumsey, Lori Schreiber, Thomas Shiller, Kathy Stein, Joseph Velasco, Bonnie Warnock, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: April Aultman Becker, Steve Bennack, Jamie Boyd, Angela Brown, Christopher Estopp, Betsy Evans, Donald Freed, Thea Glenn, Ilda Gonzalez, William Green, Bibiana Gutierrez, Alex Hardison, Kristofer Jorgenson, Rob Kinucan, Ken Laviers, Ryan Luna, Jeffrey Meyer, Chris Ritzi, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Saka, Gregory Schwab, Gregory Teagarden, Martin Terry, Barbara Tucker, Kevin Urbanczyk, Liza Ware, and Scott Wassermann.

II. SGA Report (Vince Apodaca)

SGA Vice President Gloria Villanueva gave the SGA report. SGA plans on coordinating with other TSUS SGA's to share ideas and information on each other's institutions. Also, a SGA food drive collected 5000 pounds of food for Hurricane Harvey relief and the SRSU food pantry.

III. Guest Speakers

A. Sylvana Diaz (Bookstore)

The bookstore started a price matching program this fall and 30 students saved about \$80 each. Faculty were asked to spread the word about this program. Thanks to faculty as the fall adoption rate was 82%, the highest in three years. Look for an e-mail this week about Spring 2018 adoptions which are due October 16. The online adoption website will continue to be used. Questions were raised about the online adoption website and the difficulty in using it. Send any questions on the adoption process and online adoption website to Joseph Velasco.

B. Helen Crane (Degree Works) and Micah Ferrell (TLC)

Helen Crane stated that under the Title V grant Degree Works was purchased and implemented. There will be training for advisors on October 2 and October 3 from 3 to 5 pm. Faculty are encouraged to attend the training to become advisors and get access to Degree Works. Micah Ferrell announced that the new Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) is in the library. Tutors are available in the

TLC from 8 am to 9 pm. Faculty were asked to encourage their students to go to the TLC for help. Peer mentoring is a new program that pairs peer mentors with First Year Seminar classes. Peer mentors will also help with the Early Alert System by facilitating communication between faculty and students. Kathy Stein reminded faculty that all on-campus tutoring is now in the TLC.

C. Esther Rumsey (QEP faculty development)

The QEP subcommittee on faculty development wants to help faculty integrate the teaching of communication skills into their classes. For writing intensive courses there will be workshops on how to use the TLC to improve students' writing. This fall there will be roundtable workshops focused on great ideas in the teaching of communication skills. At these workshops there will be 6 to 8 tables each with one faculty member giving 10 minute presentations on their great ideas.

D. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACSCOC update)

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the SACSCOC compliance report which was submitted on September 1. In November the report will be reviewed by SACSCOC and in April of 2018 the on-campus review will take place over 3 days. The final decision on accreditation will be made in December of 2018. A handout on the new Institutional Effectiveness website was given out. The new website should make it easier to access data on the university.

IV. Approval of Minutes (4/10/17)

Bonnie Warnock moved to approve the minutes from April 10 and Christopher Herrera seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. Meeting with Dr. Kibler

Joseph Velasco met with Dr. Kibler twice during the summer as well as this past Monday. A gift from the Gist family will establish a Quarter Horse program at Sul Ross. Money needs to be raised as \$600,000 per year is required to operate this program. A third endowed faculty position is a part of this program. Other topics that were discussed included the effects of the budget cut and raises.

B. Meeting with Dr. Case

Dr. Case met twice this summer with department chairs to discuss the reduction in the number of graduate student assistantships and the sharing of secretaries. Lately he has been swamped: SACSCOC reports were due and having to serve as the interim Vice President for RGC.

C. Impacts of Budget Cut

Joseph Velasco wants to send faculty's comments and thoughts to the administration. The amount of paperwork needed to justify hiring faculty is burdensome, especially in light of the decrease in staffing. Also, too much paperwork is needed to spend funds on travel and purchasing. More realistic and efficient processes are needed. There

are problems in the approval process for research grants. Due to concerns about the budget, too many signatures are needed and too many unqualified individuals are reviewing grant proposals. Lastly, the budget is impacting programs that are trying to build themselves up. There is often not enough faculty in these programs; forcing existing faculty to teach a lot of overloads. This affects the quality of these programs and does not allow faculty the time to further develop these programs. Please send additional thoughts and comments to Joseph Velasco.

VI. Vice President's Report (Kathy Stein)

A. Vote on 2017-18 Committees and Councils slate

Kathy Stein passed out the slate and asked those present to review it. Bonnie Warnock moved to approve the slate and Avram Dumitrescu seconded. The slate was approved unanimously.

B. Financial Assistance Appeals Committee

Committee members have mentioned to Kathy Stein that their decisions on student appeals, which are supposed to be final, are being changed by the Vice President for Enrollment Management. Thus, why bother having a committee. Joseph Velasco talked with Dr. Kibler about this. Dr. Kibler suggested that the committee needs to request the data on appeals decisions and the percentage of appeals decisions being overturned. He sees a problem if a large percentage of appeals decisions are being overturned. Joseph Velasco will follow up on this.

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

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report (Bonnie Warnock)

IX. Old Business

A. Update on Plaque for University Ranch resolution

Two plaques have been made: one for the President's Office and one for ANRS. Rob Kinucan will decide how they are to be presented.

X. New Business

A. Department Chairs Council

Over the summer, department chairs discussed starting a Department Chairs Council through Faculty Assembly. This was in response to department chairs being blindsided by budgetary decisions made without their input that affected departments. In particular, the reduction in the number of graduate student assistantships and the sharing of secretaries. The department chairs want a council that will meet regularly and present a united academic front to the administration. The Faculty Assembly Executive Council reviewed the proposal to form a Department Chairs Council and recommended that it be brought before the

Faculty Assembly for approval. This recommendation constitutes a motion by the Faculty Assembly Executive Council to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Carol Fairlie and approved unanimously.

B. Deans on President's Executive Committee

The Department Chairs Council, as a result of their meeting during the summer, drafted a resolution calling for Deans to be voting members on the President's Executive Committee. This would alleviate Dr. Case from being the sole voice for academics on the President's Executive Committee. The resolution was distributed for review and comment. Presenting the resolution signifies a motion by the Department Chairs Council to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ryan O'Shaughnessy and approved unanimously.

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Council Reports

XIII. Announcements

A. Outstanding Teaching Award presentation (Bonnie Warnock)

The presentation of the 2017 Outstanding Teaching Award will be on Wednesday, September 27 at 3 pm.

B. Building the Wall (Esther Rumsey)

A reading of the play "Building the Wall" will be in two weeks. There will be a moderated discussion after the play. Please encourage students to attend.

C. Closing Reception for Michael Ortiz (Carol Fairlie)

The closing reception for "WRAPAROUND" an art exhibition by Michael Ortiz, a RGC faculty member in mathematics, is at 6 pm tomorrow night.

D. Sul Ross Ultimate (Joseph Velasco)

Sul Ross Ultimate will be playing in a tournament at Texas Tech on September 22.

XIV. Adjourn

Bonnie Warnock moved to adjourn and Kathy Stein seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.