

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm

I. Call to order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm.

Present: Eric Funasaki, Bibiana Gutierrez, Kris Jorgenson, David Leaver, Nora Ohnishi, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Mark Rubin, Kathy Stein, Joseph Velasco, Scott Wassermann, Mazie Will, Paul Will, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in quorum: Rafael Azuaje, Steve Bennack, Jay Downing, Avram Dumitrescu, Christopher Estepp, Carol Fairlie, Karrin Ford, Donald Freed, Ilda Gonzalez, Sharon Hileman, David Howard, Valerie Howard, Robert Hunter, Ryan Luna, Jeffery Meyer, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Saka, Dominique Sanchez, Rebecca Schlosser, Gregory Schwab, Bret Scott, Marjorie Scott, Martin Terry, Barbara Tucker, Tiffany Vincent, Liza Ware, Bonnie Warnock, David Watson, and Paul Wright.

II. SGA report

Report was given by SGA President Derek Stratton. Homecoming week activities were a success. There will be a Campus Carry forum on November 19. SGA will be asking for RED OUT donations soon, addressing student concerns about parking and the look of the campus, and asking the Board of Regents to clarify their tobacco policy.

III. Guest Speakers

A. Pam Pipes and Mickey Corbett (Last Date of Attendance Policy)

Ms. Pipes and Mr. Corbett presented a policy for F grades that would help Sul Ross comply with Department of Education regulations for student financial aid. There would be three different F grades (all of which would count the same toward a student's GPA): F for students that completed the course, F0 for students that never attended the course, and FX for students that stopped attending the course. The FX grade is the only one that would require the last date of attendance by a student. This policy for F grades is suggested by the Department of Education and used by many other institutions in Texas. Sul Ross would like to use this policy starting with final grades for Fall 2015.

B. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACS)

Dr. Qvarnstrom stated that the Core Curriculum assessment is being completed and that 517 students responded. Also, the QRP committee had two meetings, academic reports had been returned for revisions, and non-academic reports need to be completed by December 11.

IV. Approval of Minutes (10/12/15)

Mark Rubin moved to approve the minutes from the October 12 meeting and Paul Will seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's report

A. Course Evaluations

Joseph Velasco wants to address the output of course evaluations, in particular why the pie chart of student results is not turned on. The discussion on course evaluations centered on how to get more student involvement and more reminders for faculty.

B. Campus Carry Taskforce

There is a campus meeting tomorrow on Campus Carry. Jay Downing is the faculty representative to the Campus Carry Taskforce. Joseph Velasco is concerned about how Campus Carry will impact faculty.

C. Proposal on Excessive Absences

Discussion to take place during New Business.

D. Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting

E. TSUS Faculty Senate Meeting

Joseph Velasco went to both meetings in Austin. There was a lot of talk on Campus Carry. He met with UTEP President, Dr. Diana Natalicio, who is interested in working with Sul Ross. She wants to visit Sul Ross and have Dr. Kibler visit UTEP.

F. Staff Council

Joseph Velasco was invited to and attended the most recent Staff Council Meeting. The creation of a wellness program was an item that was discussed that may benefit faculty.

VI. Vice-President's report

The spring Faculty Assembly meetings are important because work will begin on selecting new members for the Committees and Councils slate.

VII. Secretary/Treasurer's report

VIII. Parliamentarian's report

IX. Old Business

A. Student drug arrests

Joseph Velasco was unable to bring this up with Dr. Kibler as they met for only a short amount of time. It was mentioned that some of the students that were arrested were still attending classes, some had spent three weeks in jail, and some had been dropped from athletic teams.

X. New Business

A. Sustainability

A special committee was formed to come up with a charge for a standing committee on sustainability.

B. Faculty Grievance Policy

Faculty Affairs Council is no longer hearing faculty grievances. There has been no clear communication from the TSUS system about how faculty grievances will be handled. Joseph Velasco and Dr. Case are trying to figure this out so that a new policy can be sent to the faculty.

C. Dr. Kibler's Investiture tree

The tree that was planted last spring in honor of Dr. Kibler's investiture was destroyed by a fighting buck. Approving money for a new tree will be discussed at one of the spring meetings.

D. Last date of attendance policy

Joseph Velasco asked for the faculty's thoughts on having three F grades, mainly the FX grade which requires a last date of attendance. Mark Rubin was concerned about faculty liability if the last date of attendance is estimated. Kathy Stein said that an audit would not get to the faculty, but would stay at the administrative level. The discussion made it clear that the faculty is willing to work with this policy and give it a chance as long as they would not be questioned about the last dates of attendance entered for students.

XI. Committee reports

A. Sustainability

Scott Wassermann announced that the special committee had met a couple of times. They had looked at the list of master plan items and made recommendations as well as problems with building maintenance.

B. ADA Education Policy

Nora Ohnishi noted that the committee had met for the first time in a long time. They went over goals for the committee and decided to focus on education programs for faculty and students.

XII. Council reports

A. Curriculum

Kris Jorgenson reported that the council had met 7 times and had processed the over 120 forms which had been submitted through October. The committee may need to meet in spring to work on forms submitted in November.

XIII. Announcements

A. Ultimate Frisbee Team

Sul Ross will be playing Texas Tech in Lubbock on December 3.

XIV. Adjourn

Kris Jorgenson moved to adjourn and Filemon Zamora seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.