

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016
Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm

I. Call to order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:42 pm.

Present: Rafael Azuaje, James Blincoe, Rosemary Briseno, Avram Dumitrescu, Carol Fairlie, Theron Francis, Eric Funasaki, Bibiana Gutierrez, Sharon Hileman, Kris Jorgenson, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Fancine Richter, Mark Rubin, Dominique Sanchez, Kathy Stein, Joseph Velasco, Bonnie Warnock, Scott Wassermann, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: Christopher Estep, Karrin Ford, Donald Freed, William Green, Robert Hunter, Jeffery Meyer, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Saka, Gregory Schwab, Bret Scott, Marjorie Scott, Russell Scown, Gregory Tegarden, Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, Liza Ware, Mazie Will, and Paul Will.

II. SGA report

Report was given by SGA Secretary Vince Apodaca. SGA is registering students to vote and looking for donations for Red Out. SGA plans to hand out 400 shirts at one baseball game and one softball game.

III. Guest Speakers

A. April Poissant (ESL program)

Helen Crane spoke about the ESL program for April Poissant. Sul Ross is piloting an ESL program for undergraduate students. The program is needing faculty and staff to refer students. To help with the referral process, an online referral form is being developed. April Poissant is available to speak about the program at meetings or classes.

B. Mary Beth Marks and Helen Crane (retention)

Helen Crane gave a presentation on retention efforts at Sul Ross.

C. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACS)

Jeanne Qvarnstrom stated that the QEP is moving forward. There are 3 subcommittees working on QEP proposals. On March 24 there will be 20 minute presentations by the subcommittees from 12-2 pm in the Fishbowl in the Gallego Center. This semester in conjunction with RGC a theme will be selected. The Fall 2015 Core Curriculum data showed an over 70% improvement in critical thinking and a less than 70% improvement in empirical and quantitative literacy. A NSE survey of randomly selected students in Core Curriculum courses is being conducted until March 21 and faculty need to encourage students to complete the survey. An ETS student profile survey will be taking place

in April. Finally, new software is being considered for academic program reports and better collection of results.

IV. Approval of Minutes (11/18/15)

Mark Rubin moved to approve the minutes from the November 18 meeting and Ryan Luna seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's report

A. Student Evaluation of Courses

Fall 2015 student evaluations did not go as well as Spring 2015 student evaluations. Joseph Velasco, Dr. Case, and Sandy Bogus looked at protocol and procedure for student evaluations. As a result, the following changes will be made: Dr. Case's office will send out at least 3 e-mails to students and faculty; the evaluation period will now be from the first day after the final day to drop a course to the first day before final exams; summer courses will be evaluated; course name, course number, and faculty name will be on student evaluation summaries; the pie chart on student evaluation summaries will be activated; and department chairs will have online access to their faculty members' results. Jeanne Qvarnstrom asked about student evaluation of 8 week courses. Joseph Velasco said that currently the evaluation period for 8 week courses will be the same as for 16 week courses. However, Sandy Bogus is looking at ways to have an earlier separate evaluation period for 8 week courses.

B. Faculty Grievance Policy and Procedure

TSUS has decided not to create a blanket policy for all institutions. Thus, the Faculty Grievance policy in the Faculty Handbook is still in place. Joseph Velasco and Dr. Case feel that this policy needs to be updated.

C. Student Grievance Policy and Procedure

Dr. Case wants to update the Student Grievance policy. Send any thoughts or comments to Joseph Velasco or Dr. Case.

D. Faculty Meetings with Dr. Kibler

Dr. Kibler will continue to have monthly meetings with the faculty. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday February 22 at 4 pm.

E. Online Education Committee

Dr. Case is forming an Online Education Committee to fulfill a SACS requirement. The committee will be chaired by Rebecca Schlosser and responsible for creating policy for online courses.

F. Attendance Policy Revisions

The university needs to align the attendance policy in all university handbooks, including the Faculty Handbook, for consistency.

VI. Vice-President's report

Kathy Stein reminded everyone that looking for faculty to fill open positions on Committees and Councils would begin in March.

VII. Secretary/Treasurer's report

VIII. Parliamentarian's report

IX. Old Business

A. Sustainability

Scott Wassermann passed out a handout from the Sustainability Special Committee. The handout presented the charge and proposal for a standing Sustainability Council. A discussion and vote on this will take place at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

B. Dr. Kibler's Investiture tree

Joseph Velasco mentioned that the Faculty Assembly will not have to pay for a replacement tree. Instead the Sul Ross grounds budget will cover the cost of a replacement.

X. New Business

XI. Committee reports

XII. Council reports

XIII. Announcements

A. Graduate Student Center open house

Sharon Hileman announced that the Graduate Student Center located in BAB 104 would be having an open house on Wednesday February 10 from 2-5 pm.

B. Sul Ross Ultimate Frisbee team

Joseph Velasco noted that the Sul Ross Ultimate Frisbee team lost to Texas Tech in Lubbock, beat the Alpine Ultimate Frisbee team, and is looking to play other schools in the future.

XIV. Adjourn

Kris Jorgenson moved to adjourn and Scott Wassermann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.