

## **Minutes for Faculty Senate 27 March 2015**

**Present:** Ambrose, Blanton, Branson, Byrd, Commissiong, De'Armond, DeOtte, Dursun-Kilic, Fiaud, Hartin, Hindman, Klaehn, Lee, Ottoson, Shao, Stuntz, and Takacs

**Absent:** Browning, Crandall, Diego-Medrano, Osei-Hwere, and Pendleton

**Guest:** Teri Bingham substituting for Diego-Medrano

**Call to Order:** President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the Jack B. Kelley Student Center.

**Approval of Minutes:** Fiaud made a motion seconded by Blanton to approve the minutes of 6 March 2015 as written. The motion passed unanimously by the Senators present.

Dr. O'Brien discussed the budget projects from legislation House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1. The tables with figure amounts for the budget was distributed at the last senate meeting. He also discussed the amounts that were in both the Senate Bill and House bill pertaining to both the Agriculture-science Center and Amarillo Center. The Senate Bill proposed 32.5 million dollars for the Agra-Science Center and 7.2 million dollars for the Amarillo Center. The House Bill proposed 37.5 million dollars for the Agra-Science Center and 7.5 Million dollars for the Amarillo Center. The proposed budgets are better than anticipated to meet the five-year financial plan including merit increases and market adjustments.

The faculty senate members asked several questions on various subjects with the following responses by Dr. O'Brien. With the increase of freshmen there will be an increase of nine full-time faculty members for core courses. There will be an addition of two faculty members in the engineering department. The summer budget is now a line item. Increases for summer budget need to come from the Deans through the provost's office. The increase in online courses was discussed. There was discussion about space utilization and if the online courses are counted toward that space. This was going to be researched for counting online courses into the utilization report. University of Texas has 100% space utilization and it was suggested that we should visited with them about how they are reporting. There was some discussion about where the Amarillo Center project was with the legal matters at hand. There was no information at this time. The three faculty members who applied were awarded the faculty development leaves. There was discussion about the gun legislation. It will probably pass, however, universities will have some options as to control such as storage in the residents halls.

There was discussion about the two-associate dean model that was implemented in the College of Business. It was noted that if other departments would like to utilize the same model, they need to discuss this with their Deans. Dr. O'Brien said that this model provides cost savings for the college by eliminating department heads. From the opposite

point, it was argued that this model actually creates more administrative positions than reducing them. In the College of Business, the positions of area coordinators have been created and these positions are compensated by a yearly stipend (about \$3,500) and additional summer courses. Some responsibilities of department heads have been transferred to area coordinators. It was stated that this model has some negative effects on the faculty: First, there is a lack of communication and guidance from the associate deans as immediate supervisors since they have to supervise the large faculty. Second, faculty performance evaluations are made by associate deans who are not necessarily experts in the area of the faculty. Dr. O'Brien said that communication lines should always be open.

There was a question about proctors for online testing and if the university has thought about employing a service for this purpose. The service can be expensive and it was mentioned that churches would provide this service. Dr. O'Brien was asked about receiving and reading the letters that were written and included in the evaluations of administrators. He replied that he had received and read said letters. Another issue discussed was not having the student emails on buff advisor. Dr. O'Brien is to discuss this issue with James Webb. Dr. O'Brien left for an interview about the Amarillo Center.

**Old Business:** Jim Rogers has said he would apply for Regents Professor Award. Ambrose stated he would like some more nominees if possible. The senators were to query the faculty to see if there was someone interested in applying for this award.

The evaluation of administrators is posted online. You can locate the information under WT Access, resources, and academic affairs.

**New Business:** DeOtte distributed a proposed change to the faculty handbook pertaining to faculty teaching loads. The handbook states that faculty members may accumulate excess teaching load during long semesters. The accumulated excess load is not limited by academic or fiscal year, but no more than 3 ACH of accumulated load may be used to apply for reassigned time in any given semester. When a faculty member's load reaches an excess of 3 ACH and resources permit, consideration by the direct supervisor for reassigned time may be given. The excess of ACH load must be used within 24 months of reaching the 3 ACH or the total accumulated excess load will decrease by 3 ACH. Excess accumulated load continues to accrue but will be decreased by 3 ACH after the 24-month period, whether or not the 3 ACH excess load was used for reassigned time. The change includes the adding the following statement after consideration by the direct supervisor for reassigned time may be given; in lieu this may be expressed as a consideration for merit during the Annual Review of Faculty Performance (ARFP). Discussion ensued about the proposed addition. DeOtte made a motion to accept the change to the faculty handbook. Seconded by Commissiong. There were 16 senators who voted for the change, 1 abstention.

Ambrose said Faculty Senate needs to nominate candidates for the Magister Optimus Award. He would like at least three candidates. Senators should think of department members to recommend.

DeOtte requested that there should be some designated non-smoking areas around campus where people can sit now that the weather is nice. It was suggested that this needed to be referred to the Campus Beautification Committee. Discussion ensued. A motion was made that there be designated non-smoking areas around campus where there are benches and tables and was seconded by Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Ambrose stated that senators need to start thinking about reassignment of members for committees with terms ending soon. He will provide a list of the opening for the senators at the next meeting. Also there will be some faculty senators whose terms are ending as well and this will need to be taken to the college meeting for replacement senators. Current faculty senators will go to the next college meetings to administer the elections. DeOtte advised the Faculty Senate that the Dean's Council had approved the proposed change in the faculty handbook for post-tenure review.

April 24<sup>th</sup> is the last regular faculty senate meeting. The Faculty Senate will meet on Dead Day to elect officers. The meeting of Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marietta Branson, Faculty Senator

*These minutes were approved at the 10 April meeting of Faculty Senate.*