

Faculty Senate Minutes for February 5, 2010
(Snow day from January 29, 2010)
JBK Room 11, 12:15 pm

1. Meeting called to order at 12:15pm by Vice-President DeOtte. Members in attendance: Bigham, Branson, Browning, Byrd, Chenoweth, Combs, Commissiong, Davis, DeOtte, Dursun-Kilic, Issa, Lee, Parker, Rosa, Trela, and Wilson. No substitutes were present. Members absent: Castillo, Crafton, Friske, Landram, Parr-Scanlin and Stuntz. New Member Dr. Duane Rosa, appointed to take the unexpired term of Dr. Duane Rosa was welcomed. Guest attending, Valeria Rangel from Student Government.
2. Following motion by Bigham and second by Byrd, minutes from January 15, 2010 were approved as amended
3. Reports from Committees
 - a. Standing Committees
 - i. Faculty Development and Student Learning – Committee was asked to review and refine the rubric from last meeting. Refinement is a more extensive work effort. Committee thinks that the intention of the rubric needs clarification. Input received from faculty ranged from indifference through complete opposition to guarded approval. Committee recommendations:
 1. A formal description of the rubric, with statement of intended use should be developed.
 2. Rubric development should be deferred to Center for Teaching Excellence for assessment of valid measures of teaching quality
 - a. Need rubric for face-to-face classroom
 - b. Second rubric for online class.
 3. The two-part rubric should then come to Faculty Senate for discussion and approval.
 4. Departments campus-wide should individualize criteria with discipline specific measures.
 - ii. Budget and Faculty Governance – no report
 - iii. Assessment, Advising, Conduct, and Curriculum - committee had planned for Amy Anderson to speak to the faculty Senate as part of our committee objectives.
 - iv. Commencement Speaker Committee – will meet today. Don't know where we are with Tom Hanks, as we have not received a formal response. Browning reported that Hanks' production company did acknowledge receipt of request.
 - b. Ad Hoc Committees
 - i. Honorary Degree Recipient Requirements and Procedures – WT's policy is to have 5 individuals on such a committee. Recommend that the College Deans, or their appointee, should serve. Further discussion at a future meeting.

4. Old Business
 - a. Evaluation of Teaching – much discussion without specific recommendations.
 - b. Advisory Council for External Funding – DeOtte – Draft resolution presented for discussion. Aim is to get some continuity, given the turnover in relevant offices on campus. Discussion ensued. Suggestions included a limited tenure on the committee, and the possibility of non-grant writers serving an internship as a learning process. Committee will return with refined proposal.
 - c. Textbook Cost Committee Recommendations – no discussion on this agenda item.

5. New Business (10 minutes)
 - a. Student Government request for resolution for faculty teaching classes normally dismissed at 12:15 pm to release students early on 17 February 2010 to join in Centennial Celebrations. Discussion: should this be at faculty members' discretion, or from the administration. Can the event timing be altered? Supporting student government is an important goal. Rosa moved and Trela seconded the following resolution:
Faculty senate applauds student governments' request to engage the senate, and encourages individual faculty to consider the student government proposal regarding the Centennial Celebration on February 17, as appropriate for their instructional needs. Senate recognizes the importance of engaging students regarding WT's history.
Approved unanimously
 - b. Texas Council of Faculty Senates - DeOtte will be attending.
 - c. Revision of rules to allow Faculty Senator to remain on Senate during application for faculty development leave.

6. Announcements (5 minutes)
 - a. Library Update: art exhibit is still up; next event is the faculty poster session.
 - b. Faculty Senate Emblems – no update
 - c. Centennial Gala and other events: venue has been changed. Hilarity ensued.
 - d. First Fridays – Today at Buffalo Courts 4:30-6:00 at faculty lounge.
 - e. Film screening for the movie *Temple Grandin* is Tuesday at 6:30p.m., free and open to the public. Students are encouraged to attend. Event is a partnership between Communication and Agriculture Department. Dress is business professional. Significant to our area because of the impact Dr. Grandin has had on feedlot operations.

7. Adjournment moved by Davis, Adjourned at 1:15pm

These minutes have been approved.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Chenoweth