Minutes of Faculty Senate
7 March 2014

Present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Atchison, Blanton, Diego-Medrano, Drumheller, Fiaud, Jacobsen, Jafar, Johnson, Loftin, Pendleton, Rausch, Takacs, and Ward

Absent: Crandall, De'Armond, Kelly, Kuennen, Landram, and Stuntz

Call to Order: President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the JBK.

Approval of Minutes: Rausch made a motion seconded by Blanton to approve as written the minutes of the 21 February 2014 meeting of Faculty Senate. All Senators present voted in favor.

Ambrose asked Senators to prepare questions for President O'Brien who will come to Faculty Senate on 21 March. Ambrose said he met with Dr. O'Brien and discussed the Instructional Responsibilities section of the Annual Activity Evaluation Form. Ambrose reported that Dr. O'Brien was not receptive to removing collegiality from the Faculty Handbook, but will put a "yes/no" collegiality statement at the end of the Annual Activity Evaluation Form. Ambrose said he will request details be provided if a faculty member receives a "no" for collegiality. Diego-Medrano suggested an impartial person besides the direct supervisor also should evaluate collegiality if a faculty member receives a "no." Jafar suggested there should be something in between only yes and no. Anwar said if someone whistle blows on another person for doing wrong, the whistleblower might automatically be perceived as non-collegial. Anwar said faculty who do not work full-time and waste resources should not be considered collegial.

Ambrose said Provost Shaffer requested Faculty Senate revise the post-tenure review process. Ambrose said he asked Gary Byrd to chair the post-tenure review committee. Ambrose hopes to have a representative from each College. Ambrose, Anwar, and Atchison volunteered. Stuntz was volunteered. Also someone is needed from NHS. Rausch said faculty members at other universities who pass post-tenure review every 6 years receive substantial raises.

Jafar discussed proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook.
For Section 5.4.3, Jafar suggested in case of emergency, a potential candidate should be able to notify someone and not be denied tenure because the faculty member did not apply on time. The candidate also should receive a receipt for submission of his portfolio.
For Section 5.5.1, it is not clear who elects the at-large member from the College.
For Section 5.5.2, it does not say if input from other faculty is put into the direct supervisor's letter about a candidate. Rausch suggested the evaluation forms from tenured faculty be given to the direct supervisor, put into the candidate's portfolio, and made available to the departmental promotion and tenure committee.
For Section 5.5.6, collegiality now will evaluated as "yes" or "no" only.

Section 5.5.7.1 should say the committee chair should ensure the other committee members agree with what the chair writes about a candidate. It was decided the forms should be kept for at least several months after a person receives tenure and/or promotion, and then might be sealed and filed in the Dean's Office, or shredded.

Section 5.5.11 already is mentioned in Section 5.5.1.

The language in Section 5.6.9 is different from Section 5.5.8 and should be the same – "shall use the results of the vote…"

Ambrose said he talked to President O'Brien about Section 7.2.1 and agreed a faculty member should have 5 instead of only 3 days in which to submit a letter of appeal for promotion and tenure. President O'Brien agreed that faculty could write a letter at each level of review and the letter(s) should be put into the portfolio and sent on to the next level. The new Section 7.2.3 needs to be clarified or deleted. Where does the letter of appeal go?

James Webb provided an update on WT academic and administrative computing. He said Angel was obtained by Blackboard and will be supported until July 2015. WT plans to use Blackboard in Fall 2015. Pilots and training will be this fall and in spring 2015. Angel will remain as an archive system but content will be moved over to Blackboard. Angel will be available for faculty, but not students.

WT has a campus agreement with Microsoft for all faculty/staff and students. Students pay $15 for shipping/handling but are not charged for Windows or Office. WT students and faculty/staff can take 1,500 courses online. Students could become Microsoft Office specialists if they take a course and are certified.

Administrative computing uses DataTel Colleague for purchasing, etc. The Texas A&M University System is consolidating purchasing, etc. WT can stay on DataTel Colleague for 5 years but eventually needs to move to the new system. It will cost $8-10 million to change over to the new system.

IT worked with the WT Registrar to complete smart classroom updates. Webb said 20 rooms have lecture-capture capabilities. Computers, screens, etc. are being upgraded in older smart classrooms – $300,000 of the technology fees goes for the initiative. Jafar said Mac connectors are needed. Anwar asked if WT is going to upgrade ITV rooms. Webb said there is money in the budget to upgrade ITV rooms.

The Texas A&M University System assessed e-mail at all A&M agencies. Students were moved to the Cloud. There is interest in moving faculty and staff to the Cloud. Every campus is required to have one e-mail system for faculty/staff. Atchison said Google/etc. might data mine in a person's domain and market to the person. He said spam needs to be filtered out. Webb said WT received 24 million spam messages last year. Jafar asked if there is a confidentiality agreement. Rausch asked what will happen to the security of e-mail. Webb said he believes filtering capabilities will be used to prevent Social Security Numbers from being sent. WT will watch and see what happens at Texas A&M University. Anwar complimented the WT IT staff.

The meeting of Faculty Senate was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie B Pendleton

Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as written were approved at the 21 March meeting of Faculty Senate.