

**Preliminary Minutes of Faculty Senate
March 11, 2016**

Present: Stuntz, Branson, Fiaud, Ambrose, Alex, Blodgett, Commissiong, Craig, DeButte, DeOtte, Hartin, Hindman, King, Klaehn, Lee, Meredith, Nam, Osei-Hwere, Ottoson.

Absent: Baker, Crandall, Dursun-Kilic, Lust, Shao, Wilson.

Guest:

Meeting called to order at 12:15pm in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the Jack B. Kelley Student Center.

1. Minutes from February 11 meeting
 - a. Approved unanimously

2. Old business
 - a. Progress on Proposal about regalia at graduation
No progress. The subcommittee has not met yet.

 - b. Motion that only signed comments be addressed by Senate
Statements read to the senate should be more professionally worded. 2nd by DeOtte.
Should there be a particular way to address the senate anonymously?
Proposal by senators that the proposal be resubmitted with the mention of the concerns to be professionally worded. Is anonymity necessary?
Vote on motion "only comments with recognized authors"
Motion defeated
Move that "the proposal be resubmitted in following the recommendation of the president that only professionally addressed and worded comments to faculty senate may be submitted."
Discussion: What is professional? Definition: is in the eye of the beholder.
Name-calling is not professional. - Motion passed.

 - c. People serving too much on Senate
Some departments may think that there is too much diversity to reduce representation to 2 per college or equivalent. One of the issues is the difficulty to find faculty to serve on faculty senate. The senate should not be concerned about the willingness but rather the representation. The current is a minimum of 4 senators per College. Some senators in other institutions have served a significant amount of years.
Discussion on changes to accommodate the new School of Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics
Motion: we sever the 2 items for discussion (representation & length of terms). - motion passed
Motion to accept the changes as proposed for discussion on the senate representation.

Difficulty finding a person to represent on the senate.
Move the discussion ceased.
motion rejected
Motion to adopt the recommendation before refining them for limits of
term.
motion rejected

d. Other? None

3. New Business

- a. Report from Texas Council of Faculty Senates
Send a representative twice a year (October and February). No big issues discussed but some senates have long serving senators. Some senates are very powerful. WTAMU has encouraged rotation in the senate. Some senates have more institutional memory. Schools our size typically have a senate because it is asked to, not necessarily for shared governance. Are there powerful senates in the school our size? Bicameral senate at Texas A&M and University of Texas.
With the change in leadership coming up, there might be some opportunities for the faculty senate to engage more.
- b. Regent's Professor Applications
Due soon.
- c. Moving toward a faculty vote on constitutional changes
Volunteers for the town hall meetings to answer questions from the faculty about the changes. 2/3 of votes will be required.
Motion: Proposal for the ballot to have 2 sections (change related to School of engineering & other changes separately) 2nd
Vote: Motion passed.
- d. Other? None

4. Announcements

The meeting of Faculty Senate was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa A. Fiaud, Secretary

