

WTAMU Faculty Senate minutes

David Craig

2020 September 25

Senator Tyrer moved to accept the minutes, seconded by King. Minutes were approved.

President's remarks

President Babb reported that Dr. Wendler wants to discuss advisory governance.

Proposal of at-large caucus

President Babb asked senators to consider using at-large representatives to caucus with student government and staff council, based on previous successful cooperation with student government, staff council, etc. Senator Clark noted it would be good to have a proposal in writing, and senator Kinsky asked if it would be related to campus climate or COVID issues? Babb replied no, not that specific. Babb will pursue the idea.

Communication and Perceptions Committee

Medlock reported that the committee met and composed a group mainly from staff council to discuss the need for various possibilities for dress requirements re the recent dress code memo.

President Babb noted that the resolution on communications and perception from last summer had been distributed via campus email. Based on a discussion with administration, the best way to have distribution in the future is that communication of resolutions to the community should come from the Senate president. Babb has asked the Handbook Committee to incorporate this language in the handbook.

Open floor about COVID-19 issues

Senators noted a number of issues and queries:

- Freshman and transfer students having problems with campus culture due to isolation: finding things online, wclass, finding resources on campus.
- The COVID testing cycle and its timing/speed seems slow.
- Many students report illnesses to professors via email, etc. has to be forwarded on.
- Concern on timely notification, not knowing what other departments/ areas of campus student has been in.
- One incident noted of a student becoming belligerent when asked to mask in hall. Mask policy has no teeth.

- Faculty feel uncomfortable about policing, no monitoring of compliance
- This is a student code issue: students can be asked for their ID card, they can be asked to leave.
- Spacing of people at first football game was not good.
- Question of how to approach outdoor spaces. Current policy is ok to unmask if students can maintain six-foot distancing outdoors.
- Need for a reporting structure similar to plagiarism reports: to EVPAA or VPSA, information going to deans, department heads, etc.

President Babb noted that it is our role as senators and faculty to speak up about these things. Obviously a concern to take to administration. Call for volunteers to form a committee to look into this (including senate president)

Volunteers: Medlock, Rausch, Holland, Garcia, Crosman, and Brown.

Breakout to committees

Following the plan noted in the agenda, the senators then broke out into the new senate committees and the meeting was adjourned.