

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 20, 2023

Attended: Humpherys, Sean; Issa, Roy; Leitch, Ken; Manfredi, Guiligiemo; McMauley, Kelly; Meljac, Eric; Pinkham, Ashley; Price, Blake; Ramos Salazar, Leslie; Reardon, Matt; Smith, Bob; Ambrose, Bill; Bang, Brandon; Brooks, Mary Liz; Brown, Trisha; Correa, Priscella; Crosman, Erik; Denton, Kenneth; Ghosh, Nabarun; Hisek, Callie; Hoffmann, Eric; Spencer, Brian; Tarpley, Troy; Unnikrishnan, Vinan; Whaley, Brigitte; Yarbrough, Jason

Absent:

Guest(s): Stan Pena and Randy Rikel

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by President Ashley Pinkham.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Handbook Committee

No new updates. Ashley suggests that the Handbook Committee take a look at the procedure as to how Senate members are elected, and make sure that there is no contradictory language in the handbook.

Joint Student/Faculty Committee on Academic Affairs

No new updates.

Ad Hoc Travel Committee

No new updates.

Ashley Pinkham mentions that there are no prohibitions against adopting textbooks for the upcoming Fall semester in spite of the recent discussions on campus about offering more textbook-free options in the classroom. Eric says he worries about faculty possibly being evaluated based on the extent to which they use OER materials. Pinkham responds that her understanding is that it isn't the case that individual instructors are evaluated on this basis, but rather it is an issue as to how well an entire college or department is doing on this front.

NEW BUSINESS

Election for new Vice-President

Reed Welch is now a department head and has stepped down as the Vice President. Sean proposes that we hold a vote today for Vice President of Faculty Senate for the remainder of the semester. A clear majority was in favor of this proposal. Dr. Yarbrough was nominated, and he accepted. Dr. Salazar was nominated, and she accepted. A vote was held between these two candidates. 16 for Dr. Yarbrough, 7 for Dr. Salazar. Jason Yarbrough has officially been elected Vice President for the remainder of the semester.

Post-Tenure Review

The faculty handbook gives the Senate guidelines for who is eligible to serve on post-tenure review committees. We proceeded to draw names for who will serve on these committees. The names that were pulled for COESS were as follows: Gary Byrd (COESS), Maxine DeButte (COESS), Michelle Bartlett (NHS), Dave Rausch (COESS), Turkan Dursan-Killic (COB). The names pulled for ANS were as follows: David Lust (ANS), Shiquan Tao (ANS), John Pipkin (ANS), Angela Phillips (NHS), and Liang Chen (COB)

Stan Pena and Randy Rikel discuss concerning Amarillo Center

Stan and Randy discussed some recent issues surrounding the Amarillo Center. On November 15, the Amarillo center experienced freezing, and there was eventual damage to the heating system. They mentioned that they have consulted with members from the A&M system as to how they can not only fix the issue, but prevent it from happening in the future. It was mentioned that architects are currently in the process of devising a scheme so that any break of a water line will not result in the building incurring significant water damage, as well as addressing the freezing issue. It was mentioned that the current vendor is being held responsible for these problems. Brian Spencer brings up the question as to when the architects will come up with a plan, and if there is a projected timeline. Stan answered that the process is currently underway, and said that there is a 90 day timeline for a proposal, in hopes that by the summer things will be back to normal. Brian Spencer asks whether there will be additional staff training as to how to shut water off in case of a leak. Stan responded that this is the very reason why the vendor is being held to account on this issue, who are responsible for providing the staff which are trained to deal with these issues. Sean asks what they perceive as the next future risk. Stan and Randy responded that there is some cold weather coming which they are preparing for. Ken Leitch asks about the Computer Science building and the temperature swings, and ask whether if there is a way of fixing that. Stan says that should be fairly easy to fix if the issue is officially reported. It is mentioned that in case of problems, faculty and students should dial 2033 in order to put in a work order for repairs. Work orders can also be submitted via the WTAMU website. Ashley Pinkham brings up reports that somebody is living in the Amarillo Center, but neither Stan or Randy could confirm. Eric asks whether the bus station is a security concern for the Amarillo Center, but neither Rando nor Stan could address this. Priscella emphasizes that there is a lack of communication between faculty and building staff, and asks whether there is any way to access the buildings on the weekends. Stan says that access has been restricted on weekends for security reasons, and says that weekend access will likely not be granted in the near future. Eric mentions that he doesn't notice a lot of posted escape routes in campus buildings. Stan says that they have established routes and will get in touch with the relevant individuals to make sure they are properly posted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ashley Pinkham mentions that we will discuss recent news concerning artificial intelligence abilities to write student papers, and what we may be able to do to prevent cheating in light of this.

- *Motion to adjourn: Eric*
- *Second: Yarborough*
- *Meeting adjourned at : 1:30pm*

Respectfully,

Eric Hoffmann