

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 25, 2022

Attended: Ambrose, Babb, Bell, Brooks, Brown, Butler, Clark, Correa, Crosman, Denton, Fairweather-Leitch, Farren, Gill, Hoffman, Holland, Humphreys, Manfredi, Medlock, McCauley, Pinkham, Salazar, Spencer, Tarpley, Tyrer, Whaley, Yarbrough

Absent: Issa

Guest(s): Zyna Abujuma, James Castle, Page Holbrooks

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm by President Anne Medlock.

Minutes of the February 11, 2022 were approved as corrected:

- Motion to Approve: Humphreys
- Second: McCauley
- Motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Joint Student/Faculty Committee on Academic Affairs

Clark thanked student senators for attending and for their engagement on behalf of the university.

Handbook Committee

Brooks shared the changes suggested for the handbook. In addition, it was suggested that an additional member outside of the University (in the same field as the tenure candidate) be included on the candidate's committee to evaluate the candidate's research. Several Senators have previously served as outside evaluators, but not members of an external tenure committee. The decision to use outside evaluators is currently decided by the department. Letters of support from outside members are allowed in some departments, and it is the department's decision whether or not to accept letters of support or reference from external persons as part of the tenure folder. Since not all departments allow external letters, it was suggested that the issue might be better decided at the university level and written into the faculty handbook. Since Dr. Terry has requested the tenure process be reviewed and streamlined across the university, this might be the time to include a change to allow external support, chiefly for tenure-track candidates in fields in which there are few specialists. (Brooks, Crossman, Holland, Humphreys, Medlock, Pinkham, Tyrer)

- Motion: To normalize the requirement for external (outside the university) evaluations (letter of support/recommendation) to be included in the T&P process if desired by the candidate: Humphreys

- Second: Crosman
- Motion: Carried

Faculty Senators are asked to survey their departments and be prepared to vote to include the actions of the motion at the next Senate meeting on March 11th. If absent, Senators are asked to send a proxy.

APS review process

Comments gathered on the APS process show a wide variety of processes across colleges. Most senior faculty feel the process is adequate while many junior faculty would like more input prior to their tenure application. Senate confirms the current faculty handbook process and encourages faculty to follow the section of the handbook as excerpted below:

5.1.2 In each academic department the direct supervisor shall in a timely manner make available to tenured faculty the opportunity to evaluate the performance of each tenure-track faculty member. The direct supervisor shall provide access to the faculty member's submitted annual review of faculty with supplements. The tenured faculty members shall provide the direct supervisor with their evaluations by a deadline that shall be determined by the direct supervisor

In completing revisions, the Handbook Committee is asked to add a sentence that directs supervisors to provide comments from senior faculty to junior faculty in tenure-track lines.

Interfolio updates from Dr. Anderson

Medlock met with Anderson concerning Interfolio. At present, faculty cannot upload their own CVs. Interfolio is programmed to display the current year only which makes it more convenient for supervisors to complete evaluations. Anderson is available to answer questions or to help with the process. Medlock will follow-up to find out if by next year, the process can be adjusted so Senior faculty can upload responses to junior faculty through Interfolio.

Magister Optimus

Medlock reminded the Senate that nomination letters are due to the Senate by March 30th. A folder is available on Blackboard for nomination letters. The vote will occur on April 8, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Regents Professor

Nominations for Regents Professors are also being accepted. Dr. Terry has requested faculty to provide departments with the information concerning Regents. The Senate will consider and rank nominations on March 25, 2022. <https://www.tamus.edu/academic/regents-awards/>

Championing Student Retention (Clark, Medlock, Pinkham, Tyrer,

Senators were asked to survey their departments for the type of assistance available to students to enhance their experiences by creating nonacademic, non-administrative savings by providing needed support in terms of material goods (clothing, food, books, supplies) and support services for students with identified needs. Notifications of department services should be sent to Medlock via email by March 11th. Reports should include the type of assistance, the location, and contact information. Departments who desire to establish a service should include what would be needed to begin the process.

Senate executive members will meet with the executive members of Staff Council to form a joint project in support of student needs on March 9th and report process to Senate.

Parking Old Main/PPHM Lot

A concern was raised concerning the lack of faculty parking spots in the Old Main and PPHM lot. Medlock has in the past contacted parking services who assures faculty that lots are reassessed based on percentages of use. No spots were removed this area in the last assessment, but none were added. Parking is a low priority at this time, but it was noted that lack of sufficient parking close to buildings is a problem for staff and students as well. Staff are allotted no specific spaces and share open spaces with students. (Medlock, Whaley, Tyrer)

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to Adjourn: Farren
- Second: Clark
- Motion: Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Pat Tyrer