

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 11, 2022

Attended: Ambrose, Bell, Brooks, Brown, Butler, Correa, Crosman, Denton, Farren, Gill, Humphreys, Issa, Manfredi, Medlock, McCauley, Pinkham, Salazar, Spencer, Tarpley, Tyrer, Whaley, Yarbrough

Absent: Babb, Clark, Fairweather-Leitch, Hoffman, Holland

Guest(s): Wade Shaffer

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

Minutes of the February 25, 2022, meeting were approved as amended.

- Motion to approve: Farren
- Second: Humpherys
- Motion passed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Joint Student/Faculty Committee on Academic Affairs

Anne reported student body president stepped down this week.

Handbook Committee

The work of the handbook committee is ongoing. Additional recommendations have been proposed. In order to secure a majority of tenured members of the Faculty Senate, a discussion ensued concerning the verbiage to encourage the appointment of tenured faculty. (Bell, Brooks, Crossman, Denton, Humpherys, Medlock, Pinkham, Salazar, Spencer)

- Motion: to include the revision as indicated below: Humpherys
- Second: Brooks
- Motion carried

Section 1. Membership. Faculty Senate shall consist of a representative of each academic department, elected by members of their respective colleges, and of one professional librarian. **Senate is to have a mathematical majority from each college's members be tenured faculty if available. The remainder of the membership may be filled by instructors, tenured, or tenure-track faculty.** Each college or stand-alone school shall be entitled to a minimum of four representatives.

Interfolio updates from Dr. Anderson

Medlock continues to communicate with Dr. Anderson about possible changes to Interfolio and will report any future updates.

Championing Student Retention

The first meeting of the Staff Council/Faculty Senate Combined Executive Committee was held on March 9, 2022. The committee considered projects to enhance students' 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. Considerations included creating a website of available items and services, an email notification system, and a location for housing physical support items such as clothing. Senators were thanked for submitting ideas and further encouraged to submit possible resources not yet established. (Crosman, Medlock, Spencer, Tyrer)

Regents Professor

Senators were reminded to submit applications for Regents Professor. The Senate will rank the applications on March 25, 2022. Guidelines are available at:

<https://www.tamus.edu/academic/regents-awards/>

Magister Optimus

Senators were reminded to submit letters of recommendation for Magister Optimus. Letters are due by March 30th. The Senate will vote on April 8, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

Registrar schedules and Advising

Pinkham discussed the issues with the late schedule post. Students were initially able to register for summer on March 1, but the fall schedule did not meet the deadline mutually established by the Provost's office and the Registrar. With a short window, students were concerned that classes would fill before they were able to be advised and greenlighted. The shortened window leaves far less time for advising. Better communication between the Provost's office and the Registrar would bring some transparency to the process making sure everyone is aware of schedule due dates, registration, dates, etc. Additionally having specific classes listed early makes advising easier for students and advisors. If the schedule is being held up for a single department or college, then it should not hold up the posting of the rest of the schedule.

Faculty Grievance Procedure

Wade Shaffer presented the revised grievance procedure from the University Handbook committee asking for the Senate's endorsement. A discussion arose about the timely handling of grievances referred by the university's ombudsman. To clarify the expectations, Pinkham has agreed to work with Shaffer to include a clarification.

- Motion to approve Faculty Senate endorsement with added clarification: Farren

- Second Denton
- Motion approved

External Reviewers for Tenure & Promotion

An informal survey of faculty resulted in a split between approval and opposed with a slight more opposed. Concerns were raised about how the outside reviewer would be chosen and whether or not this should be required or just recommended. It was noted that some colleges/departments do not allow outside recommendations to be added, even to the supplemental folders. It was pointed out that Dr. Terry had asked the Senate to consider the tenure process across the university with an end toward streamlining the process for all university faculty regardless of college. The handbook committee is currently looking at changes to the process. The added suggestion would be to add an optional review for all university faculty. Before going any further with the option of using an outside review, Medlock will check with Dr. Terry to see if this will be enforced for all colleges should the change be made to the Faculty Handbook. (Bell, Brooks, Denton, Farren, Gill, Manfredi, Medlock, Pinkham, Tyrer)

- Motion to continue the discussion on Holland's return since he initially proposed the discussion: Farren
- Second: Bell
- Motion carried.

Distribute Committee membership list

Medlock requested Senators share the committee needs draft with faculty and send any nominations to her prior to April 8. The Senate will vote to fill vacancies at the April 22, 2022 meeting.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Limited-Term University Committee for T&P and APS Alignment

- Motion: Senate to support the creation of a limited-term committee to review the APS process to bring it more into alignment with the tenure and promotion process and to allow sharing of information concerning both processes across the colleges: Medlock
- Second: McCauley
- Motion: carried

With no further business:

- Motion to Adjourn: McCauley
- Second: Denton
- Motion: carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Pat Tyrer