

WTAMU Faculty Senate Minutes August 25, 2023

Attended: Senators Fisseha Alemayehu, Bill Ambrose, Christopher Baird, Brandon Bang, Priscella Correa, David Craig, Kenneth Denton, Nancy Garcia, Callie Hisek, Eric Hoffmann, Sean Humpherys, Roy Issa, Kenneth Leitch, Guglielmo Manfredi, Kelly McCauley, Eric Meljac, Ashley Pinkham, Blake Price, Leslie Ramos Salazar, Matt Reardon, Laura Reyher, Jim Rogers, Bob Smith, Brian Spencer, Troy Tarpley, Brigitte Whaley

Absent: None

Proxies: None

Guests: None

The regular meeting of the WTAMU Faculty Senate was called to order at 12:16pm by President David Craig in the JBK Eternal Flame Room on the Canyon campus.

Minutes of the regular meeting from April 28, 2023 were not available for review during this meeting. Sean Humpherys moved to defer approval of previous minutes to the next regular meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

Officers' Reports and Remarks:

President David Craig opened with comments and discussion of orders of business, including following Robert's Rules of Order, 12th Edition and available resources. David Craig mentioned information on upcoming and new business, including election of a new President-elect for the Senate. Walter Wendler's email

from August 24th regarding textbooks was acknowledged, and options were provided for potential responses.

Secretary Kenneth Denton reiterated a desire to follow Robert's Rules and how this would be communicated.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Handbook Committee

There was no new report from the committee, and discussion was held on reconstitution of the committee for the 2023-2024 year.

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

Previous members were called to discuss previous meetings and work with the student government on meal and meal plans. Discussion was held on reconstitution of the committee for the 2023-2024 year.

Ad-Hoc Travel Committee

Chair Kenneth Denton summarized the actions taken by the committee during the previous year, including the findings submitted in a report to the Office of Academic Affairs. Sean Humpherys moved to commend the committee, request senators discuss the findings within the colleges, and dissolve the travel committee. No further discussion was found. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Senate and Committee Selections

Since the previous Senate President was assigned an administrative position over the summer, President David Craig

reported the need for President-elect nominations. Discussion was held on eligibility, responsibilities, and commitment. Bill Ambrose self-nominated. Discussion was held on years of eligibility and terms. Brandon Bang nominated Callie Hisek. Brigitte Whaley nominated Kenneth Leitch. Callie Hisek and Kenneth Leitch accepted the nominations. Bill Ambrose withdrew his self-nomination, and Eric Meljac moved to close nominations and call a vote. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation. A written ballot was taken and counted by Kenneth Denton and Eric Meljac, and Kenneth Leitch was elected as President-elect.

David Craig reported the need for discussion of the Faculty Ombuds officer election, term, and cycle, as proposed by the current officer, Human Resources, and executive committee via email. The current election/selection is January 1, 2024.

Summer dates may be better for transition of the office and payment. Blake Price moved to extend the current term and move the selection of the officer to the summer. The motion was seconded. Kenneth Denton asked for point of information on the exact date of the new term, which was stated as September 1, 2024 and annually. Ashley Pinkham requested a point of information on the dates for application and review for the selection. After discussion, Ashley Pinkham moved to substitute a motion to change the date of selection to April. The new motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

David Craig announced an opening on the University Faculty Handbook committee. Eric Meljac nominated Ashley Pinkham. Ashley Pinkham accepted, and there were no other nominations. Ashley Pinkham was selected by acclamation.

David Craig announced an opening on the JBK Facility university committee. Ken Leitch nominated Sanjoy

Bhattacharia. There were no other nominations, and Sanjoy Bhattacharia will be selected by acclamation unless he declines the nomination.

Kenneth Denton moved to reconstitute the Senate Faculty Handbook Committee, which was seconded. Discussion was held on eligibility and terms. Previous members Kelly McCauley and Bob Smith nominated themselves. Eric Meljac, Ashley Pinkham, Blake Price, and Fisseha Alemayehu nominated themselves to represent each college. David Craig appointed Jim Rogers and all self-nominations.

Kenneth Denton moved to reconstitute the Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs, which was seconded.

Previous members Priscella Correa, Sean Humpherys, and Kenneth Denton nominated themselves. Eric Meljac asked to be excused from the committee for the 2023-2024 year. Chris Baird and Nancy Garcia nominated themselves to represent each college. Roy Issa nominated Kenneth Leitch. David Craig appointed Kenneth Leitch, Bob Smith, and all self-nominations.

Message on Textbooks

Eric Meljac moved to discuss the message from Dr. Walter Wendler regarding textbook costs, which was seconded. David Craig moved to amend the motion to recess for no more than 20 minutes to discuss the message, which was seconded. After the recess, David Craig announced the need for another motion.

Eric Meljac moved to form a committee to compose a message to Dr. Wendler with faculty feedback and questions about the decision based on the ideas of shared governance, including reasons for the decision, consultation conducted, and financial implications regarding sources of funds for ongoing costs. The motion was seconded, and discussion was held on the speed of

the response. Ashley Pinkham moved to substitute a motion to compose a message with questions about the decision based on the ideas of shared governance, including reasons for the decision, consultation conducted, and financial implications regarding sources of funds for ongoing costs during the meeting, which was seconded, and the new motion was passed by acclamation. Discussion was held on the purpose and need for faculty feedback. Eric Meljac moved to end discussion. Bob Smith objected, and a vote was called. The motion to end discussion failed and discussion was held on the timing. Eric Meljac moved to close discussion, and a vote was called. The motion to end discussion passed, and a vote was called on the current motion. The motion was defeated.

Bob Smith moved to draft a short message to Dr. Wendler and indicate the Faculty Senate's surprise and need to follow up with faculty concerns at a later date, which was seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. Eric Meljac moved to recess to draft a message as indicated in the previous motion, which was seconded and passed by acclamation. After recess, Brigitte Whaley moved to accept the message as written, which was seconded and passed by acclamation. Ashley Pinkham moved to send the letter to the Office of Academic Affairs, all WTAMU faculty, media, and Dr. Wendler. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

Sean Humpherys moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded at 2:22pm.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Denton', written in a cursive style.

Kenneth Denton

