

## **WTAMU Faculty Senate Minutes October 6, 2023**

**Attended:** Senators Fisseha Alemayehu, 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, Bob Smith, Brian Spencer, Troy Tarpley, Brigitte Whaley

**Absent:** Bill Ambrose, Jim Rogers

**Proxies:** Dan Seth (ECSM: Mathematics - Bill Ambrose)

**Guests:** None

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

Minutes of the regular meeting from September 22, 2023 were previously provided and reviewed. Sean Humpherys moved to approve the minutes with minor revisions (i.e., attendance). The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

### **Officers' Reports and Remarks:**

President David Craig opened with comments and discussion of faculty handbook rules and the need to be in alignment with A&M System Policies and Procedures. Feedback from the system indicated that all policies must follow system policies. Further discussion involved Dr. Wendler's remarks regarding Faculty Senate questions about textbooks, including sources of funding, morale, etc. Further remarks included review of college meetings held with Dr. Wendler to this point and his desire to modify faculty evaluations of teaching.

David Craig then addressed the presentation given to the Student Government on textbooks and student questions. Dr. Wendler also presented to the Student Government on the same day/meeting. Several sets of questions have been submitted for for the meeting with Dr. Wendler, but the President's office asked to reschedule due to other meetings. David Craig suggested 11/3 with a new location.

David Craig then remarked on the Kortext meeting and administration responses. Material seemed more oriented to advanced courses instead of introductory courses.

David Craig then announced the need to draw for the comprehensive peer review committee, and he will compile a list of eligible faculty members and arrange the choice before the final fall meeting (11/17).

Finally, Blackboard will be changing soon, and Lora Haasl has asked for faculty feedback on their preferences.

Vice-President Kenneth Leitch reported on the ABET visit, indicating that initial reports are positive, with no comments on textbooks. Several meetings are being conducted with publishers

on college/department subscriptions to digital materials. This may be an option to move forward with textbooks/materials.

Secretary Kenneth Denton remarked on previous calls for response/action, including a comprehensive research complex. Questions arose on whether this would include undergraduate support in addition to graduate research, and how this will be influenced by the stipulations of the new Hill Institute.

**Committee Reports:**

*Faculty Handbook Committee*

Eric Meljac reported that, according to the university handbook, any faculty member can submit a request for a change to the faculty handbook to be taken up through their faculty senator. David Craig asked the committee to please review and determine if the change for the ombudsman is in alignment with the current handbook (e.g., timing, term, etc.).

*Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs*

Priscella Correa and other senators attended the Student Government meeting and reached out to schedule future meetings.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Textbook Mandate*

David Craig asked for additional questions or motions. None were presented. Updates will be addressed later regarding the meeting with Dr. Wendler.

*Ombudsman*

This was addressed with the Handbook Committee report and will be taken up at the next meeting.

*Administration Evaluations*

Discussion involved the need to review timing for release of the evaluations, and Jarvis Hampton reported that these typically occur in the early spring.

**New Business:**

*Hill Institute*

Kenneth Denton called for discussion on the need for information on the interaction and influence on academic affairs, faculty, and programs. How will this affect existing programs, etc.? Dr. Wendler's book on the Institute was addressed, and faculty were encouraged to read it.

Eric Meljac moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded at 1:08pm.

Respectfully,



Kenneth Denton