

WTAMU Faculty Senate October 17, 2008

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 in the JBK Room 11 by President Bob Hansen.

Members present: Bob Hansen, presiding; Bill Ambrose, Russell Anderson, Marietta Branson, Leigh Browning, Linda Chenoweth, Perry Crafton, Mo Cuevas, Karyn Friske, Roy Issa, Res Lee, Liz Matos, Michael Meyers, Keith Price, Darlene Pulliam, Mark Riney, Bruce Brasington (for Jean Stuntz), Theresa Trela, and Nagalapura Viswanath.

Members absent: Jim Calvi, John Cooley, Bonnie Pendleton.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the October 3, 2008 meeting were approved with corrections on a motion by Perry Crafton, seconded by Frank Landram.

III. Comments from President O'Brien

Dr. O'Brien discussed several items that will be brought before the state legislature, including \$15 million for renovations of the old Agriculture Building. However, Hurricane Ike damaged many state-owned buildings that the legislature must budget expenditures to have repaired.

The Governor's office has requested that travel expenditures be reviewed. The Vice Presidents are doing so for their respective areas. There will most likely be a change in the approval process for travel requests.

The Executive Committee is reviewing expenditures for the year. They will prepare for a possible budget cut. If there is no budget cut, expenditures will go forward. Classroom expenditures will NOT be touched. The Committee is also looking at what expenditures could be delayed.

There will not be across-the-board cuts. That treats low priority items the same as high priority ones. The budgeting process is being revised to allow for more transparency.

A discussion of the Chancellor's visit, post-tenure review and unfunded research followed. Our campus has many funded research projects as well as many unfunded ones, which are just as important. Each campus has different standards for what is considered research. Excellence in teaching is most important for tenure, but research is important, too. Post-tenure review is mandated by the Board of Regents. We submit an annual report to the Board. We use the Annual Professional Summary as the basis for post-tenure review.

The Fixed Term Academic Professional Track Faculty policy (12.07) is being worked on and should be in place by fall.

IV. New Business

A. Appointment to Dr. Hallmark's ad hoc committee on Academic Suspension and Probation: Frank Landram volunteered to serve on that committee.

B. Piper Awards: Wednesday, November 26 is the deadline for submissions to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. We can nominate one faculty member. The nominee must submit 5 letters of recommendation and an application form.

C. Mentoring Program: Much discussion on the best way to go about implementing a mentoring program. Dr. O'Brien wants some uniform procedures that all departments would follow. There are many different models that could be followed, but there does need to be some accountability. The department heads should be involved at some point in the process.

D. Review of System Policy Changes

12.07 Fixed Term Academic Professional Track Faculty: how should WT respond to this? It is tied to the same procedures as tenure and promotion, but for faculty focused on teaching, clinical practice, or research. There are five-year contracts for each Professional Track faculty rank. Question that came up during the discussion: How do lecturers fit into this process? Would Professional Track faculty be eligible for professional leave? (Right now, only tenured faculty may take professional leave.)

V. Old Business

A. Interim report on tenure and promotion issues. There was much informal discussion about tenure and promotion issues raised in the various department meetings.

B. Guidance to Budget and Faculty Governance Committee. Bob Hansen will take care of that via e-mail.

VI. Announcements

A. The October 31 meeting will NOT meet in JBK 11 due to the haunted house in the JBK basement. Everyone will be notified of the location of that meeting beforehand.

B. Perry Crafton was commended for the excellent production of *Rabbit Hole*, which he directed. It has received several recognitions in competition.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rausch, acting secretary