

Faculty Senate Minutes 14 October 2011

President Gary Byrd called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. in 11 JBK.

Senators in attendance: Alex, Anwar, Ambrose, Bartlett, Bigham, Byrd, Castillo, Crandall, Drumheller, Kuennen, Landram, Loftin, Parr-Scanlin, Rausch, Rosa, Vizzini, Ward, Wilson

Senators absent: Jafar, Rosa, Severn

Senator substitute: Linda Chenoweth for Johnson

If beeping of the elevator near 11 JBK occurs, Faculty Senate will move to 12 JBK. Otherwise, construction noise will be ignored, and Faculty Senate will meet in 11 JBK.

Kuennen made a motion seconded by Vizzini to approve the minutes of the 30 September 2011 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

College and departmental standards have been approved, and faculty are beginning to be informed by their college deans. Anwar recommended putting the standards online.

Comments by The Texas A&M University System attorneys to the proposal for a WT Faculty Ombuds Officer were discussed. The attorneys commented that illegal discrimination or retaliation issues should follow the formal process under System civil rights regulation. The Ombuds Officer and faculty would not have written or oral confidentiality. Gary Byrd will meet with Dr. O'Brien to discuss the comments and how to revise the proposal for a WT Faculty Ombuds Officer.

Methods and times were discussed for communication by members of the four Faculty Senate subcommittees of 1) cost-analysis of WT administration, academics, and athletics; 2) faculty evaluation, mentoring, and retention; 3) faculty teaching/release loads and issues related to Teaching/Graduate Assistants; and 4) changing WT processes so as to save money, time, and environmental resources. Suggested subcommittee meeting times were before or after or on alternate Fridays than Faculty Senate meetings. The Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 1:15 and Faculty Senators met with the other members of their subcommittees to discuss when to meet and specific committee activities in which to engage.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes were approved on 28 October 2011.