

**Minutes of Faculty Senate
September 25, 2015**

Present: Ambrose, Alex, Branson, Baker, Combs, Commissiong, Craig, Crandall, DeButte, DeOtte, Fiaud, Hindman, King, Klaehn, Lee, Lust, Meredith, Choon-Ha, Osei-Hwere, Ottoson, Shao, and Stuntz.

Absent: Wilson, Blodgett, Dursun-Kilic, Hartin.

Guests: Dr O'Brien, Tammy Stamps, Lance Hadley substituting for (Hartin)

Meeting called to order at 12:15pm in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the Jack B. Kelley Student Center.

1. Welcome

2. Guest

President O'Brien addressed the following issues:

a. Textbook

We are addressing the concerns. Dr. O'Brien met with Randy Rikel who talked to Terry Nepper. A committee will be put together to review the process currently used by the bookstore. Wade Shaffer will be in charge to determine the committee make up to review the bookstore process.

There are changes in the textbook market. Possibility to get into the rental market. Faculty need to pledge that textbook will be used for a couple of years.

Not a very good model currently. Model when President O'Brien was dean: the secretary of the college would gather the info and monitor it. Make sure that we have positive net income. Bookstore generates currently about \$500,000 a year. There is a need to review the apparel sales. Possibility of creation of a pamphlet for apparel for alumni. Auxiliary money generated by the bookstore is used all across the university. Idea expressed by some senator to use that money to subsidize books for students. Too many students don't have the book because they can't afford it. President O'Brien answered that there were scholarships for that particular purpose available on campus. If rental program, what will it do to the revenue?

b. Alcohol on campus

Legends: idea of utilizing the space as a double role: Pub at night and regular university space during the day. Possibility of generating money.

c. Merge of technology and bookstore.

Proposal

Books could be preloaded on tablet. Have to make sure that the content is accessible to special populations (visually impaired, etc....). Prices have not gone down even for electronic copies.

d. Swipe station.

Between 62% and 68% retention. Attendance identified as a variable that a student is not going to be successful in class.

Fall 2014-2015: 1st time freshmen 160-180 did not come back in the following fall. 100 of those had GPA <2.0. Prominent point was, some with 0.0 or 0.5 GPA, none were 1st alert. Technology mainly used to track. Change the Buff card with RF chip. It would prevent the students from swiping and not attending the class. Timetable: freshmen will be next fall, then the following year for the following freshmen, and so on "We have the ethical responsibility to do as much as we can do for them to be successful"
Civitas software purchased. 5 years of data worth from students at WTAMU to track trends. See if we can identify issues and then design an intervention. President O'Brien is aware that the current system is not perfect.

e. Question from the senate regarding possible subsidies for faculty/staff parking?

Question about the ratio between faculty and parking spots for faculty. Talks about parking garage where the old fine arts building was that would cost about \$6 million. Did a survey about how many people would be willing to pay \$1000/year for a parking spot; only 4 people (President O'Brien included) responded yes. Trying to move the parking on the outside on campus.

3. Minutes approved

- a. Approved as amended Commissiong 1st Bakker 2nd

4. Old business

a. Reforming senate

i. Ballots

Discussion of the results of the ballot.

ii. Ad hoc committee

Constitutional committee; Commissiong asked to chair.

In Favor: more institutional memory.

Against: not stuck

Problem with throwing out the whole system, as we have the 3rd of senate renewing.

For 7; against more

Make sure that no more than 4 years consecutive.

Choose by department or college. Slight advantage by department. Colleges are fairly diverse so college may not give good representation.

Vote was taken: Majority choosing by department.

Chosen by department: extra senators? 1 per department to prevent senate becoming too big. Decision on including type of requirements for senators (tenure track, adjunct)

Recommendations from committee "How to apportion the senators". Will need to go to faculty and will need to have 2/3 vote. Could it be an option with a provision that at least one has to serve?

Adjunct serving in senate? Definition of adjunct? Are they already represented in department? Each senator should ask adjuncts in their own department for opinions.

What criteria for a senator? Language to express preference for tenured or long-serving faculty.

Standing committees within faculty senate. Still necessary?

- b. Piper professor nominations by Oct 11
Choose 3 to be given to President O'Brien.
- c. Other
Blackboard: Looking at attendance to link. Looking at adding pics. Maybe a year?
Turning off tools for students, their only way to get to the class roster. May instead want to turn off individual tools

Elect names from Engineering: Bob De Otte voted by majority.

Thanks support for the Chili cook-off

5. New Business

- a. Prayers at games
No taking position on this.
- b. Letters from registrar about payments
Registrar requesting faculty to contact students if have not paid. Need to let the registrar know that we faculty are refusing this responsibility
- c. Emailing Alumni evaluations
Postage \$300/person. Should think about moving email evaluation.
- d. Other
None

6. Announcements

None

The meeting of Faculty Senate was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa A. Fiaud, Secretary

