

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 16, 2018

Senators Present: Babb, Clifton, Davis, Franken, Garcia, Ingrassia, Karaganis, King, Leitch, Lewis, Li, Macdonald, Meljac, Revett, Rollin, Seward, Wang, Williams, and Woodyard.

Senators Absent: Ambrose, Bartlett, Burnett, Castillo, Clewett, Curl, Kwan, and Seth.

Substitutes: David Craig for Cathy Clewett, Ashley Pinkham for Mun Yee Kwan

Call to Order: Davis called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm in the Eternal Flame Room of the JBK.

Guest Speaker: Becky Stogner, Director, WTAMU Alumni Association

Student to alumni engagement- WT 125 calls for student to alumni engagement, so this is a big push for the alumni association. This is good for both alumni and students, so any help that can be provided would be beneficial.

The alumni association is working with career services in any way they can to benefit current students and alumni.

Maroon Connect is currently about 1500 alumni.

There is a push by the alumni association to improve online student outreach. A large portion of our student body is online, so this is an important component of the future of the alumni association. Faculty are asked to possibly attend alumni events if they are able since students at alumni events always request faculty presence. This push also includes the ideas of “brand your classroom” for online students, so faculty reaching out to the alumni association for ideas and help with this would be appreciated.

The alumni networks are gaining traction, but it is always beneficial to try and improve this. The Alumni association and the College of Business are working on launching college-specific networks. This will give a part of donations to the college and part of the donations to the alumni association. If other colleges would like to participate, this would ideally be best as a faculty-led initiative and not a forced action by the alumni association.

There is also a program called “Buffs Give Back” that allows for student involvement in helping with alumni association activities. If faculty are able to help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

The faculty alumni is another initiative that is being pushed by the alumni association. The alumni wants to recognize faculty who are alumni, but need help with identification and with ideas as to how to best achieve this task.

The date for homecoming 2019 is set for October 5th, 2019. Please encourage students to be involved in this for the coming year. This is best seen as students gifts to the alumni, so their assistance is always helpful.

Be sure to connect with the alumni association on Maroon Connect. This can be done by faculty even if they are not alumni. There is a “faculty” membership option.

Questions from the senate:

Q: How many alumni are on Maroon Connect?

A: There are about 1,500 and, when contacted, there is a reasonable bounce rate. When the newsletter is sent out, it will go out to around 30,000 individuals even if they haven't engaged prior to the newsletter.

Q: If we aren't alumni, what role can we play to help the alumni association?

A: There isn't a need to be an alumni to help. Maroon Connect offers a way to be listed as faculty. Any help that can be provided by faculty and any further student engagement is always encouraged.

Current and Pending (Old) Business

Alumni Evaluations- At a standstill until David can meet with the Dean's council. The committee is currently working on a letter that will be sent to Jarvis.

Merit raise – nothing new to report. In order to determine best practices, a committee will be formed to look into other institutions. Lewis motion. Babb second. Motion passed. Committee TBN will be Lewis-Chair, Babb- Member, King- Member.

Instructor promotion- The committee is drafting a slightly different proposal. This is still being crafted to ensure all parties see value in its inclusion.

Proposed Changes to Faculty Handbook- There needs to be clearer language in the handbook. The language is ambiguous and lacks a clear path for faculty. Discussion ensued:

Faculty find convocation difficult due to timing with classes. Having convocation as a single required component is difficult for faculty with courses at the same time as convocation. A discussion should be had with regard to a reevaluation of convocation timing. A consensus was found with and will be crafted by Ingrassia to note that two (2) of the four (4) events (convocation, spring graduation, summer graduation, and fall graduation) in a calendar year must be participated in by full time faculty.

Incident Committee- The committee was curious about the entire body's thoughts with regard to this being a Cleary Act violation. It was noted that, since this was handled by UPD, this would have been handled in the appropriate manner. Meljac will call UPD to follow up and report on this issue.

Given that the issues seem conflated, the process moving forward will have two separate focuses on the violation itself and SSC. SSC still has a culture of negative behavior, so it would behoove the faculty to create a document expressing our concerns in order to aid President Wendler in future negotiations.

New Business

Student code of life- The language in the student code of life is not ideal for faculty or students with regard to absences. The problem has been getting worse. The language needs to be modified to note that students need to make faculty aware of absences upon their departure and not the actual absence since these two are often not the same time.

Motion to approve changes presented in faculty senate agenda by Meljac. Seconded by Leitch.

Karaganis brought up the discrepancy in language regarding “without penalty” versus “at instructor discretion”. Seward noted this is due to two different components of the question. Discussion was had to clean up the language in a more presentable way.

Meljac friendly amendment motion. Seconded by Karaganis. Motion passed.

Seward will modify language and take it before the code of student life committee. Upon their acceptance of the language change, it will be brought back to faculty senate for inclusion in the faculty handbook.

Comprehensive Peer Evaluation Committees- Provost Shaffer will send over a list for the next meeting and we will go through the process.

Faculty Development Leave- Davis will send email blast to faculty calling for proposals. These will need to be sent to the senate before the meeting on the 30th so the discussion and votes can be had in the meeting.

Upcoming Schedule

November 30 – James Webb, Chief Information Officer WTAMU

The Faculty Senate meeting adjourned 1:49 pm

Handsomely and parsimoniously submitted,

Robert King, Secretary Substitute

Minutes approved at November 30, 2018 Faculty Senate Meeting