

## **Faculty Senate Minutes November 15, 2019**

Senators Present: Babb, Jeffry (President); King, Robert (Vice President); Anne Medlock (Secretary); Castillo, Yvette; Clark, Elizabeth; Craig, David; Farren, Gene; Fritzler, Jason; Howell, Nathan; Leitch, Ken; Karaganis, Stephen; Lewis, Jeremy; Macaulay, Chris; Kwan, Mun Yee; Ramos-Salazar, Leslie; Rausch, Mary; Rollin, Lisa; Tyrer, Pat; Williams, Kevin;

Senators Absent: Ambrose, Bill; Clifton, Noel; Curl, Dan; Franken, Noah; Gill, Kristina; Garcia, Elizabeth; Seth, Dan; Wang, Barbara;

Substitutes: Mcfarland, Michael

Welcome/Call to Order

Visitor: Dr. Wade Shaffer (Provost)

- Dr. Schaffer started as Provost in March 2012
- Excited about full time faculty role
- Met this morning to start reviewing the WT 125 notes from Faculty Senate and others
  - Will keep reviewing until have one that works
  - Last one was overly detailed, this one might not have enough details
  - Look for refinements, next period will be shorter
- Fields of Study
  - Be around the coordinating board for a long time
  - Way to help transfer students from losing hours
  - Of the 1000 and 2000 level classes on the list they are the only ones to be offered
  - Across the state, not a lot of work implementing
  - When coordinating board approves it is expected to be implemented
  - New commissioner of Higher Education
    - Dr. Schaffer has reservations of Field of Study
  - Ideas will persist, just not sure what form
  - Faculty driven, 12 CC and 12 University faculty
- ECSM will become the College of Engineering
  - No leadership or budget changes
- Trying to wrap things up as to not leave his successor a pile
- Not spending a lot of time on new initiatives
  - Some things might sit for a little longer
- How do you see the new VPAA position
  - Tarleton navigating much more of the budget
    - She has 3 associate provosts
    - Expects to see some restructuring here
  - Shares the concern

- Deans serve at the pleasure of the VPAA and the President
  - Would be in the person's purview to make Dean changes
- Fields of Study
  - How can each department be involved
    - Make sure you know what the fields of study are and how they affect current offerings
  - What is it going to look like and how will we make those changes?
  - Currently don't code of Fields of Study complete
    - So how do we know they are staying in the guidelines
    - AC is shifting to Field of Study Complete
  - Do we need to make curriculum changes?
  - Cannot require classes that are not in the Field of Study
- Dr. Schaffer will be the one that follows the 3rd Year review and T&P this year

Dr. Babb thanked Dr. Schaffer for his service

Minutes: November 1, 2019, motion to approve Dr. King, seconded Dr. Rollin

#### Current and Pending (Old) Business

##### Committee Updates:

Joint Faculty Student Committee on Academic Affairs (standing committee)

- Will be meeting in the spring so it is a better time for the students

Faculty Handbook (The following participated in the discussion: Dr. Lewis, Dr. MaCaulay, Dr. Karaganis, Dr. Craig, Ms. Rausch)

- Discussion of election changes included the following
  - concerns of importance of quorum
  - Questioned changes to plurality of votes
  - Discussed the need for absolute majority
  - How is a quorum determined electronically
  - Do we need an exhaustive list of how voting occurs
  - Make sure can track percentage of votes
  - Thinks time limits for voting important

Approved

Changes to T&P of direct supervisor (The following participated in the discussion: Dr. King, Dr. Howell)

- Discussion included the following

- explained the importance of having specific verbiage in the Handbook
- Who decided conflict of interest, Dr. Howell

Approved

Operating Procedure of Faculty Senate (The following participated in the discussion: Ms. Rausch, Dr. Babb)

- Discussion included the following
  - Can post on faculty senate website
  - Wants in the handbook to create more stickiness

Extension of Tenure Probationary Period (The following participated in the discussion: Dr. King, Dr. Clark)

- This is coming from the need especially for pregnancy is an extenuating circumstance, but not an extraordinary circumstance
- Suggests AAUP would recommend for maternity and tenure
- FMLA leave model added to verbiage

Motion to accept these changes, Dr. Tyrer, seconded Dr. Clark, motion passes unanimously

Instructor Promotion

- Haven't met yet, will have action items next meeting

Accessibility and Library Databases

- Have been meeting by email
- There are questions and concerns about the process
- Would be helpful if the process was more transparent
- Committee would like to talk to Mr. Webb, Chief Information Officer
- Make a resolution that committee would like to see something specific next semester

Communications and Perception

- The committee has learned through research that:
  - Administration not covered by faculty handbook
  - What is the basis on which Director of Comm and Marketing gives permission to use official WT logo?
  - West Texas A&M University will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another
  - However, it does say that they cannot discriminate against any organization or individual or favor any "political doctrine" over another.
  - Recommend action, need course for future actions

- Senators have questions if we have a method for censure

Provost Search Update – See email from November 13, 2019 regarding the finalists

- Committee suggested 6 names, Wendler cut 2 did not say why
- Wendler says it's the most profound decision he will make while he's here
- Committee shared concern about VPAA

Senate Bill 18 – Review Due November 18th

- Dr. Babb received no feedback

#### New Business

Comprehensive Peer Evaluation process for 2019-2020 – Will Conduct in the Spring

- Can table to the Dec. 6th

Faculty Development Leave – 2 ½ semester allocations available

- Start suggesting options

Fields of Study (handout)

- Have suggestions to discuss at next meeting

Proposal for Fixed Term Academic Professional Track Faculty Status for Librarians

- Look at and treat seriously, will deal with next time

No other New business.

Jeremy Lewis move to adjourn.

Seconded by Mary Rausch.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Medlock, Secretary

Minutes submitted 12/6