

SENATE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2008
JBK Room 11

CALL TO ORDER: 12:15 PM

All members present or had substitutes except Viswanath (NHS)

Minutes of September 5, 2008 (1 minute) moved to approve as amended, Rex and Perry

Comments from Dr. O'Brien (15 minutes)

WT will be presenting budget items to be approved soon, in Tax Revenue Bond (TRB), probably will not be much for us because of Hurricane Ike damage - Will put presentation on web

Chancellor visiting Oct 2-5, may be delayed to afternoon of the 2nd

Convocation successful, talked about visit with Valentino Deng, WT alumni and supports found a way to get his wife a visa to visit US, and found out that his children will be US citizens, and signed him up for online classes at WT

Bob talked about getting a deeper understanding of Readership program, Resistance Creed of last year's group very powerful

O'Brien: Readership program is life-changing for students, ours is unique, this year's group will probably go to Kenya

Hallmark added due date for the contest is next Thursday, asked for publicity
Jim Calvi asked about better acoustics in FUBC, President said can be fixed, Leigh spoke to the system inadequacies and how to fix them

Comments from Dr. Hallmark (15 minutes)

Status of College Standards for T&P, ARP – did not know were not approved yet
Keith Price says his PSSW were approved, as was ED, but not PSCJ

Dr. Hallmark will get to work on finding them and get to us, deans, as appropriate
Also have issue of third year review, T&P now in place calls for third year review – wording needs to be changed to match upcoming System policy, submit portfolio in fourth year, same timeline as T&P, have committee from FS to create recommendation post-tenure review, policy written in mid-1990s, we are the only ones in System who use APR as trigger for post-tenure review, new model more of portfolio assessment every five or seven years, like tenure but smaller, this summer asked deans to focus on issues, Dean Eddie Henderson was to look at post-tenure review and his committee is working on it, new policy will be very different from old process, FS will approve recommendation; no specific trigger for need to revamp, just old and all policies need to be review, and System does not understand our system, think we do not have post-tenure review but are NOT telling us to change our policy; Jim Calvi asked about litigation possibilities, does not want to have to go through tenure process every five years; Hallmark says individuals who are not reaching our standards have to improve(or leave WT), should not be a re-evaluation of tenure; Teresa Trela asked to have specific triggers

written into policy, not just time; Hallmark says in his opinion APR should be a trigger – if someone gets a low rating, needs to be told how to improve by the next year; Calvi asked if merit raises could be trigger, Hallmark says merit raises have not been used this way in past – poor performers have gotten merit raises sometimes; Calvi responded that is a litigation issue –if someone gets merit raises and not tenure or promotion, can sue, perhaps use Standards of Excellence for post-tenure review

Graduate Council reduced from fourteen to ten last year, two per college, was a Chapman initiative, Hallmark created Graduate Advisors Council to supplement advising and communication, graduate faculty status changes started last year due to Dr. Chapman, changes now with Tim Acheson to revise to meet reality: that all faculty with terminal degrees are qualified to teach graduate faculty and those without terminal degrees can apply for graduate faculty status

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (25 minutes)

Report from Evaluation Question Committee

Bonnie Pendelton had collected questions and the committee ranked them, the top-ranked questions will be sent forward, Bonnie and committee thanked for their work

Resolution of TAMU Senate

TAMU Student Govt. bill

Status of Departments and Colleges with Standards of Excellence – seem to be done

NEW BUSINESS (20 minutes)

Student absence from class and University business – do we need clearer definition of what is official university business? Where would issue be housed? Should it be in Faculty Handbook? Policy or recommendation? How can we encourage service learning and university-sponsored activities without jeopardizing learning in other classes?

Need committee to find out – Teresa Trela, chair, Mo Cuevas, and Keith Price

New volunteer needed for COFG Meeting in Austin, Oct. 25 – Perry Crafton or Liz Matos

Announcements

Chancellor McKinney will meet with the senate on October 3.

He would like to have list of name of attendees in advance

He wants to have list of topics – Evergreen contract details, student evaluation of teaching

President's Update will continue, to inform faculty

Adjourn (1:30 PM)