

Faculty Senate Minutes, Meeting of 2017 September 1

Minutes from the last meeting of the previous semester were approved, motion by Senator Hindman.

President Ambrose noted that we frequently have a guest at the beginning of the meeting, and reminded senators that Senate can invite any guest that Senate wants to get information from. He also discussed the policy that senators must attend 75% of meetings. He also reminded the senate of the upcoming Leadership Implementation meeting with the university president on Sept. 5 at 8 am.

President Ambrose also asked that resolutions be written so that we have the correct wording for the minutes, etc.

The senate agreed to meet Sept. 22 instead of Sept. 15 due to the President's inauguration.

The Texas Council of Faculty Senates will meet October 27-28. Secretary David Craig agreed to represent WTAMU at that meeting.

Ambrose asked VP Hindman to work on food for Senate meetings and she agreed.

Ambrose reported on meetings for the inauguration, that administration was hoping for 60% of faculty to attend, etc. Neal Meredith will welcome Dr. Wendler at inauguration as past faculty senate president.

Old business:

Ombuds position evaluation:

- Ombuds position needs to be evaluated every year.
- Original 2 year position and can be reappointed for 2 years.
- Houston's time is up in January, he has had two terms
- The ombuds evaluation will need to somehow use people with past ombuds issues.
- N. Meredith: could not find any evaluation instructions from Houston or ombuds associations.
- M. DeButte: confidentiality issues for evaluation?
- A committee was formed to produce a survey and address these issues:
Committee volunteers: R. King(chair), F. Davis, B. Ingrassia

Electronic system for student athlete progress reports:

Senate agreed to defer for next time, as there is no new info yet.

Instructor promotion proposal

- Proposal from last year was rejected by administration.
- Committee to continue: B. Ingrassia (ch) , K Seward, D. Blanton, D. Lust
- We were encouraged to look at fix-term faculty track as a form of promotion. There are a few such positions, but only in limited colleges.
- N. Meredith: should bring up fix-term idea with admin, might make more progress. Instructor promotion was a pretty firm no from D. Council & Provost. Some Deans using fix term positions, some not.
D Lust: Is fix-term working as intended? Meredith: Depends on colleges.
D. Blanton: Are the chairs not aware of the option?
Meredith: Deans certainly are, not sure of specifics in all cases.
Meredith: We could have committee look at outstanding instructors.
Seward: Fix-term positions may need to be promoted.

Post-tenure review process needs revision:

Ambrose informed senate that many faculty handbook changes that were needed in the Post-Tenure review process have already been included in the new faculty handbook even though the Faculty Handbook Committee rarely accepts requests for changes in the handbook after Jan 1.

- Administrator have concerns about evaluation by members of their colleges
Some have been done, Provost also has a new proposal out on issue.

- Ambrose will meet with Faculty handbook committee on this and other recent minor changes, they will meet near end of month.

Application for new ombuds officer will go out from Ambrose:

- There is a one class release for position. The application will go out soon.
- Harry Houston's term will run out in January. Requirements will be in application, are in Faculty Handbook.
- There was some discussion and review of ombuds evaluation and elections procedure such as that we submit three names to university president then he selects.
- Ambrose: we can get applications, if we want to keep the current officeholder, we could change ombuds rules, BUT this would be a change in the next Faculty Handbook.

Policy change emails from Spaulding from last year: (A&M system policy)

- Should we have a committee to read these things? (Spaulding has responsibility to monitor TAMUS policies)
- Sharon Burnett, J. Babb, R. King volunteered to be in senate committee to examine these.

One committee unfilled from last year: Accomodations Appeals Committee.

- Blanton: has never met, is leaving, need new member. Faculty has to be from special ed or someone with disability issues. Hindman in education will ask for volunteers. Blanton also can ask in her department.

Provost proposal for changes to faculty handbook:

1. President ignored Faculty Handbook on salaries, 50% to merit pool, 50% to most outstanding faculty.
 - Babb: this is after the fact, in that it was enacted, so how should we think about this proposal? Blanton: can we prevent it? Ambrose: can send a resolution. Discussion ensued about president and dean's roles on this issue and the leadership meeting.
 - Meredith: can Ambrose communicate to Provost our concerns about this meeting format.
 - Meredith: can we get an acknowledgement of problem from president before consider issue 1?
 - Babb: entertain substance of issue after a meeting with president.
 - Ambrose: bring up with provost/pres first or in senate meeting?
 - Babb: move to invite president to discuss provost's item 1 and why handbook was not followed before discussing substance of merit changes. Meredith seconded. Motion passed.

Provost issue 2: Guaranteed X used to avoid F before drop date.

(There was a discussion of policy and former XF grade, filing of forms, etc.)

- Babb: page 29 of student life does note process can continue beyond semester.
- King: form is being revised, and procedure revised.
- Meljac: moved we should defer until form and procedure is revised. (It is being considered by Emerging Leaders committee on academic integrity). Seconded by Meredith. Motion passed.

Provost issue 3: administrator standards on promotion and tenure with extra duties:

- There was discussion of ambiguous language in faculty handbook, conflict with promotion & tenure process, issues in some colleges and departmentt with faculty levels, etc.
- Meredith moves to form a commitee to address this issue. Motion passed. Committee members: Meredith, deButte, Lust.

Senators were also reminded faculty can propose changes to the faculty handbook by November 1.

IT security issue:

- Meredith: IT security is very tight. Inhibiting faculty research.
- Babb: need to get a comprehensive effort to collect and categorize problems from community in an organized fashion. Don't be a source of noise. Need methodical way.
- Craig moved that we form committee to produce a systematic report on faculty IT issues and consider how to present this to IT and propose solutions to other parts of administration. Hindman seconded. Motion passed.
Committee members: Tao, Babb, Craig

Li: Asked about how deadline for spring schedule moved up to 1st day of class. There was a brief discussion about how Ambrose called, and then deadline was moved back again.

Hindman: Announcement of Capt Chili Cookoff Sept 21, sign up in old main 410.

Na: A faculty member was voted into committee, needs information on committee; senators reminded to see wtaccess, intranet.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.