

## Faculty Senate Minutes

September 14, 2018

**Senators Present:** Bartlett, Burnett, Castillo, Clewett, Clifton, Curl, Davis, Franken, Garcia, Ingrassia, Karaganis, King, Kwan, Leitch, Lewis, Li, Meljac, Seth, Seward, and Woodyard.

**Senators Absent:** Babb, Macdonald, Revett, Wang, and Williams.

**Substitutes:** Anne Barthel for Wang and Scott Frish for Revett

**Call to Order:** Davis called the meeting to order at 12:16 pm in the Eternal Flame Room of the JBK.

**Approval of Minutes:** After two name corrections, Meljac made a motion to approve the Faculty Senate minutes of August 31, 2018 as amended; Ingrassia seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Subsequent to the first motion of approval, another correction was found. Karaganis was present at the August 31 meeting but marked as absent. Maljac made a motion to amend the August 31, 2018 minutes a second time and approve as amended; Karaganis seconded. The second motion also passed unanimously.

### Current and Pending (Old) Business

#### Senate Vacancies

Davis welcomed new senator Dan Curl from Nursing. This leaves one vacancy – Department of Communication Disorders. Davis plans on an electronic election with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences during the week of September 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Pending (Old) Business

##### *Merit raise*

During Davis' scheduled meeting with President Wendler, Davis spoke about the faculty's frustration with the lack of merit raises. President Wendler agreed that if he can do something he should. Davis also asked about the money set aside in the last capital fundraising campaign for faculty. Wendler is looking into it.

As in the August 31, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting, questions were asked about cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA). No one could remember any COLA-like raises but market adjustments have occurred on an individual basis. Clewett volunteered to investigate whether the A&M system has a written COLA policy or not.

##### *Instructor Promotion*

Ingrassia gave a basic history of prior Faculty Senate's efforts for instructor promotion. Two years ago, Faculty Senate approved an instructor promotion policy which the deans turned down. Last year Faculty Senate approved a resolution but it was not presented to the deans. Before Davis meets with Shaffer again about instructor promotion, the current Faculty Senate needs more details on the prior resolution.

##### *Alumni Evaluations*

Davis spoke with Jarvis Hampton about alumni evaluations and found the following:

- Some deans did not ask for alumni evaluations this tenure and promotion cycle.
- Hampton does not want to get rid of alumni evaluations; he understands value to faculty.
- Institutional Research (IR) has the process streamlined but deviations cause problems.
- Davis and Hampton discussed two possible changes to the Faculty Handbook regarding alumni evaluations:

- Identify who is responsible for notifying IR, and a deadline date (July 1?).
- Modify grade distribution requirement for T&P packages to include the most recent long semester (i.e., Spring instead of Summer).

The Alumni Evaluation Committee will meet after this meeting to elect a chair and begin work on a proposal for the Faculty Handbook.

#### *President Wendler's Musings (PWM)*

President Wendler did not make any additional comments about the "Common" Common Core (see August 31, 2018 minutes for origin of the "Common" Common Core). All other items discussed at Davis' regular meeting with President Wendler are included above.

#### *Electronic Elections*

Per the discussion under Senate Vacancies above, one senate seat remains open. The election for the Communications Disorders seat will be used to vet the procedures the Electronic Elections Committee have drafted to date. The committee will elect a chair and have a proposal ready by the next Faculty Senate meeting.

#### **New Business**

Currently there are three faculty vacancies on University committees. The senate took nominations and filled each vacancy as follows:

Intercollegiate Athletic Council – representative from ECSM to replace Mulumba – Nominees: Fisseha Alemayehu and Lina Hajje

Alemayehu was elected to serve.

Scholarship Financial Aid Committee – representative from all faculty – Nominee – Nick Flynn

Flynn was elected by acclamation.

Student Honors Committee – Tenured faculty from ECSM – Nominees: Kristina Gill and Bob DeOtte

DeOtte was elected to serve.

#### **Upcoming Schedule of Guests**

September 28 – Guest: Dr. Jessica Mallard, Dean FAH – Core Curriculum Chair – As mentioned in the August 31, 2018 minutes, we are inviting Dr. Mallard to get her thoughts on the Common Core. You can send questions for her ahead of time.

October 19 – Guest: Dr. Walter Walter Wendler, President – Again sending questions ahead of time is a good idea.

November 2 – Guest: Dr. Wade Shaffer, Provost/VPAA – This date is tentative.

In addition, an invitation has been sent to CIO James Webb.

The Faculty Senate meeting adjourned 12:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Burnett, Secretary