

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: February 1, 2022
 Time: 2:01 p.m.
 Location: Video Conference via Zoom
 Adjournment: 3:40 p.m.

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes February 2022

Present: Hongmei Jia, Joshua Ege, Hunkar Gizem Yesilyurt (sub for Johanna Delgado-Acevedo), Stephen Starnes, Omar Elariss, Samantha Klassen (secretary), Sarah Guthery (sub for Kathryn Dixon), Julia Ballenger (president), Jason Davis, Michael Oldham, Michael Ponton, Eugene Mark Moreno, Tina Lancaster, Emily Newman, Sandy Hayes, Christian Hemplemann, Yasemin Atinc, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Thomas Boucher, Brock Johnson, Jane Kosarek, Bahar Modir, Robert Rodriguez, Benton Pierce, Marta Mercado-Sierra, Zachary Palmer, and Andrea Williams

Guests Present: Sarah Northam

Not present: Brooke Clemmons, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Kathryn Dixon

Summary of Discussion	
<p>December Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes: December Senate Meeting minutes were reviewed, and modifications were made to reflect that the Senate body supported the Curriculum and Instruction committee's actions with regard to University Procedure 11.99.99.R0.12, but did not create a formal resolution statement to that effect. Senator Davis motioned to approve the December minutes, and Senator Williams seconded the motion. December meeting minutes were approved with changes.</p>	<p>December Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved, with changes completed by Secretary Klassen.</p>
<p>Guests: <i>Sarah Northam, Scholarly Communications Librarian</i> <i>Digital Commons Presentation</i></p> <p>Ms. Northam introduced A&M Commerce Digital Commons, the university's platform to manage, publish, and showcase the full spectrum of our institution's research and scholarly work. She noted that works within the Digital Commons repository could include papers, presentations, programs, videos, conference proceedings, meeting documentation, digitized archival materials, open access journals, and open educational resources. Ms. Northam also highlighted how the library could help address faculty needs pertaining to research.</p> <p>Reports from Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduling and Facilities: Senator Lancaster reported that she had everything up to date on the website and presented the new format to the Senate body for their review. Senator Lancaster stated that anything the Faculty Senate would like to have published on the website could be sent to her (e.g., the new Constitution, Faculty Senate awardees). 	

- **Awards Committee:** Senator Jia indicated deadline for submitting Faculty Senate awards packets would be February 14, 2022. Nothing else to report.
- **Academic Life:** Senator Ponton reported that Senator Mercado-Sierra had been invited to serve on a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee with the provost, Dr. Humphreys. Other Academic Life items were addressed in Unfinished Business and New Business.
- **Academic Practice:** Nothing to report.
- **Budget:** Budget Chair, Senator Delgado-Acevedo, was not present.
- **Curriculum:** Senator Pierce had no report. However, Faculty Senate discussed whether to put forth a resolution related to the research course policy discussed at the December meeting. President Ballenger asked whether Faculty Senate wanted to create a resolution to send to the Provost's Office. Senator Randolph-Seng and Senator Ponton stated there was no need to craft a resolution at this time. Other senators concurred.
- **Admission and Retention of Students:** Senator B. Williams, prior Committee Chair, stepped down from the committee. Senator Brooke Clemmons will be taking his position as Chair.
- **Organization of the Senate:** Senator Palmer stated his committee is currently reviewing the constitutions of other Faculty Senates within the A&M System and asked the Faculty Senate body for any suggested revisions or edits to the TAMU-C Faculty Senate Constitution.

President Ballenger asked if the committee would look at the language of the Constitution surrounding the Faculty Senate's role and responsibility (i.e., whether the Senate's role is primarily advisory in nature). She discussed concerns of the Senate Body as to whether their input made a difference for informing university-level policies and procedures. Senator Oldham agreed and reported that Faculty Senate needed to do a better job of understanding its role and communicating that role to the faculty in their departments.

Senator Pierce shared a concern about how the time of Faculty Senate was used, particularly related to scheduling guests to present information. President Ballenger indicated her perspective that this was an appropriate use of Faculty Senate time. Senator Palmer stated he did not view the sharing of news as the primary role of Senators, but that he did believe that it was

one of the roles that senators could fulfill. Senator Mercado Sierra also stated that she viewed it was part of her responsibility as a senator.

Senator Pierce noted that he would like to see more emphasis on addressing department-level concerns relayed to individual senators, who could then bring those items to the Faculty Senate body for discussion. Senator Ponton agreed, noting that his view was that the Senate's primary function should be deliberation and discussion of the views of our colleagues within the departments we represent. Senator Starnes indicated that the role of Faculty Senate often changes every time a new Faculty Senate President takes office.

President Ballenger recommended that the Organization of the Senate Committee continue to review Faculty Senate constitutions from other universities to provide additional clarity around the role of faculty senators.

Unfinished Business

Review proposed revisions to Policy 12.02.99.R0.03 Implementing Faculty Tenure and Promotion – Senator Ponton, Academic Life.

Senator Ponton provided changes to the TAMU-C Tenure and Promotion policy as per Senator Pierce's recommendation to limit the faculty vetting of associate professor portfolios submitted for promotion to full professor to only full professors. Senator Ponton noted that this revision was in response to the committee's charge to develop policy revisions; thus, the proposed revisions may or may not reflect the committee's actual support.

Senator Ponton requested that individual Senators take this proposed policy revision back to their individual departments for review and discussion. President Ballenger recommended that senators email the outcome of their department discussion to Senator Ponton, and that we could continue to discuss this item at the March 2022 Senate Meeting. Secretary Klassen noted this for an item for discussion for next month and will put it on the agenda.

New Business

Survey on Faculty Cultural Competence – Senator Ponton, Academic Life.

Senator Ponton shared a survey for the university faculty related to cultural competency that may be accessed at https://tamuc.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_86xjZ5shUfCc1qC

The creation of this survey was a response to last year's unfinished business in which President Rudin desired information regarding what the faculty might want to do to facilitate positive cultural interactions among all people. Senator Ponton asked all faculty senators to review the survey for feedback and potential revision before sending it to the

Senator Klassen will include this as an item for discussion on the March 2022 agenda.

<p>Provost's Office for dissemination to the faculty as a whole.</p> <p>President Ballenger asked for feedback about the content of the survey and if there were any additional questions that might need to be included. Senator Oldham recommended that we add a question regarding the number of hours of training faculty would feel would be appropriate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Social Justice training. Secretary Klassen agreed. Senator Mercado-Sierra also recommended further clarification, noting it would be important to determine how many hours of training faculty saw as sufficient for an academic year. Senator Kosarek asked whether we might include DEI training in the Train Traq system as a mandatory training. Senator Mercado-Sierra, a member of the university DEI committee, indicated that they spoke with President Rudin who wanted feedback from staff as well.</p> <p>President Ballenger called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Davis moved to adjourn, and Senator Williams seconded.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.</p>	
---	--