Faculty Senate Meeting  
11.13.09 • Delco Building • Room 217 
3:00pm

Attendance:  
Agriculture & Human Sciences: Wash Jones, Eric Risch  
Architecture: Tracey Moore  
Arts & Sciences: George Brown, Arouna Davies, Huajun Fan, Natali Hritonenko, Alphonso Keaton, Lee McGriggs, Dimitar Michev  
Business: Reginald Bell, Emmanuel Opara  
Education: William Hale  
Engineering: Warsame Ali, Annamalai Annamalai  
Juvenile Justice & Psychology:  
Nursing: Pamela Brandy-Webb, Eloria Simon-Campbell, Eloria Simon-Campbell, Evelyn Whitley  
Undergraduate Medical Academy: Max Fontus

Meeting was called to order at 3:13pm

Adoption of Minutes
Senator Bell moved to accept minutes, Risch seconded. Senator Bell requested to add in his motion the benchmarks that he stated in the meeting. In the 4th paragraph from the top on page 5, Bell added:

When moving from assistant to associate, the benchmark is $10,000 and moving from associate to full professor should be $15,000.

In addition, Bell noted that Schein is misspelled. Senator Jones emailed corrections to Ms. Moore detailing small errors in syntax and changing “Honors College” to “Honors Program”.

Motion Carried.

Old Business
Speaker Brown noted that we need to indicate in minutes that there was a discussion with University Webmaster to get website updated.

Dr. Henderson’s Retirement Celebration
Senator McGriggs stated that the retirement celebration for Dr. Henderson would be Friday at 4pm in the New Science Building auditorium. Invites were sent out on the first of November. Senator McGriggs asked all senators to email Eloise Wilson to indicate that you will attend. Dr. Henderson requested that if you do not have $25 donation, come anyway.

The professional copy of the invitation was sent to 102 people on Dr. Henderson’s list as well as the administration. Everything should be over by 6 pm. Senator Jones asked when was the real deadline to RSVP since the invitation says the 10th? Senator McGriggs stated that the committee prepared for 200 but we all needed to RSVP as soon as possible. We do have some student participation. Senator Jones asked if we should extend the invitation to other faculty members. Both Speaker Brown and Senator McGriggs replied yes.

Speaker Brown said that the attendance is not restricted. It is open to all and we need to send the invitation out through campus announcements. Senator McGriggs remarked that the committee would need to know by close of day on Wednesday how many people would attend to order a good amount of food.

Dr. Risch stated that he has a radio program on Wednesday and will make the announcement. Senator McGriggs stated that he would check on making the announcement on the scrolling marquee.

Senator Keaton moved to accept the report. Fan seconded. Motion carried.

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Comparative Analysis Committee
Senator Keaton received information from Tarleton and Texarkana and we were still waiting from Ms. Hodge and Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Once received, we would analyze the data and then we will make a recommendation. Speaker Brown announced that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate the meeting with the president will be November 20 and asked if Senator Keaton would be able to make the report.

Senator Moore suggested that Senator Keaton let the President know if you have not received the information from Ms. Hodge. Senator Bell asked that since it is public knowledge, is there an electronic form? Who is the source of that?

Speaker Brown noted that Senator Keaton may be talking to the right person. Senator Fontus stated that the CFO office is responsible for the information.

Senator Bell moved to accept the report. Senator Fontus seconded. Motion carried.

Overload compensation:
Speaker Brown stated that Dr. Carty, the committee chair, was not present. Speaker Brown will ask Dr. Carty if he would be able to go to the meeting with the president. We will need to explain these issues to the president. There is some information on the website relating to course load. The vice speaker emailed the provost about the workload and the minimum number of students it takes to make a course load. Another email that was sent to the provost from the provost at Texas A&M at Texarkana stated that he also saw a website where people were asking same question. What makes up a course load? The state requirement is 10 students for undergraduate courses and 5 for graduate. The email that Senator Goodie sent stated that is what the state requires but it allows you to go up to 15 students for undergraduate courses and 9 or 10 for graduate. Speaker Brown continued saying that it will probably go up to a higher number due to the proposed cuts in funding to higher education. It is important that something must be presented to the president.

Senator Keaton stated he thought the committee was just handling overloads. Speaker Brown stated this is something the committee could also look at. The question is why don’t you compensate present faculty at same rate you are compensating adjuncts or perhaps offer something different for professors. Then, you can hire adjuncts to teach more.

Senator Keaton asked, “Is the committee looking at the percentage of faculty teaching overload?” We need to decrease the number of faculty teaching. That is a greater concern. Speaker Brown stated that maybe we need to think about it. We need a committee to address the concerns you have.

Senator Bell asked, in addition do you think that this situation would be exacerbated further with the new building? What do you think they are going to do with hiring new faculty?

Speaker Brown remarked that he never taught any course off campus. He always taught more than what new hires taught. Dean Ramblin told Speaker Brown that he had 23.9 full-time equivalent plus he was doing the work of 3 employees, Speaker Brown did not get any extra compensation. A lot of us have done things like this because it had to be done. Speaker Brown suggests we need to have a committee to make a report about teaching overloads and how it will affect our ability to do the job they require us to do.

Senator Bell additionally stated that there was a direct correlation between the amount of teaching and research. Since we are trying to move into the research direction, this would be a good point.

Speaker Brown noted that we used to be 42 miles from Houston. Now we are only 17 miles. The goat research farm is not even half a mile from Harris county line. It is not going to decrease. PV will grow. That growth means they did not include Prairie View in tier one status. PV will be in a position to be tier one before a lot of other schools. Speaker Brown asked if we need a committee to study?

Senator Bell asked would this committee be workable? Senator Keaton remarked if the current committee is not looking into that then maybe it should. We need to present to the president that the number of faculty working overloads in correlation with research. Discussion ensues. Senator Fontus recommended that we send this discussion back to Senator Carter to take the charge on faculty overloads versus research. Senator Fontus added that he worked with Carty but they have not looked at that but will take it back to him.
New business
Speaker Brown stated that we needed to make a decision on recommendations that will be presented to the president. Senator Fontus wanted to know if the university has the infrastructure in mind to move from a teaching university to research university. Senator Bell remarked that this was an excellent question. The Carnegie 2000 classification denotes a school’s research level. How do they classify us?

Speaker Brown requested that Senators Bell and Fontus present a brief concern about this: What is the infrastructure to transition to a research institution?

Senator Hritonenko added that she has published 8-9 pieces each year and attends several conferences. It is not good for her to be a guest speaker if the university does not pay the registration fees. She was invited to a prestigious conference and she wrote to everywhere in the university to ask for money to pay for registration fees. She went to Europe eight times to present research and the inviter paid for her trips. She works at a university that does not support her research efforts. She has not received 1 course reduction. It is not easy to teach and do research. But she gets nothing in return for her publishing. Her department head has helped her with giving a good schedule.

Discussion ensued. Everyone says their situations are similar.

Senator Annamalai stated that it does not matter how much research you do. You can only reduce teaching time by buying it. It seems as though the administration really only wants to keep Prairie View a teaching university.

Senator Bell stated that if it is Dr. Wright’s plan to move from tier 4 to tier 3 then we could help him achieve that goal. Speaker Brown added that they may have a plan and is it being implemented. Senator Fontus remarked that SACS is coming and we need to have a goal. State money is moving faster than you can say poof.

Senator Hritonenko remarked that she has written grants and has been rejected. The reason was that she was from a teaching university and the grantors had to support research universities.

Senator Fontus added that there has been an effort from NSF to remedy this problem. The NSF, DOE and DOD have infrastructure grants for moving from teaching to research. Annamalai added that the DOD funding is on hold because they are compliant, the set aside funding is considered illegal. It may take a few years to correct the problem.

Speaker Brown stated there should be a plan since all areas need a 5 year plan. SACS will look at this. Speaker Brown asked if Senators Bell and Fontus serve on a committee and meet to discuss and make a presentation. It may be better to push this issue to December. Senator Fontus replied that as far as committee work is concerned we may need more time. Asking the question is fine and what will be the faculty senate’s role in it.

Speaker Brown reminded that the senate needs to be more active in participation and should not be a conversation between speaker and president. And Speaker Brown wanted to see more representation with the meetings with the president. When Speaker Brown first came here, he sat in meetings with the president to learn how it works. The more exposure the young faculty gets, the better. Faculty set goals and directives to achieve. Moving to tier 1 is fast. If you have good students you have good faculty. The faculty wants tier 1. Speaker Brown did not think that we should walk in there and tell the president that he has done a lousy job. The results that have been made are good. Some smaller schools have a good research infrastructure. CAU has good research program. Morehouse has maybe 1200 students in medical school. You do not have to be big, but you need a plan for success.

Senator Fontus did not have problem being there to ask questions. He added that research is getting better and Prairie View’s name is getting recognized. Senator Bell stated that we should approach Dr. Wright in a structured interview. In order to not offend the president, we should send the questions ahead of the scheduled meeting. We do not want the president to feel that he is under attack.
Announcements
Speaker Brown announced that there would be Family and Friends day the next day. Tomorrow is Pantherland day. Speaker Brown recommended that senators participate. The faculty should play a role in selecting its students. You have a chance to persuade. It is up to the faculty to build the profile to attract the student you want.

Senator Bell asked about the meeting time with the president. Speaker Brown stated that the meeting would be in the president’s conference room at 2pm.

Next meeting would be December 18th in the same room and time

Senator Jones moved to adjourn meeting. Bell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm