



# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

## Faculty Senate Meeting

December 13, 2013 at 3:00pm (O'Banion 123)

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Executive Committee Members in Attendance

Clement Glenn, Speaker  
M. Clay Hooper, Secretary  
John Williams, Parliamentarian  
Megnon Stewart, Asst. Secretary (via TTVN)  
Douglas Butler, Member-At-Large

#### Item I: Sign-In By College

##### College of Arts & Sciences

Ananda Amarasekara  
Cleo Bentley  
Max Fontus  
Michael Nojeim  
Terri Pantuso

##### College of Architecture

Juanita Jimenez

##### College of Business

Qiang Fei

##### College of Education

Clarissa Booker  
Albert Johnson

##### College of Nursing (via TTVN)

Pamela Cormier  
Antonea Jackson

#### Item II: Invocation by Dean Charles H. Lewter

#### Item III: Guest-Speaker: President George C. Wright

- In his comments, President Wright stressed his desire to have a good working relationship with the Senate, stating that he is open to receiving proposals related to any area of university governance. He addressed three key issues:
  1. Budget Cuts: State-level budget cuts have seen the university's funding decrease by \$3 million. Using the university's reserve funds, he has managed to keep the school's budget intact, but the reserve funds are now running low. He emphasized that the budget shortfall will need to be met with increased recruitment/enrollement and encouraged the Senate to play a central role in these efforts.
  2. Equity Compensation: He reminded the Senate of the 3% pay increase across all colleges but also acknowledged that the university will still have trouble meeting the market value for quality faculty in some disciplines. He stressed the complexity of balancing external market forces against internal demands for fairness in pay across disciplines.
  3. Shared Governance: He asserted that the university's faculty are the "keepers of the curriculum" and applauded the faculty's involvement in managing the operations of the various colleges and units.
- Senator Pantuso asked if there were any formal guidelines for submitting proposals to him. He responded that there were no formal guidelines, but brief, two-page narratives would be appropriate.

- Speaker Glenn asked if proposals related to student recruitment and success might be supported with release time or other compensation. President Wright indicated that this is a possibility but that decisions about compensation would have to be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Senator Fontus asked how a culture of academic excellence might be fostered on campus and offered suggestions related to longer library hours and virtual office hours. President Wright reiterated that proposals along these lines would be more than welcome.
- Secretary Hooper pointed out that it has been about fifteen years since the last comprehensive, external study of equity compensation was conducted on campus. He asked if President Wright would be opposed to a new study of this type. President Wright responded that he would not be opposed to such a study but also cautioned that the findings of such a study would not necessarily dictate immediate actions. He stressed his commitment to finding where the greatest equity needs are but also reminded the Senate that budget constraints and market forces play a large role in determining salary distributions.
- Senator Bentley expressed concern over rumors that some colleges had received more than a 3% raise. President Wright asserted that this was not the case; the 3% raise was flat across all colleges.
- Senator Booker pointed out that recruitment efforts are affected by the fact that people who call the university often only get an answering machine or get transferred from office to office. President Wright urged senators to bring such matters to his attention so that they can be dealt with.
- Member-At-Large Butler asked about the need to reconfigure the structure of our academic terms (by offering mini-mesters, etc.) in order to aid in recruitment and matriculation. President Wright noted that he had recently raised this issue with Vice President McFrazier and asked that the Senate follow up with Dr. McFrazier about it.
- President Wright informed the Senate that Provost Thomas-Smith would be resigning following the current academic year and commented that the search committee for a new provost should include representatives from each college as well as a representative from the Faculty Senate.

#### **Item IV: Greetings and Call to Order**

- Speaker Glenn called the meeting to order at 3:56pm.
- Senator Booker asked for clarification about the procedure for conducting a meeting without a quorum. Parliamentarian Williams clarified that business may be conducted as usual but that all actions must be ratified by a majority vote at the next meeting at which there is a quorum.

#### **Item V: Senator Roll Call**

#### **Item VI: Approval of Previous Minutes**

- Senator Bentley asked that Item VIII of the November minutes be revised to indicate that his August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was with Vice Chancellor Hallmark rather than Chancellor Sharp.
- Senator Booker asked that Item VIII of the November minutes be revised to indicate that the University Academic Council wishes to ensure that faculty and students be knowledgeable about and have input into academic proposals that have been submitted to Council for approval.
- Senator Booker moved to approve the November minutes pending the two recommended changes. Senator Nojeim seconded. The motion passed with 14 in favor, none opposed.

#### **Item VII: Discussion of EC's Plan for Updated Committee Structure**

- Secretary Hooper summarized the Executive Committee's plan for updating the Senate's committee structure. This plan (including a detailed rationale for each recommended change) was emailed to the full senate body on 12/10/13. Secretary Hooper clarified that the mission statements for each committee are

subject to further change, and the EC is asking that the full senate body simply ratify the overall committee structure that is proposed in the document.

- Senator Booker “expressed serious concerns” that the Senate should include a Committee on Mentoring since such a program was fully approved by a previous senate. Senator Nojeim suggested that mentoring should fall under the purview of the Committee on Enrollment Management, Retention, & Matriculation. Speaker Glenn confirmed that mentoring would fall under said committee. Senator Booker moved to add “mentoring” to the title of the committee; Senator Johnson seconded. Senator Bentley expressed doubts about whether “mentoring” needed to be in the title and Secretary Hooper agreed that it would be more appropriate to place language about mentoring in the committee’s mission statement rather than in its title. The motion passed with 8 in favor, 5 against.
- Senator Nojeim asked why recruitment and retention are separated into different committees and Speaker Glenn, along with Senators Booker and Fontus, explained that recruitment and retention figure very differently in the formula funding model and so should be addressed separately by the Senate.
- Senator Pantuso motioned to approve the proposed committee structure pending the title change to the Committee on Enrollment Management, Retention, & Matriculation. Senator Butler seconded. The motion passed with 12 in favor, 1 opposed.

#### **Item VIII: Committee Sign-Up**

- Secretary Hooper explained that all senators have been placed on at least one committee but that these placements are merely recommendations that individual senators can accept or reject, though all senators are required to serve on at least one committee.

#### **Item VIII: Committee Reports**

- **Ad Hoc Committee on the Faculty Handbook:** Parliamentarian Williams explained that the handbook revisions are posted on the Senate’s eCourses page for review but that the “New Faculty Orientation Information” from Academic Affairs still needs to be incorporated into it. This will be done by the time of the Senate’s February meeting so that the handbook revisions can come under full Senate review.
- **Committee on Student Recruitment:** Senator Pantuso reported that she has been in meetings with Vice President Byars and that faculty involvement in recruitment fairs was good in the Fall term and will continue in the Spring.

#### **Item VIII: Additional Business**

- Speaker Glenn announced tentative plans for a Senate-sponsored faculty retreat on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. There will be 70 seats for the retreat, and senators will be allowed to reserve seats before they are opened up to all other faculty on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Senator Bentley reported that Glenn Beckendorff, the county judge who approved the Waller County landfill, is stepping down under intense pressure. Trey Duhon, who is running to replace Beckendorff, has promised to rescind the landfill agreement.
- Senator Pantuso moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Nojeim seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm.