



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

Faculty Senate Meeting

November 8, 2013 at 3:00pm (O'Banion 123)

MEETING MINUTES

Executive Committee Members in Attendance

Clement Glenn, Speaker
M. Clay Hooper, Secretary
Megnon Stewart, Asst. Secretary (via TTVN)
Ross Wienert, Member-At-Large
Douglas Butler, Member-At-Large
Alice Pendleton, Member-At-Large

Item I: Guest Speaker – Elizabeth Brumfield, Distance Services Librarian

- Ms. Brumfield presented information about the new Library Mobile Solutions that she has helped to develop with a grant from the US Institute of Museum and Library Resources. Her presentations in the US and abroad have sparked interest at many other universities in this technology that seeks to link students and faculty to library resources through mobile technology. The Library Mobile Solutions application includes access to library catalogues and databases, a platform for uploading and cataloging videos and other multimedia resources, and various interfaces for things like communicating directly with library staff and synchronizing library information with social media. Ms. Brumfield's PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the FS website.

Item I: Sign-In By College

College of Arts & Sciences

Innocent Aluka
Ananda Amarasekara
Cleo Bentley
Orion Ciftja
Michael Nojeim

College of Architecture

Juanita Jimenez

College of Business

Qiang Fei
Yi Zhang

College of Education

Clarissa Booker
Douglas Hermond
Albert Johnson

College of Engineering

Michael Gyamerah

College of Nursing (via TTVN)

Keshea Britton
Antonea Jackson

Item II: Greeting & Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Speaker Glenn at 3:50pm.

Item III: Invocation

- Speaker Glenn provided the invocation.

Item IV: Roll Call

Item V: Approval of Previous Minutes

- In reference to the procedures followed for electing members of the Executive Committee at the previous meeting, Senator Booker asked if the version of the FS Constitution posted on the webpage is the official constitution as ratified by the senate.
- Senator Booker moved that the minutes from 10/11/13 be approved pending the removal of language indicating who lost the various elections. Member-At-Large Butler seconded the motion and it passed with 10 votes in favor, none opposed.

Item VI: Presentation by Parliamentarian Williams

- Parliamentarian Williams was scheduled to provide a brief description of a plan discussed by Executive Committee to use the eCourses interface to improve communications between faculty members and the Faculty Senate. Parliamentarian Williams was not able to attend the meeting, but Secretary Hooper provided a brief summary of the EC's discussion. Among other things, the eCourses interface would be used to conduct surveys like the University Climate Survey.
- Senator Hermond asked if the eCourse interface would be available to all faculty members, and Secretary Hooper answered in the affirmative.
- Senator Aluka asked what methods of communication between faculty and the FS are currently in place. Speaker Glenn responded that no methods are currently in place. Senator Booker clarified that it is the responsibility of individual senators to carry information back to their colleges. Speaker Glenn asserted that it is important for the FS to modernize its communications.
- Senator Ciftja pointed out that the senate website needs to be updated. Speaker Glenn explained that Secretary Hooper is in the process of updating the website.

Item VII: Induction of New Senators

- Speaker Glenn inducted new senators Michael Nojeim, Albert Johnson, and Juanita Jimenez.

Item VIII: Committee Reports & Committee Restructuring

- Senator Wienert reported that the Facilities Committee intends to investigate the status of paper recycling in all academic buildings.
- Senator Booker reported that the Academic Council has created taskforces to review curricular data, policies, and procedures and to improve communication between faculty, students, and the Academic Council. The Academic Council wants to ensure that faculty and students should be knowledgeable about and have input into academic proposals that have been submitted to Academic Council for approval.
- Senator Hooper suggested that the Committee on Committees take on a broader role in investigating and promoting shared governance as it relates to the faculty's role in decision-making at all levels. Speaker Glenn explained that, due to time constraints, discussions about the committee structure would have to take place via email in between general sessions.
- Speaker Glenn explained that taskforces will be created that include both senators and non-senate faculty members to address key issues like retention and enrollment. Senator Ciftja interjected that retention and enrollment are not key *faculty* issues, they are student issues that the administration is responsible for. Speaker Glenn mentioned that the administration has approved merit raises that will go into effect in December (2013) but that if recruitment and enrollment goals are not met then there will be no merit raises and the university will begin to lose faculty positions; Speaker Glenn argued that this makes recruitment and retention key faculty issues.

- Senator Ciftja responded to Speaker Glenn by suggesting that part of the Faculty Senate's role is to help make sure that the administrators responsible for recruitment and retention are the first to lose their positions if recruitment/retention goals are not met. Senator Aluka agreed that the senate's role is to communicate faculty input and concerns about recruitment to the administration but not to organize and manage a recruitment effort. Senator Hermond agreed that the senate's role vis-à-vis recruitment and retention is, first and foremost, to ensure that the faculty's interests are protected within whatever policies and procedures the university adopts and implements for recruitment and retention. Speaker Glenn expressed his agreement with these views but also stressed that faculty participation in key issues like recruitment and retention will help to save faculty jobs.
- Member-At-Large Butler informed the senate body that during the Executive Council's meeting with President Wright the topic of an equity compensation study was broached. Member-At-Large Butler reported that he and Secretary Hooper pushed the president to agree that a new, comprehensive equity study was long overdue, but the president's hesitance about such a study indicated that faculty cuts are a real concern if recruitment goals are not met.
- Senator Bentley reminded the senate body that during his August 7 meeting with Vice Chancellor Hallmark, one of the topics of discussion was the issue of top-heavy administration and the rising salary inequalities between administrators, faculty, and staff. He also reminded the senate body that the PV Salary Trend Model helped to procure gas bonus and merit raises for faculty and stressed that it is crucial to keep putting pressure on administrators in order to protect the vital interests of the faculty.
- Speaker Glenn reminded the senate body that President Wright will be present in person at the next general session in order to speak to many of the concerns expressed by various senate members.

Item VIII: Additional Business

- No additional business was suggested. Senator Booker moved to adjourn the meeting. Butler seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will take place on 12/13 at 3pm in O'Banion 123.