



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

Faculty Senate Meeting

February 20, 2015 at 3:00pm
O'Banion, Room 123

MEETING MINUTES

Executive Committee Members

Clement Glenn, Speaker
Emmanuel Opara, Vice Speaker
M. Clay Hooper, Secretary
A. Jan Taylor, Asst. Secretary
Ronald Goodwin, Parliamentarian
Ross Wienert, Member-At-Large

Special Guests in Attendance

Cajetan Akujuobi, VP for Research and Graduate School Dean
Elizabeth Noel, Associate VP for Research
Karen Cotton, Grant Writer
Crysta Mendes, Program Coordinator, Office of Compliance
Lora Williams, Title III Director
Marissa Nobles, SGA Liaison

Item I: Sign-In By College

College of Ag & Human Sciences

School of Architecture

Juanita Jimenez

College of Arts & Sciences

Innocent Aluka
Ananda Amarasekara
Orion Ciftja

College of Business

Qiang Fei
Sanzid Haq
Yi Zhang

College of Education

Clarissa Booker
Douglas Hermond

College of Engineering

Jorge Gabitto
Lin Li
Sheena Reeves

College of JJPY

College of Nursing

Antonea Jackson (TTVN)
Douglas Wakhu (TTVN)

Item II: Invocation by Dean Lewter

Item III: Greeting & Call to Order

1. Speaker Glenn called the meeting to order, with a quorum, at 4:16pm.

Item IV: Senator Roll Call

Item V: Approval of Previous Minutes

1. Senator Booker requested that it be added to the January minutes that, in response to one of her comments (see Item VI.f from those minutes), Provost Nave noted that \$8000 in fees are assessed per student before graduation, which she (Provost Nave) considers excessive.
2. Senator Booker noted that the members of the ad hoc selection committee for the Piper Award nominee were not listed in the January minutes. Secretary Hooper clarified that the committee members were noted in the November minutes (Item VIII.b).
3. Secretary Hooper noted that Senator Ciftja had submitted a few minor revisions to some of his

comments from the January meeting.

4. Senator Booker moved to pass the January minutes with minor revisions. Senator Opara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item VI: Special Update and Q&A with Vice President Akujuobi

1. Vice President Akujuobi emphasized several initiatives to advance PVAMU's research profile:
 - a. The development of relationships with industry partners in order to know where research is most needed.
 - b. The development of more project proposals to take advantage of the Chancellor's Research Initiative (CRI), which is set to receive \$40 million in additional funds. Thus far, there are two projects at PVAMU that are actively making use of CRI funding: a computational informatics project in the Department of Computer Engineering and a radiation physics project in the Department of Chemistry and Physics.
 - c. The procurement of more research funding from the state's Research Development Fund (RDF) administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
2. Vice President Akujuobi outlined several changes within the Office of Research to improve internal support for research:
 - a. Hire Associate Vice President for Research, Compliance Director, Director of Recruitment, and Grant Writer.
 - b. Development of TrainTraq modules for export control and research compliance.
 - c. Development of infrastructure (including new facilities) to accommodate prototype development for innovative commercial applications.
 - d. Further development of the mini-grant program. Mini-grants have increased by 100% in a two-year span, and researchers now have more time draft proposals.
 - e. More seminars and workshops for project directors and principal investigators. The top proposals written for the May grant writing workshop will receive mini-grants of up to \$20,000.
 - f. Delays in processing project proposals reduced by 50%.
3. Vice President Akujuobi outlined several initiatives to increase graduate student enrollment:
 - a. Automate admissions process to avoid delays
 - b. Update website and graduate student handbook
 - c. Increase graduate scholarships by 33% and increase graduate assistantships.
4. Speaker Glenn asked if CRI money is available for faculty awards? Vice President Akujuobi explained that CRI money is available and that proposals are first reviewed by an internal committee. He also explained that CRI grants must produce revenue; they must double the original amount of the grant in five years. Senator Gabitto asked who faculty members should contact for information about CRI proposal. Vice President Akujuobi responded that faculty members should contact Dr. Trotty or Lora Williams (Title III Director).
5. Dr. Noel (Associate VP for Research) pointed out that in the recent round of mini-grants, 11 were awarded in the STEM disciplines and 9 in non-STEM disciplines.
6. Senator Ciftja noted that the Office of Research could be more proactive in distributing information and announcements from major granting agencies. Vice President Akujuobi noted that individual faculty members should subscribe to agency news but that Office of Research may do more to distribute information once it has more manpower.
7. Speaker Glenn commented that the Graduate School should have tables at internal career fairs. Vice President Akujuobi responded that this is already his plan and will happen.
8. Senator Booker commended Dr. Noel and the support staff of the Graduate School for helping to admit students quickly to graduate programs. Vice Speaker Opara commended Lora Williams for her work with

Title III.

Item VII: EC Report on Meeting with TAMUS Chancellor Sharp

1. Speaker Glenn reported on his intention to send a list of critical needs to Chancellor Sharp. Three key points that will be included are the need for advisement centers, more graduate assistants, and more support for the Center for Teaching Excellence.
 - a. Senator Booker mentioned the need for a digital lab where faculty can be trained on software and other technology at any time.
 - b. Senator Gabitto mentioned the need for more administrative support for research since award funds are not being managed properly.
 - c. Senator Hermond suggested that representatives be appointed from each college to collect a list of critical needs so that it is not just Senators creating the list. Speaker Glenn agreed and solicited volunteers from each college.
 - d. Senator Aluka raised the point that the Senate's role is to advise the president, so a letter to the chancellor would seem to be bypassing the president. Speaker Glenn explained that President Wright would be "in the loop" on the Senate's communications with the chancellor.

Item VII: Special Report on Faculty Compensation Study

- a. Secretary Hooper reported that vendor proposals for the compensation study had been reviewed and that Sibson Consulting had been selected to give an on-site presentation. The presentation was very impressive, stressing an open process guided by input from all stakeholders, including faculty. It is likely that Sibson will be given the contract and will complete the study in time for the provost to begin implementing a new compensation philosophy in the fall term of 2015.
- b. Secretary Hooper pointed out that the Sibson team was very responsive to concerns regarding cost of living, faculty retention, and contingent faculty salaries.

Item VIII: Committee Reports

1. *Committee on University Facilities:* Member-At-Large Wienert (chair) explained the delays in construction on the recreation center and requested that senators assess out of date equipment in their departments. Senator Reeves reported that Engineering auditorium classrooms suffer from dim lighting. Senator Booker asked if the committee addresses issues related to ADA compliance. Member-At-Large Wienert affirmed that it would.
2. *Committee and Senate Elections:* Senator Reeves (chair) distributed a handout (see appendix) indicating the senators who would be eligible for reelection after ending their first terms, which senators would be ineligible for reelection after ending their second terms, and how many seats would need to be elected in each college.
3. *Committee on Student Recruitment:* Speaker Glenn (chair) reported on the need to establish PVAMU presence at local high schools and community colleges and to recruit more out-of-state students. He emphasized the need to sell PVAMU as a place where students get more individualized attention and to train faculty members to recruit more effectively.
4. *Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Handbook:* Parliamentarian Goodwin (chair) reported on a recent meeting with Provost Nave in which they identified changes that need to be made within two weeks before handbook is sent to full Senate for review and comment.
5. *Committee on Compliance of Rules and Procedures:* Senator Hermond explained that grievance procedures are found in the faculty handbook and that there are special procedures for tenure grievances. The Faculty Senate should be involved in tenure grievances through a standing committee or ad hoc committee. Senator Hermond requested that documents outlining grievance procedures be posted on the Senate website.

Item IX: Additional Business

1. Speaker Glenn announced that all senators are invited to attend the 2015 African American Legislative Summit in Austin for Texas Southern/PVAMU day on March 2.
2. Marissa Nobles (SGA Liaison to the Faculty Senate) asked if anyone has looked into mini-mesters as a way to meet student needs. Speaker Glenn, Secretary Hooper, and Senator Haq all confirmed that various departments are developing mini-mester courses on a trial basis. Senator Reeves noted that May-mesters are popular in many institutions.
3. Senator Booker announced that Founders Day and the Honors Convocation are on March 25 and will be sponsored by the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education.
4. Senator Hermond moved to adjourn the meeting; Senator Butler seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.