



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

Faculty Senate Meeting

April 24, 2015 at 3:00pm
O'Banion, Room 123

MEETING MINUTES

Executive Committee Members Present

Clement Glenn, Speaker
Emmanuel Opara, Vice Speaker
M. Clay Hooper, Secretary
Ronald Goodwin, Parliamentarian
Gloria Regisford, Member-At-Large
Ross Wienert, Member-At-Large

Item I: Sign-In By College

College of Ag & Human Sciences

Teneinger Abrom-Johnson
Gbenga Ojumu

School of Architecture

Juanita Jimenez

College of Arts & Sciences

Orion Ciftja
Michael Nojeim

College of Business

College of JJPY

Aisha Asby

College of Education

Clarissa Booker
Douglas Butler
Douglas Hermond
Albert Johnson

College of Engineering

Jorge Gabitto

College of Nursing

Douglass Wakhu (ITVN)
Antonea Jackson (ITVN)

Item II: Invocation by Dean Lewter

Item III: Greeting & Call to Order

1. Speaker Glenn thanked senators for serving in a range of special capacities on university-level committees and noted that the hard work of all senators over the course of the year had gone a long way toward changing perceptions of the Faculty Senate around campus.
2. Speaker Glenn called the meeting to order, with a quorum, at 3:31pm.

Item IV: Senator Roll Call

Item V: Approval of Previous Minutes

1. Senator Ojumu moved to remove language regarding an allegation of corruption from the March minutes. Vice Speaker Opara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Speaker Glenn noted the possibility of archiving audio recordings of Senate sessions. Senators Ciftja, Nojeim, and Regisford strongly objected to the idea. Vice Speaker Opara and Senator Butler voiced their agreement that there is no need to record sessions.
3. Senator Wakhu moved to pass the April minutes with minor revisions. Senator Abrom-Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item VI: Executive Committee Report on Meeting with President and Provost

1. Secretary Hooper summarized the recent meeting between the Executive Committee, President Wright, and Provost Nave. The meeting was arranged to discuss the status of two Senate-proposed initiatives: the faculty compensation study and multiyear contracts for contingent faculty members.
 - a. Secretary Hooper explained that the administration is in negotiations with Sibson Consulting to conduct the compensation study, but the price originally quoted by Sibson was prohibitively high. Secretary Hooper explained that, during direct meetings with the Sibson team, a lot had been added to the original scope of work for the study and that many of these extra components would need to be eliminated or paired down in order to reduce the cost of the study to a more reasonable figure. Secretary Hooper noted that, with the help of Provost Nave, the EC was able to convince President Wright to move ahead with the study once the price tag issue is resolved. The revised timeline would have the study completed during the Fall 2015 term.
 - b. Secretary Hooper noted that President Wright is committed to implementing multiyear contracts for contingent faculty on a merit-based system but is concerned about the quality of faculty evaluation procedures in some programs. Due to this concern, he is opposed to having anyone “grandfathered” in to a multiyear contract but would like to have more reliable evaluation procedures in place during the 2015-2016 academic year so that contingent faculty members can start to be evaluated for multiyear contracts.
2. Vice Speaker Opara warned against moving too fast on the multiyear contract issue because deans and department heads need to provide input on the process. Secretary Hooper explained that the Senate proposal is a starting point for the process, not a blueprint, and that the next step is for the president to consult with deans and department heads regarding the best way to proceed. Senator Ojumu asked if the Senate will be involved in meeting with the deans to develop the details of multiyear contract procedures. Secretary Hooper responded that the Senate should push for this type of involvement.
3. Senator Johnson asked if enrollment issues were brought up during the meeting. Speaker Glenn responded that they were not broached.

Item VII: Update on Senate Elections Process

1. Speaker Glenn confirmed with Senator Reeves (chair of the Elections Committee) that the following senators are completing their second consecutive terms and are thus ineligible for reelection to the Senate in 2015-2016: Abrom-Johnson, Wienert, Colvin, Butler, Glenn, Jackson, Zhang. Speaker Glenn noted that plaques would be ordered for these outgoing senators.

Item VIII: Update on Faculty Senate Luncheon

1. Senator Regisford (chair of the Committee on Faculty Communication and Relations) noted that the Senate-sponsored faculty luncheon would take place on April 29th featuring Vice President McFrazier as the keynote speaker. She asked all senators to encourage participation within their own programs.

Item IX: Speaker’s Report on the Letter to Chancellor Sharp

1. Speaker Glenn explained that a draft of the letter to TAMUS Chancellor Sharp would soon be sent to all senators for review and then to President Wright, as a courtesy, before being sent to the chancellor.

Item IX: Committee Reports

1. Senator Glenn charged all committee chairs with providing a formal summary of their committee's activities over the previous year and their goals for the following year.
2. *Committee on University Facilities*: Senator Wienert (chair) explained that the administration is considering erecting a series of plaques around the campus to commemorate important figures to name key places.
3. *Committee on Salaries, Benefits, Budgets*: Senator Johnson (chair) explained the committee's most immediate business is to continue pushing for a contract to complete faculty compensation study.
4. *Committee on Communication*: Member-At-Large Regisford (chair) reported that a Senate newsletter would be distributed after the May meeting to report on the faculty luncheon, the outcome of Senate elections, and the contents of the committee summaries.
5. *Graduate Council and University Academic Council (UAC)*: Senator Butler reported that the UAC is implementing a system to digitize all paperwork regarding curriculum proposals in order to streamline the proposal process. The digital archive will be open for anyone to access. Senator Nojeim noted that programs receive no notification on the status of their curriculum proposals. Senator Butler suggested that the new digital system should address this issue.
6. *Committee on Faculty Research & Development*: Senator Butler (chair) noted that a series of workshops would be provided through the Center for Teaching Excellence on interacting more successfully with students across cultural barriers.
7. *Committee on Student Recruitment*: Speaker Glenn reported that President Wright's special task force on recruitment recently met with the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, who wants to help fund college recruitment at struggling high schools. This funding can be used to run workshops and seminars on academic success, tailored specifically to the needs of students at these schools.
8. *Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Handbook*: Parliamentarian Goodwin (chair) noted that the revised handbook will provide links to relevant policies rather than directly including bulky policy information; this has brought the length of the handbook down from 80 pages to 25. A full draft will go out to senate before May meeting to review the content (not the style and formatting). The revision process will extend into the summer so that a fully revised handbook can be distributed in August. Speaker Glenn extended a special thanks to Parliamentarian Goodwin for his work on the handbook.
9. *Rules & Procedures*: Senator Hermond noted that several grievance had recently been filed by faculty in the College of Education and that the college's faculty is organizing to address the issue collectively with the dean.

Item IX: Additional Business

1. Secretary Hooper requested that the speaker, in an upcoming meeting with the provost, make inquiries regarding the "Academic Master Plan" that she has mentioned on several occasions.
2. Senator Hermond noted that the budget for each college is online but is not comprehensible. He suggested that the Senate take action to assure that this budget information is presented in a simplified, clear way.
3. Senator Abrom-Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting; Parliamentarian Goodwin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.