

Prairie View A&M University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 11, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.
O'Banion Building, Room 123

Executive Committee in Attendance:

M. Clay Hooper, Speaker; Gloria Regisford, Vice-Speaker; Sheena Reeves, Secretary; Ronald Goodwin, Parliamentarian; Michael Nojeim, Member-at-Large; Albert Johnson, Member-at-Large

Item I: Sign-In By College/School

College of Ag & Human Sciences

School of Architecture

Juanita Jimenez

College of Arts and Sciences

Orion Ciftja

Victoria Godwin

Michael Royster

James Valles

College of Education

Clarissa Booker

Sonia Boone

Jasmine Hamilton

Douglas Hermond

Lisa Hobson

College of Engineering

College of Business

Emmanuel Opara

College of Nursing

Pamela Cormier

College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

Item II: Greetings & Call to Order

1. Speaker Hooper called the meeting to order without a quorum at 2:44 p.m. It is noted that two senators (Gabbito, Wahku, Collins, Haq) attempted to connect via TTVN; however, the attempts were unsuccessful. All voting matters withheld until April meeting given a quorum is present.

Item III: Senator Roll Call

1. Senator introductions were made at the meeting location.

Item IV: Speaker Updates (*all comments were made by the speaker unless otherwise noted*)

1. The Provost has proved the deans with the university policy on vaping. The deans will distribute the information to the department heads.
2. The Writing Center is open and the students are able to access it. However, identifying a long term source for the budget is in progress.
3. President Wright has supported the senate's resolution on faculty recruitment and has shared the decision with other administrators. The resolution will be shared with deans in the near future.
4. The merit system has been added to the compensation study. The study is almost complete. Senator Hermond asked if the faculty will have notice of the completion and if the faculty will be given notice of the distribution process. The Speaker informed the body that the steering committee will be informed and that the senate wants shared governance at the college and

departmental level. Senator Boone explained that the senate body would like to be in the initial group to receive the information and not a second tier group.

5. There is discussion with the President about developing a survey to measure discrimination, due process, etc. The committee will include members of the faculty senate and will make reports. The University of Texas has a survey available for purchase. Possible committee members include Associate Provost Sarina Phillips and Dr. Deland Myers. Senators suggested using Cathy Shock (casmock@pvamu), the Special Assistant to the President for Compliance to aid in the process. Senator Ciftja was interested in serving on the committee. Senator Goodwin asked for the duration of the committee. The Speaker replied that the committee would convene until the fall semester. Senator Hobson inquired if the administrators selected for the committee tenure-line and suggested that these individuals are included on the committee. The Speaker is still searching for committee members and will consider all tenure-line administrators. The Speaker will further discuss the matter with President Wright. All senators are asked to send committee suggestions to Dr. Hooper.

Item V: Budget Update (Senator Regisford)

1. The senate expenses (\$3,129) included \$278 for Telecom monthly charges, \$1,782 for the fall luncheon, and \$940 for travel reimbursements to the fall TCFS meeting. The remaining expenses included food for joint committee meeting, registration fees, and office supplies. The remaining budget is \$5,871; however, spring TCFS reimbursements (~\$1,500) and a spring luncheon/banquet is also considered for the remaining budget.

Item VI: Approval of Previous Minutes

1. Moved to April meeting (no quorum)

Item VII: Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) Updates (Senator Hooper and Senator Hobson)

1. Speaker Hooper presented his notes from the meeting with Vice-Chancellor Hallmark.
 - a. A&M system universities will not build new buildings due to low state revenues. However, formula funding is stable.
 - b. More approval was granted for community colleges to offer 4 year degrees.
 - c. More authority will be given to the Coordinating Board to regulate campus expansion projects such as the University of Texas buying land in Houston.
 - d. The state is moving towards performance based tuition in which graduation will become a factor.
2. Senator Hobson attended the TCFS in conjunction with AAUP (American Association of University Professors) and TACT (Texas Association of College Teachers).
 - a. The senator discussed the importance of having a senate representative in these organizations.
 - b. The senator presented the body with information regarding campus carry litigation at different universities. In particular, the University of Houston has given action options at the classroom level in case a gun is present in the classroom. Moreover, the university has specified what instructors should post in the syllabus and has banned guns in buildings that are frequented by k-12 students (MSC, sports complex, etc.).
 - c. The current appointee to the chairman position of the pension board wants to abolish the current retirement system which includes the TRS. Other retirement organizations have developed statements against the appointment.

- d. Senator Hermond requested that TACT updates are added to the agenda. The Speaker agreed to include updates from Dr. Hobson in the Committee Action Reports.

Item VIII: Faculty Handbook

1. The previous process has stalled out. The previous online version was not in compliance; therefore, the handbook was removed from the PV website. Dr. Philips will provide feedback on the current revised version of the handbook.
2. Senators Hooper, Regisford, and Goodwin volunteered to review the current document. Senator Reeves inquired if non-senate members are allowed to assist with the document. The Speaker replied that the handbook is ultimately the senate's responsibility; however, the senate can accept outside assist on the document. Senator Ciftja inquired if the senate can hire outside help. Senator Hermond suggested that the senate request an additional \$10,000 in funding from Academic Affairs to hire outside help. Vice-Speaker Regisford suggested that the senate review the revisions of Parliamentarian Goodwin before making a decision to include outside help. Senator Boone suggested that the PVAMU handbook should reflect A&M System policies. Senator Goodwin agreed that the PVAMU document should only add in specifics for PVAMU. Speaker Hooper asked Secretary Reeves to distribute a link to the system's policies to the entire senate body.

Item IX: Faculty Ambassador Award

1. The award (attached) was approved by President Wright and was originally add to the budget. It grants the awarding of two monetary awards to faculty members with service to the community.
2. A discussion was held on whether to increase the award amount and number of awards.
3. Several senators voiced concerns over the wording of the award announcement.
4. The senate body decided to convene a committee to address the questions and concerns. An ad-hoc committee was formed to develop the award criteria and make suggestions to the full senate body. Volunteers were Senators Nojeim, Hooper, Johnson, Valles, Goodwin, and Ciftja.
5. Any senator serving on the committee is ineligible for the award.

Item X: Committee Updates

1. Committee Action Reports
 - a. Senate Elections – Senate nominations in each college will convene on April 8th, 2016.
 - b. UC Director Hiring Committee (Reeves) – A total of 51 applications were submitted and reviewed for the position. A total of 5 telephone interviews were planned with potential candidates. The committee will bring 2-3 of the top candidates to campus for interviews with various entities on campus.
 - c. Title Code Committee (Reeves) – The committee was established by Provost Nave to update the title codes to meet current university needs. The committee will also establish multi-year contracts for non-tenured faculty. The new title codes will become effective in late 2016.
 - i. The multi-year contracts will not mirror tenured and tenure-track contracts.
 - ii. This process will not include a grandfathered procedure; therefore, non-tenure track faculty must reapply to positions currently held. All non-tenure track positions have expiration dates and applicants should reapply yearly or each semester.

- iii. The title of adjunct will be removed from title codes with the exception of adjunct instructor. This position will only represent an individual who teach 1 or 2 courses and is under a 4.5 month contract.
 - iv. The committee will determine the minimum qualifications for each position.
 - v. The new title codes will determine the pay scale of instructors. Under the current system, the university is paying too much in benefits for full-time adjuncts. Some pay raises/cuts should be expected. The committee will set up town hall discussions so that the process is understandable to the faculty. Senator Reeves will coordinate these with the faculty senate as possible.
 - vi. The Sibson group will provide new instruments for faculty evaluations which will become the new standard. Additional items will be added by the college and department. The evaluation will be more outcome-based. Items such as “did you attend class” and “was a syllabus given” will be removed from the evaluation. The evaluations will also change the measured outcomes on the SOS survey.
2. No other Committee Business mentioned.

Item XII: Additional Comments & Business

1. Performance evaluations
 - a. Some departments are requesting that faculty members change the grades of certain students or that the faculty pass a certain percentage of students. It has been noticed that some grades are changed for students without the faculty members consent or knowledge. Grade distribution is not a good method of faculty evaluation. Is passing the students good for retention? Is a resolution required stating that an instructor should not be penalized based on the number of students passing the course? Topic is tabled for further discussion.
2. Senator Hermond motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Senator Godwin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Faculty Ambassador Award Award Description – Draft

The Faculty Ambassador Awards are two money prizes awarded by the Faculty Senate to two faculty members whose research and scholarship brings them into direct contact with the members of a particular community (or communities) in ways that enhance the profile of the institution in the surrounding area. The communities in question may be in the immediate vicinity of the university or anywhere abroad in the region, nation, or world.

Applicants must send a full CV, a 300-500 word narrative explaining the project, and a brief statement from a department head or dean verifying that the project took place sometime between Fall 2014 and the present. The narrative should explain how the project benefited the members of the community or communities in question and how it enhanced the profile of PVAMU within that community.

The first prize will be \$500, and the second prize will be \$300. Winners will be publicly announced at May and Summer commencement ceremonies as well as at the faculty/staff conference in August.