

**Prairie View A&M University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 13, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.  
O'Banion Building, Room 123

**Executive Committee in Attendance:**

M. Clay Hooper, Speaker; Sheena Reeves, Secretary; Michael Nojeim, Member at Large

**Special Guest in Attendance:**

Associate Provost James Palmer

**Item I: Sign-In By College/School**

**College of Ag & Human Sciences**

**School of Architecture**

Juanita Jimenez

**College of Arts and Sciences**

Orion Ciftja

Megan Collins

Victoria Godwin

DeLinda Marzette-Stuckey

Quincy Moore

Michael Royster

James Valles

**College of Business**

Qiang Fei

Sanzid Haq

Louis Ngamassi

Emmanuel Opara

**College of Education**

Clarissa Booker

Sonia Boone

Jasmine Hamilton

Douglas Hermond

Lisa Hobson

**College of Engineering**

Jorge Gabitto

Lin Li

**College of Nursing**

Pamela Cormier (TTVN)

Debbie Jones (TTVN)

Douglas Wakhu (TTVN)

Keshea Britton (TTVN)

**College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology**

**Item II: Greetings & Call to Order**

1. Speaker Hooper called the meeting to order, without a quorum (17 senators present), at 2:51 p.m. All voting matters were delayed until a quorum was reached. 19 senators were needed for a quorum. A delay in connecting with the College of Nursing is noted.

**Item III: Senator Roll Call**

1. Senator introductions were made at the meeting location and at the College of Nursing via TTVN.

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

1. Senators Hooper and Musa represented the senate in selecting a nominee for the Piper Award. Dr. Sarah Wakefield from the Department of Languages and Communication was selected.
2. The compensation study is moving in to the data retrieval phase as the interview phase has been completed. Forty peer institutions were selected for the study and will be separated by department and rank. The University of Houston (downtown) was added to the peer institution as many PVAMU faculty members live in the Houston area; however, Rice University was excluded as the university is a private institution. PVAMU was advised by Sibson Consulting Company to meet the median values found during the study. It was further recommended that the university

review the market every 2 years and to continuously target the median value. Changing the promotional raise from \$1,000 is also included in this study. Senator Nojeim asked if the results would be shared with the public or just a small group of individuals. Speaker Hooper replied that the results will be shared with the faculty senate. The expected completion of the study is early February 2016.

3. Midterm exams are recommended; however, they are not mandatory according to Provost Nave. Courses are required to have a final exam.
4. Grade appeal processes vary greatly across campus. For example, some appeals are not brought before a departmental committee. The method presented on the academic affairs website is not followed and some find the directions confusing. The Speaker will work with the Provost in clarifying the directions. Senator Hermond asked if the departmental committee is allowed to meet with the faculty member. Speaker responded that the committee is only allowed to evaluate appeal documentation.
5. The Speaker reiterated the importance of administrator evaluations. Currently, upper level administrators do not have set terms; therefore, the evaluations cannot be scheduled to correspond with terms.
6. The fall semester faculty luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 in the library beginning at 11:30 a.m. Barbeque will be served. A program is needed and will focus on faculty and senate discussion.

#### **Item V: Budget Update – Speaker Hooper**

1. The Senate was given \$5,000 which was a reduction from the previous \$10,000. The Speaker and Vice Speaker (acting Treasurer) requested \$9,500 to cover costs for sending senates to Austin for TCFS meetings in the fall and spring, faculty luncheons in the fall and spring, office materials, and other necessities such purchasing of keys for the senate office.

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

1. Senator Booker requested that her inquiry for acquiring liability insurance for faculty senators be added to the October minutes. Senator Booker also requested that the Secretary recheck the May and September meeting to ensure that new senator names are added based when they were sworn in. Senator Reeves agreed to recheck the minutes. Senator Wakhu motioned for the approval of the minutes with corrections with a second from Senator Gabitto. The previous minutes were approved by the full senate representation with the noted corrections.

#### **Item VII: Discussion of Proposed Senate Bylaws Revision**

1. Senators Goodwin, Hooper, Hamilton, Johnson, and Nojeim served on the committee and provided senators with key additions to fill necessary gaps in the previous version of the bylaws. A petition to revise the bylaws was signed by more than the minimum of 10 senators. Senator Reeves mentioned that even with the additions the bylaws are still rather anemic when compared to other faculty senates and student government.
2. Senator Boone questioned if the additional bylaws were clear. Senator Hermond also questions bylaw C.2a, which allows for votes on time-sensitive matters to be taken in the absence of a quorum, and asked who votes in that situation. Speaker Hooper responded that, in accordance with Robert's Rules, those present in such a case would vote on the motion or resolution in question, but that vote must be confirmed by a vote at the next meeting at which a quorum is achieved. If the vote is not confirmed, then any actions taken as a result of it must be rescinded.

3. Senator Hermond motioned to change chairman to chair in the document as PVAMU is an equal opportunity institution. Senator Nojeim agreed to change the terminology and insisted the term should not be included in the document. No vote was needed for this change.
4. Speaker opened the floor for a vote on the bylaw revision. Fourteen votes were needed for a 2/3 majority according to the senate constitution. The votes were 15 for, 4 against, and 1 abstain. The bylaw revision was passed.

**Item VIII: Report on Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) – Senator Reeves**

1. The meeting was attended by 3 executive committee members: Vice Speaker Regisford, Secretary Reeves, and Parliamentarian Goodwin.
2. The senators had an early discussion with the Vice-Chancellor and an A&M lawyer which explained the responsibilities of each university regarding campus carry laws. Campus carry was a major part of the meeting.
3. One common concern shared across the system was shared governance including the hiring of new administrators.

**Item IX: Results of Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) – Associate Provost James Palmer**

1. Associate Provost Palmer presented results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) for 2015 in a handout given to senators. The NSSE recorded student responses from freshman and graduating seniors. A blue highlight represented an area where the university performed well while yellow signified underperformance. It was noted for both groups that students rarely interacted with students who did not share a common religious belief.
2. Associate Provost Palmer also discussed the systems EmpowerU initiative which focuses on an Imperative for Excellence. The website is *[empower.tamus.edu](http://empower.tamus.edu)*. The program will provide a report card of student success in the areas such as Ethical Decision Making and Social Responsibility and Globalization and Diversity. Associate Provost Palmer requested senate help in identifying areas where the university can measure success in these areas. Senator Booker mentioned Capstone since students are required to teach at diverse schools. Several senators stated the study abroad programs to locations such as China. Senator Gabitto mentioned the engineering accreditation through ABET requires the college to teach students ethics and professional responsibility which is measured and assessed in several courses. Senator Cormier discussed the PV International Nurse Festival on November 13, 2015 at 6 p.m. Senator Booker added that the students in her department are required to sign a code of conduct and that faculty members also travel aboard with students. Senator Taylor mentioned that music and theater students went to Colombia for a cultural exchange project. Three faculty and five students will attend again this spring.

**Item X: Committee Business**

1. Approval of New Special Positions – Senator Musa (Engineering) and Vicki Seldon (non-Senator, Music) were selected to represent the faculty on the DegreeWorks Implementation Team regarding new advisement software for the university, and Senator Fei was selected to represent the Senate on the University Academic Council. Senator Collins motioned that the positions be approved. Senator Ngamassi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Committee Action Reports
  - a. Tenure, Promotion, and Due Process – Senator Cormier stated that the committee is looking into rate my professor and will have more information at the next meeting. The

committee concluded that faculty members should not be required to recruit students. A resolution will be prepared prior to the next senate meeting.

- b. Recruitment, Retention, and Mentoring – Senator Opara presented and outline of activities for the committee:
  - i. Work with the recruitment office and director – will bring an action plan before the full senate
  - ii. Gather material from each college to develop best practices for publication in the faculty handbook
  - iii. Publishing scholarship information
  - iv. Review 2009 mentoring program
  - v. Review retention efforts at the UC
  - vi. Gather failing students and assist them through mentoring
  - vii. Develop a package for college efforts in recruitment, retention, and mentoring
- c. All committees were asked to prepare a report for the next senate meeting.
3. University Committee on Piper Award Nomination (covered in Speaker Updates)
4. University Committee on Tuition & Fees – Senator Valles stated the committee is seeking a 2 % increase in undergraduate and graduate housing as well as a 6% increase in meal plans. The committee is also seeking an overall increase in student service fees.
5. University Committee on Campus Carry Legislation – Senators Nojeim & Haq represented the Senate on the committee. Speaker Hooper introduced the Campus Carry Resolution (attached below) that had been drafted for discussion and consideration by the Senate. Senator Nojeim asked to include a statement to determine if other campuses are developing rules regarding guns in classrooms. Senator Haq mentioned that the committee meetings only focus on implementation of the law. Senator Gabitto suggested that the senate give the university clear actions to utilize such as the method guns are transported in airports. Senator Haq informed the senate that the President has some latitude in the matter and can make restrictions based on the student population and campus layout. Senator Nojeim stated that the purpose of the resolution was not to go around the university committee. Senator Opara reminded the senate that campus carry is a law and that the senate should not oppose the administration’s attempt to implement the law because the fight is not with administration. Speaker Hooper reiterated that the purpose of the committee was solely implementation and added that the senate needed a record showing that it did something in the matter. Senator Haq motioned that the resolution be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Ngamassi. The motion passed with a vote of 15 for, 6 against, and 1 abstain. The full resolution is attached.
6. No other Committee Business mentioned.

#### **Item XII: Additional Comments & Business**

1. November Faculty Luncheon (11/17/2015, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Library Banquet Room)
2. Senator Nojeim motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Senator Gabitto seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

# Resolution

## Prairie View A&M University Faculty Senate

**Whereas**, it is the duty of the administration of Prairie View A&M University to ensure the physical security as well as the psychological and emotional well-being of its students, faculty, and staff

**Whereas**, Texas Senate Bill 11 (Campus Carry) was signed into law over and above the opposition and objections of a vast majority of Texas higher education administrators, faculty, and students

**Whereas**, according to data provided by the United States Department of Education (<http://ope.ed.gov/security/Index.aspx>), shooting incidents are an increasingly common occurrence on college campuses in the United States

**Whereas**, according to data provided by the Violence Policy Center (<http://www.vpc.org/studies/justifiable15.pdf>), the vast majority of concealed carry shooting incidents are not related to self-defense and often involve accidental discharges and suicide attempts

**Whereas**, according to academic studies, the perceived presence of handguns in academic buildings creates an atmosphere of psychological and emotional stress that negatively affects the overall learning environment on the campus (see, for instance, "Packing Heat: Attitudes Regarding Concealed Weapons on College Campuses" [Patten, Thomas, & Wada; *American Journal of Criminal Justice* 38:551-69])

**Now, therefore be it resolved**, that Faculty Senate of Prairie View A&M University calls upon the upper administration of said university to:

Use the legal and political resources of the institution to challenge Texas Senate Bill 11 through the court system and through all legal political means, possibly in conjunction with the similar efforts of other universities, with the intention of either decreasing the scope of its provisions for allowing concealed weapons in college building or repealing the legislation altogether