

STC Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Members present:

Bruce Griffiths, Nathan England, Sandra Ledesma, Bill Carter, Bill Greene, Eric Reittinger, Mark Murray, Roy Escaname, Francisco Ortiz, Richard Smith, Aaron Smith, Proxy Tim Weber for Linda Jackson, Veronica Dominguez, Khalid Salmani, Mehrzad Mahmoudian- Geller, Lyudmyla Dickinson, Iris Jasso, Reynaldo Jasso, Proxy Mr. Reyes for Laura Salas, Proxy Jesus Amaya for Margarita Vangeulova, Steve Miller, Sharon Rice, Darnel Miller

Faculty/Guest present: Diane Teter guest on-line, Benito Garza, Laura Nunn, Amadita Zamora, Shannon Perales, Juan C. Gaytan, Joseph ? online Weslaco, Bryana Online Weslaco, Andres Garza

Meeting called to Order at 4:00 pm by Vice President: Bruce Griffith

President's Report by Vice President Bruce Griffith

Welcome

- 1. Faculty Senate Presentation:** Faculty Senate executive committee introduced themselves to the Board of Trustees in the January 29th meeting. Purpose was to create communication between FS and Board of Trustees. Went very well. Warm welcome.
- 2. FS break out session during OPOD report-** Good turn out with lots of questions and interest from new faculty wanting to get involved.
- 3. Policies 4901/4904 Standards of conduct/employee complaint procedures update:** During Friday's PDC meeting facilitated by Dr. Reed and most VPs/Deans also in attendance a Dr. Plumber presided. The PDC agenda included 4901 and 4904 as well as Policy 6320 (Prohibition of Drugs and Alcohol on Campus). 6320 is of concern due to needed instructional uses of alcohol in culinary arts (wine and food pairings and cooking) and natural sciences (lab experiments) as well as severely limiting scholarship/donor fundraiser events.
- 4. QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) survey for SACS update:** A survey will be released on the FS Bb website from March 1-26th to those who have not already taken the survey during PDC or PAS emails. There will be topics (10) to choose from for improvement at STC. Please look for this survey and respond.
- 5. Faculty Satisfaction Survey update**

Survey was sent out to all faculty and tabulations are now being done by RAS. Survey will be strictly quantitative data this year. The survey was posted to the FS Bb website from 12-4-18 to 1-31-19 for FS review as well as reviewed by a committee composed of FS, RAS, and Dr. Petrosian.

Quorum not met

Old Business

6. Faculty Senate Elections update - Mark Murray

This February meeting is when the elections are to be announced according to constitution process. Starting next week emails will be sent so far FS emails will be allowed to go through as part of the general e-mails. Fourth through the 22nd will be available to send in nominations. Nathan England questions if there has been a decision made about the past president issue of there not being one in the upcoming fiscal year. Mark Murray stated the constitution committee has not come up with any recommendations as there are currently nothing of this nature written in the constitution. This question was raised by Nathan England because elections will be occurring and wondered if this can occur without this issue being resolved and because the constitution says we have to have 5 executive members. Mark Murray further stated that the Constitution says we have to have a president elect, a president, secretary, past president and past president does not vote but breaks a tie. Information was sent to the constitution committee and there has been no recommendations provided to make changes. This information was shared with committee since December via e-mail. There will be no past president because Diane Teter is retiring this May 2019. There was a suggestion that either have an election to have past president who wasn't a president or have someone who was like a parliamentarian. Nathan England commented that the biggest issues in essence is to ensure that we have the five officers. A question asked was if past presidents can be polled to see if one of them can step in. This does occur and a presidential election takes place. Suggestions must be made to the committee and would have to vote in favor of this. Mark Murray will resend the suggestions and about appointing a new past president or parliamentary will add to that if a previous past president can come back to fill in and that is asking them to serve another two years.

Recap election to begin Monday March 4th and end Friday March 22nd due to Spring Break in between. It's a typical 2 week of nominations and then calling people to verify if they accept the nomination and then April 1st through April 12th giving it time to receive election data back and having the final vote for the last meeting of the semester.

7. Active Shooter/Crisis report for FS/STC Police OPOD break-out sessions in February – Roy Escaname and/or Bill Greene

Roy Escaname thanks Mr. Varvil for the role he played in this break out session and his presentation. 233 signed up to the sessions. Both sessions were a good turnout. First session was full and the second have was half full. Mr. Varvil did mention that the Student Union room where it was held had a 400 person capacity but the computer sign up only indicated that only 150 people could sign up. An exact count has not been provided yet.

Bill Greene also commented registration was cut off at 150. Mark Murray also stated he went and had not pre-registered and was told the section was closed and there was still seating available. This will be looked into seeing that there were still available spots for attendees. Evaluations are still pending from professional development but positive comments were received from the people present at the session.

New Business

8. Emotional Support Dogs in classrooms – Veronica Dominguez

This issue came up in the math department and thought it was a concern because there is no policy for emotional support animals only service dogs under the ADA federal laws. Spoke with Sandra Ledesma about emotional support dogs and stated there is a registry for service dogs. Bruce Griffith suggested this was something that could be handled through the ADA department. Mark Murray suggested the then Veterans affairs group may want to be involved when a policy is created. This issue is to be referred to the ADA office. What is the process? Who is in charge? Were questions asked and Veronica Dominguez had spoken to Santa Pena about this issue and Veronica will reach out again and bring back further information in the next meeting.

9. Student Confusion of 2 North Academic Buildings on Pecan Campus (G & P) – Mario Lopez

Attended prior meeting and wanted to inform the senate of the confusion students have had and have with two buildings identified as North Academics and if something could be done about this issue. Suggestion is to remove North Academics off of building G. This would be an issue to be addressed with George McAllob. Rick Reittinger will send him an e-mail on this issue and what can be done about it.

10. Departmental online discussions counting as college service hours – Bill Carter

This topic is tabled and to be brought back up next meeting seeing as policy and descriptors of professional development does not include e-mail discussions on content and how to measure the time spent back and forth. Suggestion by Laura Nunn is to hold these discussions through blackboard so it will keep an accurate time of the time spent on discussions with the possible issue of when individual walks away from the conversation and still logged on.

Others?

11. Senate Roll Call- Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2019 meeting; Sandra Ledesma

Quorum Met

Approval of Minutes for January 29th FS meeting with corrections.

Mark Murray motions

Roy Escaname seconds the motion

Motion carried

12. Other:

-Mehrzad Mahmoudian-Geller represented the FS at the Academic Calendar committee meeting and the proposed draft on the frequently asked questions draft that will be posted on blackboard and requesting everyone to review and provide written feedback by April 1st deadline

so it can be compiled and submitted to the committee chair. Suggestions to be e-mailed to Mehrzad.

-Tim Weber questioned on the revised letter Frank was working on for the Kinesiology committee that he sent to Diane Teter and posted on blackboard for further discussion in this meeting. And wondered if this happened or not. Bruce Griffith tabled the question to check blackboard and Frank stated it may have not been posted on blackboard for discussion. Diane Teter confirmed it was not posted on blackboard.

-Aaron on the committee for Marketable skills initiative. Are there any concerns or questions he should bring up to the committee? This is coming from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board 60 x 30. Each program is to identify 35 skills that are marketable in coordination with the stakeholders such as transfer programs and workforce. Each program would have 5-6 marketable skills.

Meeting Adjourned 4:37 p.m.

Mark Murray motioned

Erick Reittinger second the motion

Motion carried