

Faculty Senate
November 20th, 2015
Delta Center, Second Floor Board Room
3:00 p.m.

In attendance: Greg Phillips, Julie Isaacson, Claudia Benavides, Sam Pae, Richard Segall, John Beineke, Julie Grady, Mitch Holifield, Loretta McGregor, Claire Abernathy, Kyle Chandler, Bill Rowe, Nikesha Nesbitt, Win Bridges, Mary Donaghy, Warren Johnson, April Sheppard, Pradeep Mishra, Larz Roberts, Larry Morton, Bob Bennett, Jeff Jenness, Bruce Johnson, Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Suzanne Melescue.

Julie Grady proxy for Ryan Kelly. Julie Isaacson proxy for Brinda McKinney.

Meeting called to order by President Phillips at 3:00 pm.

President Phillips announced Math & Sciences appointed Bob Bennett as a senator, completing their slate. We are still waiting on one more election in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Approval of minutes of November 6th, 2015

President Phillips announced that Bruce Johnson substituted for Claudia Benavides at that meeting as secretary and that change will be reflected.

Mitch Holifield noted an additional change to be made. He did not use (or did not mean to have used) the word "trained." He would like to change the word to "support" instead. This is on page 2 of the meeting minutes, 3rd page of the handout.

With no more changes suggested, Larz Roberts moves to approve the minutes and Bob Bennett seconded it. 22 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Old Business

SGOC proposals

- 15 FA 04, Modification of A-State System Intellectual Property Policy

One of our lawyers, Katie Prescott, and one of our senators, Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, made a presentation at the last meeting. Changes were minor editorial changes, not substantive changes in the policy. Fabricio made a motion to accept the revised policy, Jeff Jenness seconds. 26 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 against.

- 15 FA 06, Changes in Section II, Faculty Handbook

Motion to accept changes to 15 FA 06 by Julie Isaacson, Pradeep Mishra seconds. No discussion was held. In favor 26, opposed 0, abstentions 0.

- 15 FA 07, Changes in Section III, Faculty Handbook

Motion to accept by Julie Isaacson, seconded by Pradeep Mishra. No discussion was held. 26 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Faculty Senate Memo to Provost Cooksey

The memo which President Phillips was asked to forward to Dr. Cooksey is included in the meeting package. The memo was sent last week after receiving feedback from the senate members and making a small addition to the memo.

Policy on Harassment in relation to Yik Yak

Yik Yak is a system that can be used to harass faculty anonymously. The university has a policy on harassment. There is one paragraph devoted to harassment in general, then 2 pages of policy on sexual harassment. We have to be careful about what we call sexual harassment, as opposed to plain harassment. In what President Phillips has been reading regarding Yik Yak he found that most of the instances of Yik Yak are plain harassment. Seems like the university policy is not clear regarding how to deal with plain harassment.

Loretta McGregor: It is almost like our policy acknowledges regarding plain harassment (not sexual harassment) and procedures about it. She suggests making a recommendation to expand the existing policy on harassment. Dr. McGregor, Julie Isaacson, April Sheppard and Fabricio Medina-Bolivar agreed to serve on the ad-hoc committee to review the policy.

Mary Donaghy suggests contacting Dr. Rebecca Barrett-Fox as she is doing research on this realm.

President Phillips also recommended contacting Lori Winn with respect to personnel policies. Dr. Pratt mentioned the Faculty Handbook is not the only handbook on policy. It would be good for the Faculty Handbook to point to these other policies like the System Handbook.

Fabricio Medina-Bolivar mentioned someone was already looking at creating an ad hoc committee looking into this very topic. Loretta McGregor mentioned it was Rebecca Barrett-Fox and the faculty senate ad-hoc committee will get in touch with her about it.

New Business:

SGOC proposals

- 15 FA 08, Changes in New Section IV, Faculty Handbook

We do not have to vote on it today, we can vote on it at our next meeting in early December. This will be on December 4th, and then we will resume again in January, the 3rd week of January as the first week is still holiday. This is what is anticipated unless there is some emergency that requires us to meet.

Please share with your faculty constituents so we can vote on this on December 4h.

Mitch Holifield asks if according to the handbook we have to vote on this December 4th or if we can roll it over to the January meeting. President Phillips stated we will delay if there are major issues. The reason Mitch Holifield is bringing it up is because there are significant changes to this and the time line will only have 1 week after Thanksgiving to present this to our

constituents. President Phillips will still ask the senate to address this on the 4th and will request a continuance if there are any sticky issues.

Wilson Awards Committee

There is a conflict of interest among one of the members of the committee, so the request is made for volunteers to replace our conflict of interest. April Sheppard volunteered.

Proposed changes in commencement

We have a commencement coming up December 12th, but there has been discussion to modify our participation to enhance the presence of faculty at the commencement. As of now, the past president carries the mace, the current president makes remarks on behalf of the faculty and introduces the speaker. One point of discussion was to honor some of our Achievement Award winning faculty by inviting them to make the remarks. That would give us a pool of people to make commencement remarks and keep it fresh for students, and it will give an opportunity to recognize our outstanding faculty.

Other:

Grades will start to roll early into the system this semester (December 10th). If you input your grades early and need to make a change after December 10th you will have to process a change of grade.

Committee Reports:

Education & Technology Committee - Steve Bounds

In the spirit of shared governance we wanted to bring you up to date on what the committee is talking about. In the September, October and November meetings the committee discussed Blackboard, and to survey faculty that may be willing to participate in an open discussion about improving Blackboard to impact faculty teaching and student learning. We encourage you as the senate to encourage faculty to participate in this open survey.

Warren Johnson: Are we locked into a long term contract with Blackboard?

Henry Torres: We have a 3 year contract, but it is revisable.

Academic Finance Committee

Mitch Holifield: I represent the Senate on the Academic Finance Committee. I will ask co-member Henry Torres to briefly describe what it is going on with that committee

Henry Torres: We presented a proposal to manage print services on campus. Our previous vendor failed. We are looking at another vendor now, they are working with Xerox. They allow individual departments, colleges, and areas to select their printers of choice, but they made a recommendation. They found we have 0.88 printers for each full time employee. So, about 1600 printers on campus. We are the second worst organization they have ever done, they have only done 1 more organization that has 1.2 printers per person. We currently have a 5

feet walking distance per person to retrieve print outs and they recommend 25-30 ft. They also recommend having 1 printer per 6 people instead a 1:1 ratio. These are recommendations, and they will make an official recommendation in July. You would get to keep your printer if you need to.

Loretta McGregor: Let's say we all willingly to give up our printers and the cost is reduced significantly in our department. Would our department get to keep those funds?

Henry Torres: It will be put back into the college and the college will decide how to use those funds.

John Pratt: The cost of printing comes out of operation budget, so it will remain in that college's operating budget.

Mitch Holifield: An incentive is that you utilize the money as a department as the department sees fit.

Suzanne Melescue: We will save money on printers, but paper and toner will still cost the same if it is shared by the same amount of faculty.

Henry Torres: All the department will be responsible for is the paper. The toner and printer will be in printing management solutions.

John Pratt: Also, the cost for toner for smaller printers is higher than for larger shared printers.

Henry Torres: In this proposal they provide an employee for 3 months on campus and be available for troubleshooting 8 to 5.

Motion to adjourn Julie Isaacson. Seconded by acclamation at 3:47.

Submitted by Claudia Benavides, Secretary of the Faculty Senate