

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2007

Call to Order: Gay Mills, President, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Senators Present: Gay Mills, Scott Beckett, Margie Waguespack, Mindy Adams, Steve Beckham, Mike Bellah, Nancy Brent, Karla Dixon, Ann Hamblin for Judy Isbell, Judy Jackman, Lana Jackson, Micheal Kopenits, Aimee Martin, Mark Rowh for Jan Martin, Sheree Talkington, Lil Withrow

Senators Absent: Larry Adams, D'dee Grove, Bob Mathews, Henry Wyckoff

Visitors: Carroll M. Forrester, Elizabeth Bauman

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 12 were approved as written.

SGA Report: Elizabeth Bauman, SGA President, updated the Senate on SGA activities, including a Peruvian jazz performance scheduled for Feb. 19th.

Guest: Becky Easton

Becky updated the Senate on the progress of myAC and shared usage statistics (number of log-ins, hits, etc.). Becky said that new myAC features were being tested and that if faculty are interested in keeping and using tools such as Faculty Workstation, Course Designer and Content Authoring, Student Tracking, Attendance Sheet, and Assessment Tool, they should let Linda Hendricks know. Becky also noted that there will continue to be training for myAC and its features. She encouraged faculty to contact her with any myAC questions or concerns.

President's Report

Gay Mills, Senate President

Gay reported on the recent Board of Regents meeting and thanked senators for attending. She noted that Dr. Jones "went to bat" for the 1% increase for employees. Gay also shared a handout created by Sharon Doggett in response to senators' questions at the last meeting. Gay also encouraged senators to attend the Faculty Senate "Best Practices" meeting at the TCCTA convention on Feb. 23.

Committee Reports

Salary Committee: Scott Beckett reported on his committee's presentation to Dr. Jones, noting that Dr. Jones said he'd like to see a 4% salary increase for faculty. Dr. Jones also would like senators to examine the steps system since long-term employees become "stepped out." Senators discussed the possibility of increasing the number of steps to remedy this situation.

Technology Committee: No report

Faculty Development: Mike Kopenits reported on “COINS,” new meetings on Friday in which departments will share professional development ideas. These meetings will be between 11:45-1:00 and include a light lunch. Mike noted that ACTS was scheduled for May 16-19 and that applications would be going out soon, to be due before Spring Break.

Courtesy Committee: Lil Withrow reported on cards sent out and senators signed a card for Dr. Jones.

Professor Emeritus Committee: Scott Beckett introduced some candidates’ names and senators noted that more information was needed on the candidates before a decision could be reached. Margie Waguespack moved that Scott email more information to senators and then senators could vote on a candidate by email. Sheree Talkington seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mead Award Committee: Ann Hamblin for Judy Isbell noted that the committee was working on the nomination process.

Questions Committee: Judy Jackman shared a question about snow/ice piled up on parking lots, handicapped lots, and handicapped ramps. The question noted that during recent snowstorms, snow was piled on some student/staff parking lots, decreasing parking space, and that snow and ice were not cleared from handicapped lots and ramps, causing both complaints and at least one accident involving a handicapped student hitting snow on a ramp and falling out of a wheelchair. The question asked why snow couldn’t be cleared from these areas in a timely manner. Judy said she would follow up on this question.

Old Business:

Faculty Survey: Margie Waguespack introduced the edited faculty survey for Senate approval. Scott Beckett moved to approve it, Steve Beckham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. This survey will be available as an online link to all faculty.

Pro-Rate Committee: Mike Bellah reported that he had scheduled a meeting with Dr. Paul Matney to find out AC policy on pro-rating online courses.

West Campus Parking: Sheree Talkington said that she had pursued the issue of restricted parking on the West Campus but had not been able to get any restrictions removed. Senators suggested that she encourage West Campus department heads to meet with the AC Police Dept.

New Business:

Sheree Talkington reported on a significant phone problem on the West Campus, noting that often faculty and staff cannot make calls and that they are not receiving all their calls, causing problems communicating with students and others. Apparently, there are not enough phone lines to accommodate the West Campus's growth.

Margie Waguespack reported on Governor Rick Perry's new education proposal that would mandate standardized exit exams for Texas colleges and universities. She noted the damage to the academic environment this could cause (i.e. having to "teach to a test") and encouraged senators to watch for a letter being sent around by Dwight Huber and Mary Dodson to register concern.

Adjournment: 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 2, 3:00 p.m., West Campus, Allied Health Building, Room 100B