

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 2, 2020

Oak Room

Members Present	Amanda Lester-Chisum, President Donald Abel, Vice President Robin Malone, Secretary Simone Buys, Parliamentarian Lavon Barrett Fiona Denge Bernardino (JR) Gonzales Connie Haskins(proxy Sarah Uselding) Bill Netherton Ray Newburg Camille Nies Janie Lane Dave Van Domelen Walter Webb
Members Absent	Brant Davis Bob Gustin Sabera Muna
Guests	DR. PAUL L. PROFFER, AC BOARD OF REGENTS

Topics	Discussion/Information	Actions/Decisions Recommendations/Timelines
Call to Order	President Amanda Lester-Chisum called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.	<i>NOTE: Meeting held in Oak Room</i>
Approval of Minutes	Approval of 9/4/2020 meeting minutes.	MOTION TO APPROVE: Dave Van Domelen SECOND: Symone Buys YEA: All

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		NAY: None
President's Report	<p>Discussed internet and broadband access concerns for students. Madam President met with Dr. Lowery-Hart about his meeting with Senator Kel Seliger. Dr. Lowery-Hart. We are encouraged to send letters to our congressional leadership. Poor internet connection is due to the need for infrastructure and government funding in our area. It may make a difference if all of us sent letters.</p> <p>Madam President asked that the following tweet from Kel Seliger dated 9/14/2020 be included in Senate minutes:</p> <p style="color: #A52A2A;">I've joined more than 80 colleagues in sending a letter to Governor @GregAbbott_TX with our suggestions and recommendations for a statewide broadband plan that ensures our rural communities aren't left behind as our economy continues to expand online. pic.twitter.com/WgRFDW5OPY</p> <p>links to contact Panhandle Congressional Leadership</p> <p>Governor Greg Abbott https://gov.texas.gov/</p> <p>Senator Kel Seliger https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=Rif7zvBHsEy7kqDAvLNkpwMN6rlds5b2kZY6J0u9MZQ6XzpfOpKK5eHqguXq0CQANI</p>	<p>MOTION TO ADD ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO FACULTY SURVEY: Camille Nies SECOND: Bill Netherton YEA: All NAY: None</p>

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	<p>puk4LzzNkrHkCl2y0%2F924xRU7bQHEjOnw6fDpClcDf2X1tMexk3LyvDPA&lang=en</p> <p>State Congressman Four Price</p> <p>https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=87&session=86</p> <p>U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry https://thornberry.house.gov/contact/</p> <p>Discussed the importance of faculty evaluations being a meaningful process. Discussed and voted on possible additional questions to add to faculty survey.</p> <p>Discussed COVID procedures and protocol. Will have speaker from Physical Plant as a guest at November 2020 meeting</p>	
Vice President's Report	No Report	
Secretary's Report	No Report	
Parliamentarian's Report	No Report	
Guest Report(s)	Dr. Paul L. Proffer, AC Board of Regents, met with Faculty Senate regarding the Badger Athletic Study. This meeting with Faculty Senate was his first step in sharing the finding of this study with the AC family. Dr. Proffer will host a Townhall soon which will provide a	

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	forum for discussion and questions on the Badger Athletic Study. Additionally, there will be more conversations in the coming months. The conversation with Senate was a robust one. Major topics of discussion included: not losing sight of Maria; the reasoning behind the study; cost; timing and timeline; housing for athletes; recruitment; concern regarding possible impact on other program budgets; enrollment comparison and discussion surrounding the impact athletics could have on enrollment; other community colleges with athletic programs; importance of transparency in moving forward; emphasis on maintaining AC's academic rigor; level of engagement thus far and the need for continued engagement with AC family.	
Questions	Discussed questions received and responses. See Faculty Senate Questions Committee Report.	
Elections	No Report	
Legislative	No Report	
Professor Emeritus Award	No Report	
Faculty Committee Appointments	Discussed concerns regarding the full utilization of the Standing Committees in the campus-wide decision-making process	
Mead Award	No Report	

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Technology	Working with Senate Secretary to make sure all necessary resources are added to Google Drive. Tasks identified in September 2020 meeting are ongoing.	
Faculty Survey	Developing goals and the strategic plan of the committee.	
Hospitality	Committee will continue to identify ways to provide hospitality during meetings in light of pandemic.	
Instructional Technology	Working with secretary to ensure all necessary resources are added to Faculty Senate Google Drive. Tasks identified in September 2020 meeting are ongoing.	
Courtesy	Stressed the importance of supporting faculty and staff in times of sickness and bereavement.	
New Business	Discussed attendance at recent meeting of Board of Regents. Madam President attended the meeting held on September 22, 2020. Brant Davis will attend the meeting scheduled for October 27, 2020.	
Unfinished Business	Some discussion about COVID impact on department. Senators will go back to their departments and talk to colleagues about concerns and suggestions they have related to effectively teaching during the pandemic.	
Updates and Announcements	(Discussion of various points, with alterations)	

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Meeting Adjournment	Next meeting scheduled for: November 6, 2020 Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm.	MOTION TO ADJOURN: Ray Newburg SECOND: Dave Van Domelen YEA: All NAY: None
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Recorder: Robin R. Malone, Associate Professor, Senator STEM

September 2020 QUESTIONS

Report for Faculty Senate Meeting on 10/2/2020

1. I keep hearing about the "Covid-19 Task Force" as in "The COVID-19 Task Force has approved the following policies and procedures for the fall start of classes." I appreciate the difficult work this task force has had to do. However, what faculty representation is on this task force? What real input has faculty had in any of these major decisions that will impact all of us in a huge way?

[Response from Becky Burton, Associate Vice President of Academic Services, as provided to her by Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President]

Initially, the task force was those dealing with front door and frontline issues and we didn't want to burden faculty who were taking a heavy lift especially over the summer. As our relationship with COVID has changed, the task force should probably change as well and we will be extending an invitation to the senate president to join that group.

2. The school was given 4.7 million to deal with the pandemic crisis. I know that half was supposed to go directly to students in some way, but that still leaves 2.35 million. However, when we ask for cameras, etc., to do what we've been asked to do in the fall, we're told there isn't money for those kinds of expenditures. So then, here's my question: How is that money being spent? [Since I first submitted this question from a faculty member, in July, we have been supplied with cameras, but in the English dept. anyway, they were given to us at the very last minute, and we had been told that we weren't getting them and would have to use the cameras on our personal laptops.]

[Response from Becky Burton, Associate Vice President of Academic Services, as provided to her by Cara Crowley, Vice President Strategic Initiatives]

Amarillo College received two funding streams of the CARES Act stimulus funds.

1. CARES Act stimulus funding for Student Emergency Aid: Currently being distributed through the Advocacy & Resource Center and Office of Financial Aid. As of 9/23/2020, AC has awarded nearly \$1.6 million of the \$2,397,197 award. Funds were awarded to support student needs regarding housing and food insecurities, utilities, healthcare, mental healthcare, and school related needs (technology, academic supplies, etc.).
2. CARES Act stimulus funding for Amarillo College: AC was awarded \$2,397,197 to support lost revenue due to enrollment decreases. When comparing Fall 2020 to Fall 2019, AC enrollment has decreased 7.99%; contact hours decreased 7.39%; and credit hours have decreased 7.79% (as of 9/23/2020).

[Response from Becky Burton, Associate Vice President of Academic Services, as provided by Shane Hepler, Chief Information Services]

America is operating under a technology shortage since the majority of business and educational facilities moved to remote environment. AC submitted technology orders, including cameras, to multiple vendors beginning in March. Yet, the majority of these orders were either canceled or delayed for up to 6 months. As of August 15, classroom cameras were installed and/or updated across the

institution. If a faculty and/or staff member need a camera for their computer, please submit a request to ITS support. <https://www.actx.edu/its/support>

3. Has AC instituted a "Privacy Policy," as other schools have done? If we're going to be broadcasting our classes, students need to be informed that everything they say in class or at home is being broadcast and possibly recorded and it could wind up on social media. For many classes, this wouldn't matter, but for Psych, English, Speech, and several other classes, it could be a very real potential problem. Also, some students at home might not like their kids being recorded, even if they just wandered into the room. We need to have students sign a permission agreement and faculty need to be trained how to broadcast their classes, so the content doesn't get posted on some social media site.

[Response from Becky Burton, Associate Vice President of Academic Services]

We are happy to consider such a policy and possibly add it to the syllabus. We would ask that you draft something and send it us for consideration to be vetted by our legal counsel. Some info on our virtual platforms:

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra: only the presenter/faculty member can record a session

Zoom: Everyone has a record button, but when the student clicks on the button a message pops up that says they have to request it from the host (faculty).

4. I want to ask if it is possible for faculty and staff to receive weekly or bi-weekly updates on how many students, faculty and staff have tested positive for Coronavirus. I am not suggesting we get a list of names --- but just some internal numbers report that indicates where Amarillo College is at numbers wise in terms of reported positive cases among students, faculty and staff.

[Response from Becky Burton, Associate Vice President of Academic Services]

That information is currently published: <https://www.actx.edu/hr/notification-of-positive-cases> Scroll to the bottom to see specific numbers. A dashboard is being created by IT and that link will be sent out when it is complete.

5. Since AC will be developing a new performance review system and process for faculty performance reviews, I wanted to ask if faculty will actually be involved in this? There is a standing Faculty Evaluation Committee that is supposed to be involved in just such a process, and its description says that faculty on this committee will "monitor the Merit Pay process and make recommendations to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for revisions."

Committee Assignments 10

Committee Assignments 2019-2020

*Faculty Evaluation Committee

The purpose of this committee is to monitor the Merit Pay process and make recommendations to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for revisions.

Membership will consist of representatives from faculty with tenure or tenure-track status from the following areas or groups. Three members must be department chair and/or program coordinators or directors. Members will serve three-year rotating terms. A student

representative will also be appointed annually by the Director of Student Life. Ex-Officio members will include a representative from the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Institutional Research.

The committee will consist of 9 representatives from the divisions/groups as follows:

§ 2 – Liberal Arts

§ 2–STEM

§ 1 – Technical Education

§ 2 – Health Sciences

§ 1 – Academic Success

§ 1 – Academic Outreach & Support

The committee will meet as called.

[Response from Dr. Tamara Clunis, Vice President Academic Affairs]

The faculty evaluation committee will have input in shaping the faculty evaluation tool and administration process. Cheryl Jones solicited feedback from the VPAA office about the general framework of the tool. She met with Amanda Lester-Chisum and reviewed the document with her. The next step is to meet with the faculty evaluation committee. Based upon the feedback from faculty about the performance evaluation tool developed for merit pay, the VPAA leadership will want to work with faculty and HR to develop a simpler tool. This is one of the reasons the evaluation process was delayed for FY20.

6. In light of recent survey comments as to the lack of shared governance, when will faculty be able to evaluate chairs and deans? This was once routine. What happened?

[Response from Dr. Tamara Clunis, Vice President Academic Affairs]

I agree that faculty should have the opportunity to evaluate the chairs and deans in the same way you have the opportunity to evaluate me each year. We are fortunate to have strong leadership for the HR division with Cheryl Jones. I will reach out to her immediately to begin the conversation. Hopefully, I can provide an update on this at the next all-faculty meeting.