

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

March 6, 2020

1:00pm–2:30pm

Attendees: Dr. W.Y. Chan, Dr. Joan Brumm, Dr. Craig Nakashian, Dr. Jan Murdock, Dr. Ben Neuman, Dr. Del Doughty, Dr. David Yells, Dr. Joe Burzynski, Dr. Peter Racheotes, Dr. Sarah Lawrence, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Gaynell Green, Dr. Rebecca Cooper, Dr. Kathy Lease, Dr. Trisha Ray, Dr. Drew Morton, Dr. Mohamed Morsy, Jeff Hinton.

I. Call to order

II. VPAA Report..... Dr. David Yells

1. Dr. Cutrer is in Houston recruiting at a High School.
2. ReUP a re-engagement service – we started using their services 1 year ago. We are going to disengage from the company and do it on our own, in house.
3. Coronavirus – we need to be prepared to move our operations on-line if campus gets shutdown. Start thinking about how you will transition your course online so as to not shutdown blackboard by everyone trying to submit at once. IT is creating a list of faculty mentors who can help with this transition. Dr. Yells will also send out information on blackboard help.
4. Chancellor Sharp put aside an undetermined amount of money for regional institutions to utilize to increase enrollment. New student in the door initiative. Two week turnaround. Targeting students in Dallas High School group. The plan is to offer 4 sections of a freshman humanities course on campus for 3 weeks during the summer. And try to cater the course to their areas of interest. Doing it free of charge, if we get the funds from this source. Hope is we will get these students to enroll that attend. Who will teach is yet to be determined. A lot of faculty can teach it.

III. Finance & Coronavirus UpdateJeff Hinton

1. Coronavirus – we have a group locally preparing for it along with the state. System has been very active in preparing. Weekly calls for the state to address it. Business continuity plans are in place for every department across campus.
2. Jill Whittington– international travel is shut down currently for TAMUS. Currently there is not a ban on domestic travel. Personal travel internationally will be tracked starting next week, so it can be monitored and based off the CDC threat level management. Students also need to report their travel plans to Carl Greig, please help with this. The new staff member of environmental health and safety office is coming in from Qatar, he will be self-quarantined for 14 days. Dr. Allard recommended an automatic message in blackboard for student travel.
3. Presentation on Net Operating Reserves as of Feb 7, 2020. We are required to have enough reserves to meet 4.8 months of reserve. FY 2019 we were at 2.7. What happened to dwindle our

reserves? Reserves are funded through accounts we receive throughout the year and any funds leftover. FY15 our lake was redone, built a soccer field, recruiting company we utilized, built the Patterson Student Center. Jeff's projection for end of FY20 is that we will be less than we are currently. Due to labs being build, cafeteria expansion, student life, international studies. We have \$7.43M. Money also builds from reserves itself through interest.

4. Second presentation – Facilities Assessment & Planning. The company Sightlines came in and reviewed our campus to see what the condition of our campus is and what to expect for upkeep costs. Identified needs by structure – identified need over the next 10 years within existing assets = \$16.7M. Excluding new construction, only 22% of needs fall within the next 3 years. HVAC system in BLV is not connected to central plant. They are all on top of the building, we have spent a lot of money working on them yearly. The installation was less than standard. To solve the problem, it is predicted that it will cost \$1M to connect to central plant. It will save in the long run. Last year maintenance was \$130,000. It will take a few months to accomplish it, start in spring and work through summer.
5. 1.5 years we will start paying on the Patterson Student Center, which will be \$38,000 a month (estimate).
6. Dr. Murdock asks if it's responsible for us to build another new building. Dr. Matthews asks the same thing. Jeff answers, do you look at the new building to draw people in or just be conservative.
7. Major projects –Jeff will send it out for what is expected in the next 1-3 years.
8. Nothing new outside of the reserve is being paid except the new construction in first floor and the labs.

III. Approval of Minutes (February 7, 2020).....Dr. David Allard

1. Approved unanimously.

V. President of Faculty Senate ReportDr. David Allard

- I. Dr. Allard and Dr. Nakashian met with leadership last week. Main thing discussed was the grant for the summer bridge program. Have been invited to the final meeting. Doug went as well and was able to contribute to the meeting.
- II. Dr. Nakashian – plans bring up to the administration about morale. Are they aware that faculty morale is not at a highpoint and what do they want to do about it?

IV. Consent Agenda Items

1. Kelly Coke resubmitted her proposal for funding. She made a change by proposing to do a workshop for faculty on whatever she learned. Dr. Nakashian – motion. Murdock – second. Dr. Murdock asks if it is approved, will the money be reimbursed to her. Yes. Vote – For 3, Against 4. Motion does not carry.

V. Committee Reports and Business Items

a) Curriculum Committee

No meeting yet. Provost, Dr. Yells, has asked them to look at assessment practices and faculty evaluations, he is asking the Senate what they would like to do. Dr. Julien suggests creating a new committee because he did not ask the curriculum committee to serve in that way. Dr. Julien will sit on the chair of an assessment committee. Dr. Nakashian suggests a core curriculum committee instead. Dr. Morsy proposes doing two committees. Dr. Sikorski asks, what are we going to actually do with assessment if we bring it back? Dr. Julien says we can do it in a way that we can use it and help the programs. It was determined a new committee called Core Curriculum Assessment Committee will be created and chaired by Dr. Julien; Dr. Julien will write what the charge will be and propose it at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

b) Education Technology – will develop guidelines about what the money is to be used for. Currently reviewing the possible learning management systems for when Blackboard contract runs out. Brightspace looks good. This month they are reviewing Canvas. Plan in the fall to have each vendor come and show everyone.

c) Academic Standards – see email from Dr. Morton.

d) Academic Rules and Procedures – Dr. Yells is holding off on the workload document until he talks to the deans. April – annual performance reviews, investigating them.

e) FRED - two proposals; no on both. Kelly will resubmit for research on that particular topic. FRED also needs to review their guidelines for funding.

f) Faculty Status – no report.

g) Budget Committee – no report.

VI. New Business

1. Dr. Jan Murdock - Clarification on process of committees (FRED/Distance ED) – if they approve an application and the funds are there, why does it come to the senate for a final approval. Dr. Allard - All actions of a subcommittee come to the senate because it is the overseeing body.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: April 3, 2020