

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2022

UC 251 and over Zoom

Senators and Invited Guests: Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. Melinda Arnold, Dr. Corrine Hinton, Dr. Brian Matthews (absent), Dr. Craig Nakashian, Dr. Brian Billings, Dr. Vikram Bhadauria (Zoom), Dr. Joy Cooper (Zoom), Dr. Rebeca Cooper, Dr. Kelly Cordray (Zoom), Dr. Sheila Moore, Dr. Lisa Myers, Dr. James Nguyen (Zoom), Dr. Godpower Okereke, Dr. Sebastian Schmidl (Zoom), Dr. Faycal Znidi (Zoom), Dr. Joe Burzynski, Ms. Jana Boatright (Zoom)

- I. Call to Order at 1:33 pm.....Dr. Corrine Hinton
- II. President's Report.....Dr. Emily Cutrer
 - Athletic updates:
 - First cross-country meet Sept 9 at 6:00 pm
 - Eleven softball players named scholar-athletes
 - First women's volleyball match Sept 13
 - Veteran's Services won a recognition award for excellence
 - Enroll is down 2% in overall headcount; SCH flat
 - Continuing graduate students up a bit; down in continuing undergraduates
 - Data will be disaggregated and examined to discover causes and trends
 - Largest Freshmen class ever; thirty or so students being housed at Comfort Suites
 - University Advancement events are back; Women for A&M raised \$170k
 - Homecoming is October 22nd; Alumni Association will be hosting a tailgate
 - Encourage students to approach Financial Aid for help with tuition/fees
 - We are part of a cohort (funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) to study why students do not stay enrolled
 - Question- are we investigating a new dorm? Answer- our waitlist is not large enough to build one, but we are investigating private apartments near campus
- III. Provost and VPAA's Report.....Dr. Melinda Arnold
 - Office for Teaching and Faculty Advancement (OTAFAs) is partially funded for Spring at \$40,000; applied for a Title 3 grant to support it for five years
 - Funds for summer stipends for academic department chairs secured at \$4000 for the summer; will hope to finalize Spring schedules in summer
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 05/13/2022.....Dr. Corrine Hinton
 - Dr. Billings moved; Dr. Moore seconded. Minutes approved 12-0-1
- V. Guest Invitees
 - a. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Updates....Ms. Kathryn Montgomery

- We are building a framework for DEIB work. Our model will be the AAC&U Inclusive Excellence and we will utilize standard definitions current in DEIB field.
 - 1- Recruiting diverse students/faculty/staff
 - 2- Retaining diverse students/faculty/staff
 - 3- Rewards/recognition
 - 4- Training
 - 5- Developing a culture of inclusion

- b. Registrar's Office: Drop WithdrawalsMs. Jana Boatright
 - New proposed Drop/Withdraw process (w/attachment) would automate student initiating course drops (replaces manual process)
 - Concerns raised relating to whether students will know all financial/curricular implications of dropping
 - Senators asked to review the proposal and collect feedback/questions from their faculty
 - Will be considered at October Faculty Senate meeting

VI. President of Faculty Senate Report.....Dr. Corrine Hinton

- a. 22-23 Senate Goals: Transparency, Communication, Inclusion
 - i. Concerns were brought in June about inclusivity of Faculty Senate
 - 1. Will strive to be transparent in all things
 - 2. Strengthening internal and external communications. Will be starting monthly meetings between leadership of Faculty Senate and Staff Council
 - 3. Will work on inclusion by getting more faculty involved in governance. Suggestion made to develop a Laserfische inquiry/interest form on FS website for faculty wanting to participate in initiatives/committees.

- b. Leadership Meeting Updates
 - i. Identified four faculty for Association of American State Colleges and Universities/Student Success Equity Intensive (AASCU SSEI) Team
 - 1. Drs. LaTonya Noel-Wilburn and Dr. Nelson Irizarry
 - 2. While Dr. Melba Muniz-Foster and Dr. Joy Cooper were originally slated to serve as alternates, they've been asked to join the team officially, bringing faculty representation to 4.

- c. TAMU System Council of Faculty Senates
 - i. Dr. Matthews is serving as our representative at September meeting

VII. Committee Reports & Business Items

Prior to any committee reports/business items, Senate will review, discuss, and vote on committee membership for the 22-23 academic year.

Proposed Committee Memberships approved 10-0-1 (post-meeting revisions noted below)

a. Curriculum Committee

Chair: Dr. Godpower Okereke, Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice

Members:

- Dr. Joe Burzynski, Associate Professor of English
- Dr. Dana Leighton, Associate Professor of Psychology
- Dr. Craig Nakashian, Professor of History
- Dr. Gary Stading, Professor of Supply Chain Management
- Dr. Joy Cooper, Assistant Professor of Management
- Dr. Hye Jung Kang, Associate Professor of Physics (removed by her request after meeting)
- Dr. Laura Alford, Assistant Professor of Accounting (added after meeting with via Executive Committee)

b. Academic Standards

Chair: Dr. Lisa Myers, Assistant Professor of Adult Education and Leadership

Studies

Members:

- Dr. Joe Burzynski, Associate Professor of English
- Dr. Mary Beth Womack, Assistant Professor of Education
- Dr. Nelson Irizarry, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Sean Bailey, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Dr. Brian Billings, Associate Professor of English (added after meeting via Executive Committee)
- Mr. Kenny Irizarri, Instructor of General Engineering (added after meeting via Executive Committee)

c. Core Curriculum Assessment

Chair: Dr. Kelly Cordray, Assistant Professor of Education

Members:

- Dr. Mary Beth Womack, Assistant Professor of Education
- Dr. Doug Julien, Professor of English
- Dr. Sean Bailey, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Ms. Selena Jefferies, Instructor of Accounting
- Dr. Hye Jung Kang, Associate Professor of Physics

d. Educational Technology

Chair: Dr. Faycal Znidi, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering

Members:

- Dr. Larry Davis, Professor of Economics and Management
- Dr. Jim Nguyen, Associate Professor of Finance
- Dr. Hye Jung Kang, Associate Professor of Physics
- Dr. Drew Morton, Associate Professor of Mass Communication

- Dr. Sebastian Schmidl, Assistant Professor of Biology
- Dr. Sheila Moore, Assistant Professor of Nursing (added after meeting via Executive Committee)

e. Academic Rules & Procedures

Chair: Dr. Craig M Nakashian, Professor of History

Members:

- Dr. Patricia Humphrey, Professor of Marketing
- Dr. Nelson Irizarry, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Kim Murray, Associate Professor of Sociology
- Dr. Sara Lawrence, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology

f. Faculty Welfare

Chair: Dr. Joy Cooper, Assistant Professor of Management

Members:

- Dr. Brian Billings, Associate Professor of English
- Dr. Craig Nakashian, Professor of History
- Mr. Kenny Irizarry, Lecturer of General Engineering
- Dr. WY Chan, Associate Professor of Mathematics
- Dr. La Tonya Noel-Wilburn, Associate Professor of Social Work

g. FRED

Chair: Dr. Rebeca Cooper, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Members:

- Dr. Jing Chen, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology (removed after meeting via Executive Committee)
- Dr. Abdallah Farraj, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering
- Dr. Md Kalam, Professor of Chemistry
- Dr. Dana Leighton, Associate Professor of Psychology
- Dr. Brian Matthews, Associate Professor of Management
- Dr. Ram Neupane, Assistant Professor of Math
- Dr. Shihui Chen, Associate Professor of Kinesiology (added after meeting via Executive Committee)

h. Budget Committee

Chair: Dr. James Nguyen, Associate Professor of Finance

Members:

- Dr. Kevin Ells, Associate Professor of Mass Communication
- Dr. Kim Murray, Associate Professor of Sociology
- Dr. Yusun Jung, Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems
- Dr. Faycal Znidi, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering
- Dr. Greg Hogan, Associate Professor of Chemistry

VIII. Ad hoc Committee Reports

- a. DEI.....Dr. Julien & Dr. Matthews
 - i. No meetings were held; new DEIB committee will be formed by October under Kathryn Montgomery
- b. OTAFA.....Dr. Corrine Hinton
 - i. See above section III
- c. Faculty Complaints & Appeals.....Dr. Doug Julien (co-chair)
 - i. Revisions suggested to UP 32.01.01.H0.01 to revise stated timeline after a remand to add additional consideration time and to fix a conflict between sections 3.4 and 4.5 on timelines.

IX. Committee Assignments

- a. Faculty Evaluation Form to go back to Rules & Procedures
- b. Workload to go back to Rules & Procedures
- c. Commencement honors/societies designations to Academic Standards
- d. CUPA Report Review & Feedback to Budget Committee
 - i. Data should be available mid-to-late September; will be examined in October

X. New Business

- a. Motion to Dissolve the DEI *ad hoc* committee and replace it with a report from DEIB Director as a standing report after the VPAA each meeting
 - i. See above VIII.a (adopted by acclamation)
- b. Formalizing Senate oversight of:
 - i. Developmental Education
 - 1. Discussion centered on a desire to see a strong faculty role in Developmental Education oversight and we should find a stronger structure to support faculty involvement
 - ii. IS 1100 Freshmen Seminar and Freshmen Convocation
 - 1. Discussion to repurpose Core Curriculum Assessment committee into a broader First Year Academic Experience committee
 - 2. Discussion tabled until October meeting
- c. Student Fee Advisory Committee (Faculty Rep).....Dr. Corrine Hinton
 - i. Dr. Hinton will solicit nominations from all faculty members after the Faculty Senate meeting

XI. Meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm

XII. Next Meeting – Friday, October 14, 2022 at 1:30pm in UC 251 (or by Zoom)

Drop/Withdraw Proposal

Faculty Senate 09.09.22

Proposal: Utilize baseline Banner technology (no additional funding, technology, man power is required) to allow students to drop individual courses (not total withdraw; students would remain registered for the term) through Web for Students through the last day to drop.

- This proposal is for dropping individual courses only. Students will not be able to completely withdraw online.
- Students requesting to withdraw from the university will be required to submit the withdraw form which will be processed by the Registrar's Office
- **Registrar impact:** reduces the manual process of processing individual drop requests
- **Faculty impact:** Faculty would not approve or have the opportunity to discuss the drop with the student prior to them dropping.
 - Trend: a majority of the faculty immediately/almost immediately approve drop/withdraw requests, whereas very few request more time to contact the student.
- **Academic integrity issues:** in the event of student plagiarism and/or cheating, and the student drops the course prior to investigation/action taking place, the drop can be reversed by the Registrar's Office.

Drop/withdraw request statistics via Laserfiche form submissions

2021:

- **spring 2021 total: 397**
 - drops: 313
 - withdraw: 84
- **fall 2021 total: 544**
 - drop: 344
 - withdraw: 200
- **summer 2021 total: 147**
 - drops: 86
 - withdraw: 61

2022:

- **spring 2022 total: 338**
 - drop: 274
 - withdraw: 64
- **summer 2022 total: 120**
 - drop: 89
 - withdraw: 45
- **fall 2022 (as of 09.09.22 AM): 224**
 - drop: 81
 - withdraw: 143

*Discussions ongoing with Financial Aid, Business Office, Veteran Services, and Advising.

