

Cameron University
Faculty Senate
April 11, 2014
Minutes

Members present: Saeed Ahmad, Syed Ahmed, Thom Balmer, Travis Childs, Irene Corriette, Mike Dunn (chair), Tahzeeba Frisby, Courtney Glazer (secretary), Mike Husak, Sarah Janda (chair-elect), Abbas Johari, Heather King, Gary Kowaluk, Teresa Morales, Yoonsin Oh, Pam Panzani, Lynda Robinson, Kathy Scherler, Jason Smith, Ali Soylu, Kevin Stieb, Gabriele Wethern, Frankie White, Chao Zhao, and Yanjun Zhao

Committee Reports – (reminder to all committees to submit minutes for posting)

The Faculty Committee re-presented recommendations for revisions to the tenure and promotion language in the Faculty Handbook for purposes of clarifying existing policy. *A motion from the committee to accept the changes was approved.* Additionally, in looking at the overload issue the committee found that the number of faculty members teaching overloads is not as high as it previously appeared. Administrative measures are already in place to discourage the desirability of overloads and given that the handbook does allow for faculty (in consultation with their chair and dean) to teach one overload per term, the committee did not want to recommend anything that might be perceived as undermining a “right” as some might view it. The biggest concern expressed by Faculty Committee is that faculty not be forced to teach overloads but it appears that the only complaints about overloads have come from faculty who want to teach more than what the handbook allows. For these various reasons, Faculty Committee saw no need for recommendations regarding current overload policy.

Fringe Benefits Committee reported that the Regents approved the switch to OU’s health care plan and that meetings regarding the newly-adopted healthcare plan will be held.

Old Business

Posting Agendas for Next August

Mike Dunn reminded all committee chairs that their final action this year should be to create the agenda for the first meeting next August for continuation purposes.

Beach Volleyball Court Relocation

This is already being handled by the university.

Donating Space in the Cameron Exchange

While recommendations can be made decisions about space allocation are made by the President, and decisions about naming rights are made by the Regents.

Committee Revisions – motions coming from the Rules Committee

*A motion that faculty from all schools are able to vote on faculty representatives to the **Curriculum Committee**, to align with the General Education Committee, was approved.*

*A motion that the wording for the **Financial Assistance Appeals Committee** be changed to match the membership of the committee was approved.*

*A motion that the Chair and Chair-Elect of Faculty Senate be given a vote on the **General Education Committee** was approved.*

*A motion to change the term length for all members of the **Institutional Assessment Committee** except the Faculty Senate and Gen Ed appointees was approved.*

*A motion to change the mission statement and modify the **Student Services Committee's** membership to add a staff member appointed by the VP of Student Services was approved.*

*A motion to add the NCATE/CAEP Coordinator as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the **Teacher Education Council** was approved.*

*A motion to make the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect the chair of the **Faculty Committee** was approved.*

Additionally, the Academic Standards and Policy Committee will enact the change to its membership that was approved in 2013.

New Business

Guns on Campus

Discussion of current and potential legislature regarding concealed carry on campus led to a request for Cameron's current policy from John DeBoard. *A motion that a resolution against guns on campus be presented to the Regents was approved but not unanimously.*

Student Retention

Mike Dunn presented a possible faculty initiative to increase retention on campus. Departments would identify those students who are very close to graduating and the senate would work with VP Jennifer Holland about what we can do to help them.

Release of Positions

One concern was raised about how programs are getting information about which positions have been approved for hiring. Jobs that are released late can impact the candidate pool as well as requiring faculty who are not on contract to work in the summer so they may have input in the hiring process. *A motion that the Long Range Planning Committee look into the matter and propose a timeline was approved.*

Textbook Information for Students

Another issue presented was that the textbook information that faculty provided is not currently available to students who are enrolling. Contact with the bookstore and VP Glen Pinkston will provide further information.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 2, 2014