

CAMERON UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE APPROVED MINUTES

January 14, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cameron University Faculty Senate met on Friday, January 14, 2011. Chair Matt Jenkins called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in Burch Hall, Room 107.

II. ROLL

Present: Matt Jenkins, Abbas Johari, Monika Linehan, Brad McCoy, Frank White, Andrew Baker, Michael Dunn, Syed Ahmed, Ali Soylu, Paul Crandon, Chris Keller, Mike Estep, Tanisha Billingslea, Lynda Robinson, Marie-Ginette Baillargeon, William Carney, Phil Adrian, Sarah Janda, Jeffrey Metzger, Irene Corriette, Gregory Herring, 2LT Arlanza Lewis, Roy Couch, Joanni Sailor, David Fennema

Also in attendance was Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John McArthur.

Absent: Stacey Treadway, Sheri Jenkins-Cruz, Terry Shannon, Mandi Smith, Linda Smith, Jan Logan, Keith Vitense

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Faculty Senate reviewed the minutes from the December 10, 2010, Faculty Senate meeting. David Fennema moved to approve the minutes without amendment. Michael Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Progress of Investigation Into Adoption of New Faculty Handbook

Chair Matt Jenkins reported that VPAA John McArthur and the team of three faculty members formally assigned to review the revisions made to the proposed Faculty Handbook are continuing to meet and are making great strides. To date the team has reviewed approximately one-third of Section 4 of the Handbook and should have something to present to the Faculty Senate in the near future. He reiterated that the review is necessary because the Board of Regents needs to know what changes were made and why. Chair Jenkins asked Chris Keller to clarify the purpose of the review. Keller explained that the team is comparing three versions of the Handbook to determine what was added, what was deleted, and what was moved where and why and to make sure the current set of changes does not conflict with changes made in the past.

Report from Going Green Committee on Excessive Paperwork Study

Frank White reported that the Going Green Committee has begun a study of the excessive paperwork issue and has a plan in progress. Although it will take the committee some time to gather all the pertinent data, they plan to have a proposal in place before the end of the semester. White explained that the first step is to document the amount and type of paperwork now generated. Once this data is documented, the committee will develop plans to decrease the amount of paperwork.

White also provided information on the proposed recycle bins. He informed the Senate that Horn was the company selected to provide and manage collection of the bins. Two proposed locations for the recycle bins are the northwest corner of the football field at Gore and 38th Street and the Shepler Center parking lot.

Report on Student Excused Absence Policy

William Carney reported that the Academic Standards and Policies Committee has conducted research into the absence policies of the regional universities and the University of Oklahoma. The committee will develop guidelines establishing what constitutes an excused absence. These guidelines, however, will provide leeway for faculty to establish attendance policies appropriate to their individual courses. Carney stated that the Academic Standards and Policies Committee plans to present its proposed excused absence policy at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate. In addition, the committee is also examining the current university plagiarism and academic misconduct policy as well as the policies of other universities. It has found that, currently, not many guidelines exist.

Faculty Parking

Phil Adrian reported that the Fringe Benefits Committee met this morning to discuss the issue of faculty parking. John DeBoard, Head of the Office of Public Safety, attended their meeting and updated the Fringe Benefits Committee on current parking policies. Apparently, due to inadequate software, students have not been ticketed for parking in faculty spaces for the last four years. However, the software problem has been resolved, and beginning January 24, all parking standards will be enforced. Students found parking in a faculty spot or persons parking without a valid permit will be subject to a citation and a \$25 fine. Students will be notified before these standards go into effect.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Senate Open Floor Discussion

Chair Jenkins opened the floor to discussion of additional topics.

Upcoming Faculty Senate Elections

Chris Keller, Chair of the Rules Committee, whose responsibility it is to manage Faculty Senate elections, asked the Senate if they were in favor of using an electronic voting system again for this year's upcoming elections. Keller noted that Campus Vote, the electronic system used for last year's elections, increased voter participation by 75 percent. He explained that he would take the leadership role in managing the system again this year and that the administration will support the use of an electronic system if the faculty approves. He noted that Campus Vote is a standalone system that is easy to use, inexpensive, secure, and by far, an advantage over the old system. It did have limitations, however, in that it could not run simultaneous elections, such as those for open positions from different schools. Furthermore, there was an initial learning curve. Keller stated that there is now an upgrade to Campus Vote that allows for multiple simultaneous elections. The cost for a one-year license is \$1,200. Another advantage is that other campus organizations can use the system during the year.

Chris Keller moved to utilize Campus Vote for the 2010-2011 Faculty Senate elections. David Fennema seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. MOVE TO ADJOURN

David Fennema moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Herring seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Friday, February 11, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., in Burch Hall, Room 107.

Respectfully submitted,
Monika Linehan
Faculty Senate Secretary