

Cameron University  
Faculty Senate  
October 11, 2013  
Minutes

Members present: Eric Abbott, Saeed Ahmad, Thom Balmer, Travis Childs, Irene Corriette, Mike Dunn (chair), Rebecca Easley, Tahzeeba Frisby, Courtney Glazer (secretary), Bayard Godsave, Mike Husak, Sarah Janda (chair elect), Abbas Johari, Heather King, Gary Kowaluk, Jeff Metzger, Alan Moore, Teresa Morales, Yoonsin Oh, Pam Panzani, Mary Penick, Lynda Robinson, Kathy Scherler, Jason Smith, Ali Soyly, Kevin Stieb, Benson Warren, Gabriele Wethern, Frankie White, and Yanjun Zhao

Guests present: Ronna Vanderslice, Vice President for Academic Affairs

### Committee Reports

The Rules Committee will be sending out a brief questionnaire to all committee chairs to determine what changes, if any, should be considered for each committee. Any committee member can share their thoughts.

The Faculty Committee recommended to the VPAA that she work with the chairs of the big 3 committees (Gen Ed, Curriculum, and Institutional Assessment) to establish standard meeting times that will be made known on future election ballots. Also, the committee discussed the need for a process to determine who will oversee faculty elections. *A motion was made by the committee that the chair of the faculty senate appoint someone to a two year term to work with the Rules Committee on the elections. This person will train with Chris Keller, who has been overseeing the elections, in January 2014. The motion was approved.* Finally, the committee has compiled unclear language regarding promotion and tenure from the faculty handbook for feedback from the VPAA.

### New Business

Tom Russell, Cameron's Equal Opportunity Officer, proposed the formation of two new university standing committees: University Committee for Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and the Intercollegiate Subcommittee for Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The chair recommended tabling discussion of the Intercollegiate committee until the NCAA representative was present. Members of faculty senate raised several questions including: What precipitated the creation of these committees? Is this designed strictly for gender and could that be biased in itself? Is there precedent for creating a standing subcommittee alongside its committee?

Currently there is no written criteria for the rank of Distinguished Professor as is called for in the faculty handbook. In 2004, the deans proposed criteria which were not accepted. The senate discussed whether a discussion of this rank could occur without considering other ranks and tenure/post-tenure review. Issues were raised of whether or not promotion and tenure should be considered separately,

the need for chairs to give meaningful feedback prior to the promotion and/or tenure process, whether or not there could be a distinguished rank for instructors, and if the rank of distinguished professor should include a raise following other promotions in rank. The topic was sent to the Faculty Committee for further discussion.

Additional items of new business were presented focused on faculty input in future academic calendars, making new faculty aware of the laws addressing textbook buyers on campus, and students finding “hidden” spots on campus to smoke.