Unapproved minutes for the regular meeting of the CU Faculty Senate, April 9, 2010

Officers Present: Chris Keller (Chair), Matt Jenkins (Chair-Elect), Justin Walton (Secretary)


Agenda Items

I. Call to order (Keller)

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes

Dr. Heflin moved to accept the previous minutes without amendment; Dr. Hernandez seconded the motion. Without objection, the minutes were accepted.

III. Old Business

A. President Ross: Responses to Faculty Senate Recommendations

Distance Learning: Pres. Ross has asked VPAA McArthur to develop a plan to streamline and simplify the current distance learning compensation system while maintaining current level of university support to faculty for distance education development and delivery.

Summer School Salary Models: Pres. Ross reported that Cameron’s current summer school model is not consistent with the policies of the other universities under the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents. A simplified summer school compensation program is being developed at this time.

Tobacco-Free Campus: Pres. Ross approved SGA Resolution # 309007 including the amendment proposed by the Faculty Senate to include banning all tobacco use on campus. A campus-wide tobacco-free policy will go into effect beginning Fall Semester 2011.
B. Cameron University HLC Self-Study

The Higher Learning Commission will be visiting campus November 8-10, 2010. Campus committees should be in the process of organizing their minutes and reports for the visit.

IV. New Business Items

A. Vice-President for Business & Finance Glen Pinkston

Vice-President Pinkston updated the Senators on various construction projects taking place on the campus:

- The MCC is almost finished; most food and bookstore operations have now moved into the MCC.
- In Fall 2010, the new campus Wellness Center will be located in North Shepler (in the space previously occupied by the One-Stop office).
- In Summer 2010, the Student Activities Building will be renovated to accommodate a faculty lounge, Faculty Senate offices, and perhaps an honors lounge.
- Conceptual plans are underway to renovate the Student Union; Pinkston noted that it will cost approximately $3 million to renovate the building. Goals include modernizing the interior, making the building ADA compliant, and making the exterior of the structure consistent with template design of newer buildings on campus.
- A project of the Public Works Administration in 1939, West Hall was originally a men’s dormitory and later housed several academic departments. Because of environmental quality concerns, the building has been vacant since Spring 2002. To address the internal and external problems with the building would cost approximately $3 million. In light of cost, Pres. Ross has decided to demolish the structure.

B. VPAA Update: Electronic Communications

Dr. McArthur has asked the Faculty Senate to provide input on two draft policies for electronic communications. The first policy addresses an official email address for university communication with students. The second policy addresses the use of distribution lists including moderation of lists on campus. The policies have also been provided to the Student Government Association.

C. Faculty Handbook: Promotion Schedules

The Department of Agriculture has requested that the Faculty Senate review inconsistencies in the Faculty Handbook on tenure and promotion schedules; specifically, varying timeline schedules are given for promotion to associate professor rank. The item was assigned to the Faculty Committee for review.
D. CampusVote.com

Elections this semester will be conducted via a digital balloting system. Nominations for positions may come through email or traditional mail.

V. General Discussion

Several Senators raised concerns about the Administration’s ability to amend the Faculty Handbook without the consent of the faculty at large. This concern was specifically raised in response to the changes made regarding summer school compensation. After lengthy discussion on the matter, Dr. Hernandez recommended that the Faculty Senate invite Dr. Margery Kingsley and Mr. Benson Warren to our next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss methods and procedures for amending the Faculty Handbook. The recommendation was voted upon and agreed to.

V. Adjournment

Dr. Johari moved to adjourn. Dr. Fennema seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on May 7, 2010.