Minutes
Cameron University Faculty Senate
September 9, 2011

Members Present: Abbott, Adrian, Ahmed, Billingslea, Couch, Cruz, Dunn, Easley, Estep, Hodgson, Janda, Liu, Metzger, Miller, Robinson, Smith, Soylu, Vitense, Walton, White, Wright-Smith

Members Absent: Corriette, Crandon, Sailor (represented by Seger at this meeting)

Officers Present: Johari (Chair), Heflin (Chair-Elect), Carney (Secretary)

(1) Chair Johari called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Secretary Carney called roll and determined that a quorum of the membership was present.

(2) President Cindy Ross addressed the Senate. Chief among the items she reported was an enrollment increase with FTE increasing by 20.5% since 2008. She shared several items from the most recent legislative session and spoke about performance funding prospects. She spoke about the proposed 4% salary plan. President Ross took questions from Becky Easley and Keith Vitense regarding Cameron’s retention concerns, from Mike Estep about space considerations, and from, Chair-Elect Heflin about online course budgets. Sarah Janda discussed Early Alert participation.

(3) Matt Jenkins addressed the Senate about the university’s Master Plan followed by Karla Oty on updates to Plan 2013 and Chris Keller on Plan 2018. Upcoming focus groups were discussed.

(4) Chair Johari asked for approval of April 29, 2010 minutes. It was noted that Syed Ahmed was actually present at the meeting although he was not indicated as such in the minutes. Chair-Elect Heflin moved that the minutes be approved with the addition of Professor Ahmed. Keith Vitense seconded and the motion carried.

(5) Chair Johari discussed changing the meeting time for Faculty Senate from 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM. Keith Vitense moved to accept. Linda Wright-Smith seconded and the motion carried.

(6) Committee memberships provided the next order of business. New Faculty Senate Representatives are as follows:

Curriculum Committee: Linda Wright-Smith

Faculty Development Committee: John Hodgson

Information Technology Advisory Committee: Mike Estep

Institutional and Internal Services Committee: Greg Herring

Institutional Assessment: Mandi Smith

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee: Linda Wright-Smith

Lectures and Concerts Committee: Roy Couch

President’s Planning Committee: Abbas Johari
Recruitment Committee: Eric Abbott

Research Committee: Ali Soylu

Student Services Committee: Becky Easley

Teacher Education Council: William Carney

Teaching and Learning Committee: Syed Ahmed

Going Green Committee: Sheri Jenkins Cruz, Frank White, Lynda Robinson, Susan Hall

New and continuing members of Faculty Senate standing committees:

Academic Standards and Policies Committee: Keith Vitense and Andrew Baker

Faculty Committee: William Carney (Secretary)

Fringe Benefits Committee: Phil Adrian and Lynda Robinson (Secretary)

Long-Range Planning Committee: Mike Dunn, Mike Estep, Ali Soylu, Keith Vitense, Sheri Jenkins Cruz, Lynda Robinson

Rules Committee: Justin Walton, Paul Crandon

(7) Chair Johari reminded committee chairs about posting minutes.

(8) Chair-Elect Heflin discussed amending the Faculty Handbook to add a Chair-Elect to the General Education (and other committees with large workloads) to ensure continuity of leadership. Keith Vitense moved that such a proposal be sent to Faculty Committee for further action (MOTION). Chair-Elect Heflin seconded and the motion carried.

(9) Keith Vitense suggested that a position for Immediate Past Chair of the Faculty Senate be created to ensure continuity and that institutional memory is not lost. This would involve amending the Faculty Senate constitution. A discussion followed with Sarah Janda asking if such a position would be optional. Vitense indicated that it would not. A motion was made by Vitense to refer the idea to Faculty Committee (MOTION). Chair-Elect Heflin seconded and the motion carried.

(10) Open discussions of items including sporadic textbook use by students in General Education courses, retention, and student responsibilities.

(11) Syed Ahmed reminded members about India Night, scheduled for October 7 at 6:00 PM.

(12) Sheri Jenkins Cruz introduced Karin Dudash from the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology who expressed concern about access to IDEA evaluations. Cruz moved to send these concerns to the Institutional Assessment Committee for further study and Chair-Elect Heflin seconded the motion (MOTION). The motion carried.

(13) Chair Johari called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:00 PM. Linda Wright-Smith made the motion with Syed Ahmed seconding and the meeting was adjourned.