

Cameron University - Faculty Senate Minutes
August 8, 2014

Members present: Saeed Ahmad, Cathy Blackman, Krystal Brue, Travis Childs, Irene Corriette, Loree Gains, Bayard Godsave, Mike Husak, Sarah Janda (chair), Abbas Johari, Gary Kowaluk, Jeff Metzger, Teresa Morales, Deidre Onishi, Lynda Robinson (chair-elect), Andrew Stonerock, Ronna Vanderslice (guest), Keith Vitense, Debra Ward (secretary), Gabriele Wethern, Frankie White, Chao Zhao

3:05	<p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senate was given time to read minutes from May, 2014. ▪ Motion to approve minutes made by Keith Vitense. Second by Abbas Johari. All in favor.
3:07	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Members were asked to introduce themselves.</p>
3:12	<p>Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intercollegiate Athletics Committee: Committee has been asked by President McArthur to look at several items. Committee members should be watching for an email from Dr. Vitense regarding the scheduling of a meeting. Also, the commissioner of the Lone Star Conference has retired and the search for a replacement is ongoing. ▪ Too Much with Too Little Committee: This relatively new committee is looking at ways to ease faculty load. They will be meeting soon. The committee has developed a survey to administer to faculty in order to get faculty views and input.
3:15	<p>Committee Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sarah Janda discussed the Faculty Governance and Committee Work Guidelines. She also pointed out that Academic Affairs has provided descriptions of all committees online. ▪ Appointment/election to standing committees was conducted on a voluntary basis. No votes were needed.
3:45	<p>Q & A with the VPAA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the past, VPAA Vanderslice was invited to Faculty Senate meetings but often sat on the sidelines unless asked a question. In an effort to improve communication on campus, VPAA Vanderslice has been asked to bring updates from the various meetings with the deans and chairs. ▪ Updated from VPAA Vanderslice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrollment has been a big topic of conversation. We are still down 5% in enrollment. As a result, the deans have been asked to look at classes with low enrollment. Also, we have the same number of faculty members now as when we had 6000 students, so administration is trying to be vigilant about opening new positions. A template has been created for chairs and deans to fill out when requesting a new hire. ○ Another big concern is our loan default ratio. It's higher than it should be and if it gets too high, there can be repercussions. For example, some first time borrowers will not get their money until attending a certain number of classes. To help with the issues associated with such a system, a voucher system has been created to help alleviate some stress. ○ The Persistence and Completion Academy team have put together a data notebook that they, along with a data mentor, are looking at. They are working on making sense of the data so that they can come up with some initiatives to help improve persistence and completion. ○ IDEA evaluations are being looked at. We want to add questions to evaluations and look at response rates. Online response rates are lower: for Spring 2014, online evaluations had a 39% response rate whereas paper evaluations had a 57% response rate. We still think there has to be a better way than using paper evaluations, for example, taking students to the computer lab, but we are also looking into an app that students can use. IDEA has a mobile app that we would like to pilot in 50 classes this fall. We think the students would be very receptive. The evaluations would still be anonymous though there are always ways to track response rate. Students get an email if they haven't responded, which doesn't help when students think their evaluations may not be anonymous. Also, we want to make it easy to add questions that are applicable to individual departments. ○ The Endowed Lectureship template looks different this year. Priority will be given to those who are making connections to the academic festival.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question from the floor: When looking at enrollment, we (the department) have a small number of majors but a lot of general education classes... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer from VPAA: We make sure to look at the whole picture. We also take a careful look at the FLAC (faculty load) report. ▪ Faculty Senate Resolution for 100% faculty use of early alert. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion to pass the resolution made by Travis Childs. ○ Seconded by Gabriele Wethern ○ All in Favor; Motion Passed ▪ Comment from Sarah Janda: Remember that Early Alert and AWs are also tools to track students who are gaming the financial aid system, so it's important that all faculty participate.
4:10	<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disciplinary process for faculty in the Faculty Handbook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have had a request to look at the language used in the handbook regarding disciplining tenured faculty. The Faculty Committee will be taking this on this year. ▪ Question from the floor: What about those emails we all keep getting...? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer from Sarah Janda: When there is an ongoing grievance, the administration and faculty cannot get involved. The best advice is that if it seems outlandish, ignore it.
4:20	<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year, VPAA Vanderslice started a committee to look at faculty awards. These awards require a lot of work out of the faculty member who has been recommended. We want to increase nominations and participation, but we also want to make it easier for the faculty member being recognized or nominated. ○ Homework: Take a look at the award descriptions and the proposed changes. Share them with your department and discuss. ○ We also need to make these easier to find because they aren't readily available on the website. ○ Finally, none of our awards are for adjuncts. It would be wonderful if we had a way to recognize outstanding adjuncts on campus. ○ Motion made by Keith Vitense for Faculty Committee to look at the possibility of an adjunct teaching award. ○ Seconded by Irene Corriette. ○ All in favor; Motion passed. ▪ Floor opened for other new business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cathy Blackman: Spoke to a faculty member who doesn't see the value in the textbook checkout program. Students are allowed to check out a textbook for 4 hours. Textbooks include all developmental education texts, general education texts, texts for the Top 30 courses, and books that cost over \$120. Do you think students are using this service? ○ This is an issue all members should take back to their department. ○ Sarah Janda received an email from Dr. Burgess concerning the use of Safe Assign. There have been some complaints with Safe Assign so "Turn It In" is being looked at. This software seems to work better with Blackboard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion made by Krystal Brue to ask Academic Standards and Policies Committee to look into "Turn It In" software. ○ Seconded by Bayard Godsave. ○ All in favor; Motion passed ○ Sarah Janda: President McArthur will be coming to speak to us next meeting.
4:35	Meeting adjourned

Debra D. Ward

Debra D. Ward, Secretary