Approved minutes for the regular meeting of the CU Faculty Senate, December 11, 2009

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 1:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes

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

III. Old Business

A. ITS solution to instructional technology access/Power User accounts

Dr. Keller shared an email from Debbie Goode regarding login passwords for smart classrooms. Local accounts in all smart classrooms should be established by 3-19-10. Passwords will be set to expire after 180 days. Queries about the process should be directed to ITV control room; the university help desk will also be available for questions or problems.

B. New start time for Faculty Senate – 2:30 p.m.

Based upon the feedback Dr. Keller received, the new start time for Faculty Senate meetings will be 2:30 p.m.

C. Replacing Joe Jones on the Academic Appeals Committee

Joe Jones is retiring at the end of this semester. Dr. Kwenda (Criminal Justice & Sociology) has agreed to replace Joe Jones on the committee.
D. Clarification of the Faculty Handbook

In our November meeting, Dr. Huckaby requested that the Faculty Committee to clarify the role of academic advisement in the faculty evaluation process. Responding to this request, Dr. Jenkins shared the Faculty Committee’s report on student advisement:

The Faculty Committee met November 19, 2009 and offered the following response to the Faculty Senate:

In reviewing the request to move “advising of students” from a teaching function to a service function in the Faculty Handbook, the committee notes that student advisement is already included under Section 4.9.3 Professional and University Service and Public Outreach. It is also referred to in Section 4.2.6 Annual Evaluation Criteria in Section #3 Professional and University Service and Outreach. Advisement is also found under its own heading in Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Section 5.4.

The Faculty Committee offered the following recommendation for consideration to the Faculty Senate:

In Section 4.9.3 Professional and University Service and Public Outreach change the sentence that reads “The department chair selects faculty to serve as advisors.” to “The department chair in consultation with the faculty will apportion advisement duties.” Also, in Section 5.4 in the sentence “Academic advisement of students is an important function of faculty members at Cameron University.” Change the word “function” to “service.”

The Faculty Committee believed these two changes would offer clarification as to the faculty member’s role in advisement and where it fits into faculty responsibilities.

Dr. Fennema moved to accept the committee’s report; Mr. Dering seconded the motion. Without objection, the report was accepted.

IV. New Business Items

A. Committee Reports

Beginning in January, Dr. Keller will ask for individual committee reports. Committees should be meeting with formal minutes taken and reported.

B. Open Floor Discussion – New Class Schedule

Several comments were made about the new class schedule at Cameron University. Specific scheduling concerns mentioned included awkward lunch periods, customer traffic in the student union, student commuters, and afternoon labs. Some classes are longer and some shorter depending upon how many days a week classes meet.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Vitense moved to adjourn. Dr. Fennema seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on January 15, 2010.