

Cameron University  
Faculty Senate  
March 14, 2014  
Minutes

Members Present: Saeed Ahmad, Travis Childs, Justin Clardie, Irene Corriette, Mike Dunn (chair), Mo Durant, Becky Easley, Tahzeeba Frisby, Bayard Godsave, Sarah Janda (chair-elect), Abbas Johari, Heather King, Gary Kowaluk, Teresa Morales, Yoonsin Oh, Lynda Robinson, Kathy Scherler, Jason Smith, Keith Vitense, Gabriele Wethern, Chao Zhao, and Yanjun Zhao

Guests Present: Ronna Vanderslice (Vice President for Academic Affairs)

Faculty Senate Minutes from February 2014 unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Fringe Benefits reported that they tabled leave issues to focus on the new health insurance plan that if approved by the regents will go into effect in January of 2015. If the regents approve the new plan, HR will hold open Q & A meetings for faculty and staff. Essentially, the new plan consists of Cameron joining OU's plan which (because of their large number of employees) would reduce Blue Cross costs for CU employees. Vision would likely stay the same but dental would be covered by Delta which has a much larger network of dentists.

Faculty Committee reported that they decided to postpone review of the faculty grievance policy pending the complete resolution of an ongoing case.

Old Business

Faculty Elections are complete.

President McArthur approved the two new IX committees.

Tenure statement revision was tabled until the next meeting to allow Senators more time to review the proposed statement with their departments.

Faculty Committee recommendations for revisions to tenure and promotion language in the handbook for purposes of clarifying existing policy were also tabled until the next meeting for the same reason.

Mike Dunn indicated that he and Kevin Stieb are still planning to meet with Vice President Vanderslice to discuss faculty and student concerns regarding the IDEA forms and the evaluation process. Mike has collected responses from several departments about their use of additional questions on the IDEA forms and will share those with the VPAA. The cost of forms and the processing of those forms will also be a matter of consideration in looking at the possibility of changing evaluations.

New Business:

On March 12, 2014, an article appeared in *Inside Higher Education* entitled "Free Speech or Hostility?" dealing with the case of disciplinary action against a tenured faculty member at Cameron. Faculty Committee, however, will not consider the grievance process until the case is fully resolved.

Faculty Committee was asked to look at overloads and compensation for teaching overloads. Senators were also encouraged to discuss the issue of teaching overload classes with their departments.

Motion made to recommend to President McArthur that the Faculty Senate Lounge be donated/reassigned to the Honor's Program based on its location and the lack of faculty use of the facility. *Motion passed unanimously.*

The lack of a university wide policy for excused student absences for religious observances and university sponsored events was discussed. Academic Standards and Policies Committee was asked to examine the possibility of adopting such a policy.

Motion made to recommend to President McArthur that the volleyball court on the south end of campus be relocated because of the amount of sand that pelts people in the face on windy days and ends up settling in the parking lot. *Motion passed unanimously.*