

## ***Faculty Senate Meeting***

October 4, 2019

1:00pm–2:30pm

**Attendees:** Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. David Yells, Dr. David Allard, Dr. Jan Murdock, Dr. Craig Nakashian, Dr. Ben Neuman, Dr. Abbie Strunc, Dr. Joan Brumm, Dr. WaiYuen Chan, Dr. Angie Sikorski, Dr. Doug Julien, Dr. Mohamed Morsy, Dr. Doughty.

I. Call to order

II. President's Report.....Dr. Emily Cutrer

1. Memos on smoking and vaping. Dr. Julien – Asked why the decision was made to do it so quickly by implementing it at end of the 2019 year, not allowing the students who live in the dorms to decide if they may move out next year. He plans to do a PLACE talk about vaping and smoking. Dr. Cutrer – the decision was to do it as soon as they could, they wanted it to start it at the end of May last year, 2018, but could not get it before the Board of Regents in time.
2. Retention and graduation workgroups - we are nowhere near where we should be with our data, we are the lowest in the state in retention and second lowest 4-year in graduation rate. There are six workgroups assigned: Inventory of student success (Dr. Yells chair), Data Group (Ricky Ray), Official communications group (Kathy Williams chair) – a better way to deliver bad news, update form letters. Financial hurdles – students cannot register because they owe under \$200, other system colleges allow people to enroll still. Probation Process. RITZ group (Dr. Hinton chair) – retention intervention team – is there a way students can hit a “panic button” and it will allow them to know exactly where to go to get help. Dr. Allard raised a point that he does not see the names of those students in Biology so that he can help intervene. The workgroups will continue to assess and review the data. Dr. Murdock asks if there is a way we can reach out to the students who have not returned because of the \$200 or less in the past. Dr. Cutrer said yes, through RE-UP. We are going to move toward doing it in house, instead of with RE-UP. We have to follow State regulations. Dr. Chan – is the data focused on freshmen? Yes, we started with the freshmen, but we will look at the transfers. We do it because we have a moral and ethical responsibility but we also need to be able to report to the legislature.
3. Strategic planning budget – this afternoon a memo will go out saying we will be spending some time this year refining our plan. Refining by continuing to assess where we are and revise the language, some goals that may not be viable or have already been met. A lot of discussion will be around the budget. Town hall update on budget, tentatively for 18 October. It is late because we just closed our FY 19 this week.
4. Board of Regents meeting Oct. 31 – We are requesting before the board for differential tuition for our high cost programs: Business, Engineering, and Nursing. Dr. Brumm asked if the differential

tuition would go to the areas that have received the charge. Yes, it goes to the course specifically, by prefix. Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, it will also be addressed at the town hall. Also, asking for the maximum increase by law on the athletic fee, which is 10%. The board is showing interest in enrollment at the regional institutions. What the roll of free tuition at community colleges is doing to the regional institutions. Many institutions are dealing with decreases. They will hold a workshop prior to the Board of Regents meeting. Dr. Cutrer will report our enrollment as flat. Dr. Cutrer is grateful we have basketball now and RE-UP because we have 80 students from them.

III. VPAA Report.....Dr. David Yells

1. Shared governance – what it means to this institution and how to articulate it. Asking Faculty Senate to help develop this and have a conversation, whether it is through bringing a speaker in, etc., to help facilitate a conversation about what shared governance means for us.
2. Educational Technology – Tool called Ally – an effort to improve our compliance with ADA requirements around our online courses. It will review your online course layout and help you reformat your document(s) to ensure they are user friendly. Pilot testing is happening. Linda Scott and her group will provide training on it. Dr. Nakashian – is there any difference legally in face to face versus online? Dr. Brumm – once you put it online, you have to have audio paired with all of your presentations, including graphs, etc. Dr. Nakashian – is this a law? Yes, it is. Dr. Nakashian – as an institution, how are we going to do this? Is someone at the institution going to do this for us or do faculty have to do it? Dr. Cutrer – we do have an accessibility person, in Linda Scott, you do not have to invent it. Dr. Yells – said he would investigate and find out what we are responsible for to be ADA compliant. The guidance received from the system is that we need to show that we are making progress. We invested in Allied and are holding trainings. The critical thing is when someone does show up who needs an accommodation, you have to jump on it and do whatever you can to accommodate that person.
3. Blackboard contract expires two years from now. Blackboard is changing to Blackboard Ultra. Dr. Allard will be asking faculty to look around at possibly making a change. We have a few years to make a decision about changing or not.
4. Dr. Jade Jenkins left TAMUT – process of restructuring IDM for now Jennifer Willis will handle the work around assessment. A formal announcement will go out next week.
5. Degrees Win Do – degree reclamation project – research group coming out of the University of Utah; provide coaching around RE-UP and how to do it ourselves. If we provide data to them, they will pay us to help them.
6. Dr. Doughty – shared governance – Article sent out. It is a report from 2003, list a dozen specifics and models of shared governance. When we practice shared governance here, do we see ourselves doing everything together or is there a fence running between some of those areas mentioned? Are there some things administrators only do or things that only faculty do?

Dr. Allard – encourages them to read the article from Dr. Doughty and the AAUP paper. There will be discussions moving forward.

IV. Approval of Minutes (September 6, 2019).....Dr. David Allard

Dr. Strunc approves, Dr. Murdock second, all in favor.

V. President of Faculty Senate Report.....Dr. David Allard

1. RELLIS – Dr. Neuman – they opened up a new building where we will have our labs, one room is not finished yet, the other room things have been installed and two out of eight hoods are broken. We have written off this term, issues with current students and how to manage it and next term may not be up and running either. Jim Nelson backed out on funding the equipment needed. This leaves us with two unfavorable positions, pretend the courses did not have a lab and the other is to suspend or incomplete every student and hold the labs next term. However, we do not know that we will have the labs next term. Dr. Nakashian – Do we not have the capacity to use Blinn? Dr. Neuman – we have a rent space from them, which is rented from the system, and it is an issue of money.
2. Integrated Studies Degree at RELLIS – Dr. Doughty – about 18 months ago, Jim Nelson was here and he asked him about the Library and he said there wouldn't be one at RELLIS, that it will all be databases. Dr. Doughty told him about the digital humanities lab, and Jim put together a taskforce to build a liberal education degree, started designing it and decided to call it an integrated studies degree. Good progress until this summer. At this point, trying to get faculty to build a curriculum, Sebastian is involved and some Blinn people.
3. The CB Rule on evaluating labs had an update. Dr. Neuman heard from Jennifer Willis that she would not evaluate labs in the normal process. For each individual request, Jennifer Willis, will create an evaluation upon request. Dr. Allard said if you are serious about it, talk to Dr. Nakashian and they will go meet with Dr. Yells.
4. Faculty Performance Review Cycle – talk of changing it to the academic year; Dr. Brumm – when you do it in the academic year, you have to teach in the summer to be able to get it in. Faculty Status will review this – change to an academic year or leave it as it is? Dr. Julien – why do we do it every year? It is done yearly to help with merit raises.
5. Shared governance – Dr. Nakashian – said the administration was annoyed at how the faculty senate constitution is written and why the administration did not have any say in it. He admits it does need to be rewritten, but not to the extent of the administration having oversight.
6. Honorary degree – Rules and procedures are looking at it.

VI. Old Business

## VII. Consent Agenda Items

- a) CAFRT 2019 Revision (Academic Rules and Procedures Committee) – Dr. Nakashian there was a discussion about making more substantive changes, but there was not time yet. This brings us up to compliance with the system. No objection – it passes.

## VIII. Committee Reports and Business Items

### a) Curriculum Committee

- b) Education Technology – still working on quality assurance plan. Dr. Neuman – how is it being funded? Is the Distance ED budget paying for ALLIED? Blackboard – the A&M system has contracts with them, which will cause us not to go up. Dr. Strunc would like to look at other options. Dr. Strunc and Dr. WY Chan – will be on the subcommittee.

- Space issue on blackboard – for 6 years they will save the files. Dr. Allard suggests saving the files you want to save and not to rely on this.
- Playposit – a program to take videos and add stuff to them. Playposit.com for a free trial.
- Communications and Marketing courses online.

### c) Academic Standards

### d) Academic Rules and Procedures

### e) FRED

- Proposal for \$465 for Corrine Hinton – emailed out today. She wants to go to 3 conferences for human subject research. Vote: Julien motions to approve, WY seconds. 9 yes, 2 no.
- Dr. Julien – what is FRED money for? For discussion next meeting.
- For this term, they will take Ad Hoc requests. However, moving forward, they will collect them for a full term and then decide who will receive the money.

### f) Faculty Status

- Mini Piper Stevens Award – (Dr. Murdock) nominations due by the 30<sup>th</sup> and have to choose by November 15<sup>th</sup>. She is asking for the whole packet to come in. Committee will review on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

### g) Budget Committee – met with Jeff Hinton to discuss the budget.

IX. Next Meeting: November 1, 2019