

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

November 6, 2020

1:00pm–2:30pm

Attendees: Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. Craig Nakashian, Dr. David Allard, Dr. Abbie Strunc, Dr. WaiYuen Chan, Dr. Joan Brumm, Dr. Angie Sikorski, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Doug Julien, Dr. Mohamed Morsy, Dr. Michael Perri

- I. Call to order 1:01 pm
- II. President’s ReportDr. Emily Cutrer
 - a.) Start of the legislative session yesterday, 11.5.2020. First round of testimony for budget requests for the next legislative session. She said the most important request was to rescind the 5% cut and the money we are scheduled to lose. Request to expand on the Better East Texas initiative: doctorate in physical therapy, institute of financial literacy, and restoration of nursing funds.
 - b.) FACE Survey with the students – Dr. Cutrer will share it with the students next week. Dr. Julien, Dr. Hinton, and Brenda Riley are working on it. Dr. Julien shared that it reveals that students want to know what mode their classes will be given in.
 - c.) Dr. Cutrer is trying to get more support for faculty in developing hyflex courses. Linda is adapting a 4 part course that will be online for everyone.
 - d.) Moving to a new scheduling software. A demonstration is coming soon.
 - e.) Dr. Nakashian (Piper award) and Dr. Strunc (Chancellor’s award) have been recommended for faculty awards and Dr. Cutrer will send those out next week.
- III. Approval of Minutes (October 2, 2020).....Dr. Craig Nakashian
Dr. Sikorski motion, Dr. Strunc second – all approved.
- IV. President of Faculty Senate ReportDr. Craig Nakashian
 - a.) IT support discussion – what is IT’s plan of supporting people who are in the classroom and online at the same time. It will basically be what was done this Fall. What do we do for adjuncts that are online? Instructional design IT folks said there should be more oversight and training for people teaching online. Some tools may be available to support those going online. Dr. Perri – addresses the issue of standardizing IT accessibility in the classrooms. Dr. Morsy – there

should be emergency help from IT while in class. Dr. Nakashian is going to make a recommendation to station IT help in BASS and SCIT during class times.

- b.) Base Budget Review – should be done around the end of the semester. Academic Affairs has overspent in the past and this is the reason to for the review. Dr. Nakashian brought up the issue of faculty searches and was told to put those on hold, unless you are funded from BET monies. Dr. Nakashian will ask if it's a hiring freeze just for faculty or staff as well? Dr. Julien expresses concerns about professional development funds and how they are allowed to be used.
- c.) Closing of the desk in BASS – why is this allowed but faculty are still required to meet face to face. All of the people in that position are in quarantine and are therefore unable to be open. It will be closed indefinitely. There was concern that staff are not working, but student workers are.

V. Consent Agenda Items

- a) Change in Academic Standards definition (Academic Standards Committee) – sent forward.
- b) Nomination of Dr. Craig Nakashian for the Piper Award (Faculty Status) – approved, all in favor.

VI. Committee Reports and Business Items

- a) Curriculum Committee
- b) Core Curriculum Assessment Committee - changing how we do core curriculum assessment; communication going out to faculty regarding new process.
- c) Education Technology – we will not have the funds or manpower to make a change the LMS. Committee will go ahead and finish their project and turn it in to the Senate. Blackboard will be renewed for one more year. Canvas was the leading choice among faculty who participated in the survey.
- d) Academic Standards
- e) Academic Rules and Procedures – started work on updating the faculty senate constitution.
- f) FRED – 3 recommendations: Dr. Cantrell, Dr. Farraj, Dr. Hogan.
- g) Faculty Status
- h) Budget Committee

VII. New Business

a) College professional development funds – Dr. Craig Nakashian

Recently, professional development funds have been denied. The question is do we have dedicated funds at the discretion of faculty or no? Where will the funds come from for this?

2:13 pm meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2020