

Dr. Marilyn Duran — Past President , ex-officio
Dr. Mark Shipman – President-Elect

Dr. Sandra Graham — President

Dr. Vicky Johnson – Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Laurie McAdams - Parliamentarian

Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, January 28, 2013

PRESENT:

Mircea Agapie, Annette Albrecht, Robert Anderson, Kendra Bowen, Jesse Crawford, Art Dearing, Sandy Graham, Reggie Hall, Vicky Johnson, Laurie McAdams, Jimmy McCoy, Keith Baker (for Tommy Quarles), Francine Pratt, Wendell Sadler, Mark Shipman, Manon Shockey, Hussain Jafri (for Alex Tanter), Virginia Reyes (for Sara Taylor), Mark Weber, Cathy Wilterding

ABSENT:

Marilyn Duran, Matthew Hallgarth, Rex Gamble, Harold Rathburn, Richard Willey

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Graham at 3:03pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Shockey moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Dr. Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current balance is \$6013.79.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ▶ New senators: Micia Agapie (Engineering and Computer Science), Francine Pratt (Social Work)
- ▶ March 18 meeting, the Cabinet will visit
- ▶ May 20 meeting may be changed to an earlier date.

SPECIAL GUEST

Dr. Murray

▶ **Legislative update from recent Austin trip**

1. House bill and senate bill are similar in funding, both fund growth in higher ed. Tarleton has grown, so among the 39 state institutions, we were 4th in growth by percentage, so funding should increase.
2. Rep. Branch has proposed a bill to change funding to outcome-based. His bill recommends 25% of funding be out-come based (based on graduation numbers). Coordinating Board is recommending 10%. Tarleton would lose \$200,000 based on 10% ; 25% would cost us \$1,000,000. Dr. Murray said she thinks that if a change is made, it will be incremental.
3. There is a push to lower the funding limit. It is currently 150 hours (above that, institutions are authorized to charge up to out-of-state tuition; Tarleton currently charges \$100 extra per credit hour). The proposal is to lower the limit to 135 hours or 15 hours above the number of hours required for the degree. Tarleton students average 146 hours to complete a degree in an average time of 10.5 long semesters. The limit would not penalize double majors, but would apply to students with minors. Since degree plan credit hours were decreased in 2008, our average 'credit hours to graduation' is decreasing each year, so should reach 138-39 in the next couple of years. Senator Seliger (chair of the committee in the senate) may recommend to postpone the new cap. Dr. Murray said that multiple factors cause students to accumulate too many hours: a) they change their majors an average of 1.5 times, b) transfer students may transfer in 60 hours (half of our graduates are transfer students) and they may have 16 hours that do not fit in their degree plan, c) students may take extra courses to raise GPA to get into competitive programs, d) immature freshmen failing the first semester, etc. (all attempted hours count toward the cap).
4. Legislature is recommending that community colleges drop their associate degree programs from 72 hours to 60 hours. Reverse transfer will help community colleges to increase their funding.
5. Recommending that Texas grants can only be used for tuition and fees, not living expenses, and raising the GPA to maintain that funding.

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6. Texas Guaranteed Loans – the “Be On Time” program; if they graduate in 4 years, the loans will be forgiven. There are ramifications for the Financial Aid office to maximize available financial aid (encourage on-track students to get forgivable loans instead of grants that could be available to students who will not graduate on time). The legislature has not talked about how they are going to pay for that. Question was asked about making the summer a 3rd long semester. Dr. Murray said federal Pell grants are limited to 8 long semesters. An additional Tier 1 recommendation is that Texas grants follow suit. This effect is that summer may no longer be affordable for many students.
7. Hazelwood and Benefits to Families: Our deficit now is \$4,000,000 covering these programs. There is a Tier 3 recommendation to revisit that. Dr. Murray said that the reality is that public school and Medicaid issues will probably take precedence for available money.
8. Higher Education Board voted to table a new recommended threshold for low producing programs. Right now, it is to average 3 graduates per year for a master’s program (15 over 5 years), and 5 graduates per year for a baccalaureate program (25 over 5 years). The proposal is to raise those thresholds to 5 and 8. However, they are still working on enforcing the old limits, so a vote was taken to table the proposal for 6 months and revisit.

► Other items and questions

1. Chancellor Sharp has been inviting 5 faculty members to the Board of Regents meeting each time.
2. How are special items funding? Dr. Murray said they got reduced by 25% last biennium. Those won’t be hit again. Don’t know if they will consider any new ones. Three new exceptional line items are proposed:
 - a. Real estate acquisition. We are land-locked and need to purchase.
 - b. Homeland security and data mining
 - c. Academy for environmental studies
3. Tuition Revenue Bonds proposed:
 - a. The Gates: at Lillian and Washington. The building will span the street with a skywalk and basement connection. This will house on one side of the street the College of Ag and the other side, the College of Business. Biennial amount is \$125,000,000.
 - b. Land and a building for the Fort Worth campus
 - c. Library addition which will span across Lillian
4. Spring semester head count up 3.82%, SCH up 6.44%. We are replacing students who used to occasionally use our classes from Central Texas only taking one class at a time. Summer courses, the head count was down and SCH neutral.
5. Dr. Murray said there were 3 myths associated with our students
 - a. “All students work.” They don’t. 40% don’t work at all, another group work on campus, 10-12% work full-time. Dr. Murray said additional data may be available.
 - b. “A lot of our students use us as a community college to prepare for larger institutions.” Majority of students who leave Tarleton go to a community college or do not continue.
 - c. “Our students are poor.” 38% of our students are Pell eligible.
6. Core courses taught online: research shows that “true freshmen” do poorly on gen ed online courses. Proposal is to not allow freshmen Stephenville campus students to take online courses online. We will still have to serve juniors and seniors and distance learners and off-campus students. Sophomores may be allowed to take them after a bit more research is done in follow-up studies. This restriction will be applied summer and fall 2013 that students must have 30 hours to register for totally online gen ed courses.
7. “Stay a Texan” – addresses students who complete a year at Tarleton and are still freshmen. This pilot program will take the best online courses, pull them back to hybrids. The freshmen will stay in the dorm for 2 more weeks, give them tutorials on Blackboard and then send them away to complete the course online to bring their credit hours to sophomore level.
8. Task forces: Summer School, Adjuncts, Faculty Compensation, Greater Expectations
Faculty representatives are on each task force

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:

Reports/Committee assignments

- ▶ Academic Council (Graham)
Committee will meet tomorrow; a report will be available next time
- ▶ Budget Advisory Council (Tanter)
No report
- ▶ Curriculum Committee (Hallgarth)
No report
- ▶ SEMEC (none)
No report
- ▶ CII Advisory Council (Wilterding)
No report
- ▶ Employee Benefits Committee (Graham)
No report
- ▶ University Planning Council (Graham)
Report on status of this committee available at <http://www.tarleton.edu/ORG/strategicplan/upc/index.html>
- ▶ University Calendar Committee (Johnson)
No report
- ▶ Diversity, Access and Equity Committee (Graham)
No report
- ▶ CLASS (Graham)
No report
- ▶ Faculty Handbook Committee (Shipman)
Process is ongoing

TASK FORCES

Task Forces with Faculty Senate representation

(Task force information listing committee members and the charge(s) of each one were forwarded to senators in a separate document)

Task force reports are due March 15, those listed below have not yet met as of 1/28/13.

- ▶ Adjunct Faculty Compensation Issues
- ▶ Competitive Faculty Compensation and Compression Issues
- ▶ Summer School Funding and Compensation
Dr. Albrecht volunteered to represent the Faculty Senate on this task force

OLD BUSINESS

Smoking Policy

Dr. Graham suggested that the item be tabled for the next meeting and that senators think about recommendations to make to the Cabinet.

Core courses

See Dr. Murrays comments above

Salary compression issues

Task force will be meeting this week

Freshman seminar

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Two meetings are coming up. Next month, Dr. Graham will request that Diane Taylor come to the senate meeting to answer questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Benefits

Matching funds went down to 48%. Other systems have re-funded, but A&M has not.

Insurance/child support lump sum for 9-month employees

System faculty want to join together to request a different process. Sandy will talk to Mr. Minckler regarding these two items.

OTHER:

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Wilterding moved to adjourn. Mr. Dearing seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:17p.m.