

Dr. Don Beach — President

Dr. Ann Albercht — Past President , ex-officio
Dr. Keith Emmert – President-Elect

Dr. Rebekah MillerLevy – Sec/Treasurer
Dr. Anthony Pursell- Parliamentarian

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 14, 2016
Library Multipurpose Room
3:00-5:00 PM

Present: Dr. Nina Rogers, Ms. Manon Shockey, Dr. Randy Roisere, Dr. Dustin Edwards, Dr. Rajani Srinivassen, Dr. Karley Goen, Dr. Rebekah Miller-Levy, Dr. Don Beach, Dr. Ivelisse Urban, Donald McGrahm for Ms. Paula McKeehan, Dr. Thomas Tallach, Ms. Melissa Cookson, Dr. Keith Emmert, Dr. Ann Albrecht, Dr. Mary Winton, Dr. Michael Landis, Dr. Amber Harris-Bozer, Ms. Francine Pratt, and Ashley Ford, Texan News Service.

Absent: Mr. Art Dearing, Dr. Mircea Agapie, Dr. Brooke Dubansky, and MSG Jimmy Garcia, Dr. Brittany Rodriguez, Mr. Richard Willey, Dr. Anthony Pursell, and Dr. Jacob Heller.

- I. Approval of February minutes – Dr. Winton moved to approve the minutes. Mrs. Pratt seconded. Motion passed.
- II. Treasurer's Report - \$1,870.50 in Account 1 and \$79.00 in Account 2.
- III. Guests: Matt Welch, TSU Police Chief – Active Shooter Video and Questions
 - A. Tarleton State University is beginning and Emergency Response Active Shooter Information Campaign developed from information gained from past active shooter incidents (Columbine, Virginia Tech, Wedgewood Baptist Church). The campaign is emphasizing preparation.
 - i. Dr. Dottavio requested that campaign begin before Fall 2016.
 - ii. TSU is using the Run, Hide, Fight video produced by the City of Houston as the cornerstone of the campaign and offer additional training for anyone who requests.
 - (1) If you want additional training or would like building specific training, email Sargent Murry for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event (CRASE) training.
 - B. Preparation
 - i. Tarleton officers are being trained in active shooter response.
 - ii. TSU holds several mass simulations to provide hands-on training for officers and concerned public.
 - iii. Interviews are being conducted for the new Emergency Management Coordinator.
 - iv. Each building will have a designated person who has been trained.
 - v. Everyone in the building should sign up for Code Purple on their phone and have a phone on at all time in case of an emergency.

Dr. Karen Murray, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost

- A. The calendar has been moved back a week beginning Fall 2016 due to the damage of the tornado.
 - a. Originally, Fall 2016 Transition Week was scheduled to begin August 15 with first day of class falling on August 22. Due to the need to allow additional time for repairs to the new dorms, Transition week will begin on August 22 with the first day of class being August 29.
 - b. The year schedule is not being compressed. Every event will move back one week.

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IV. University Committees with Faculty Senate representation Reports/Committee assignments

- A. Academic Advising Council (Shockey)
No Meeting
- B. Academic Assessment, University Evaluation and Effectiveness (Nelson)
No Meeting
- C. Academic Council (Beach)
Approved calendar for next year.
- D. Academic Council Executive Team (Beach)
The concerns about faculty morale taken to Dr. Murray in the FS-Academic Affairs Leadership Team meeting were addressed. Deans and Vice Presidents appeared to be surprised there was a problem with morale. It was suggested that the push for efficiency from the A&M System could be the contributing factor to low morale rather than any actions of Tarleton Administration. Deans were charged with investigating moral and generating possible solutions in their colleges. Issues of class size and limited funds for additional faculty lines were discussed. No action was taken. In addition, Dr. Murray requested Faculty Senate to postpone administrating the survey evaluating the Deans and Administration until Spring of 2017.
- E. Academic Standards (Beach)
No Meeting
- F. ALE/REAL Oversight Committee (Miller-Levy)
No Meeting
- G. ALE/REAL Council (Beach)
Meet before Spring Break and are currently reviewing the proposals of the three previous committees.
- H. Budget Advisory Council (Rogers)
No meeting
- I. Campus Carry Council (Emmert)
No meeting
- J. Campus Ethics, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management (Winton)
Overview of the System level meeting. Reviewed the evaluation matrix. It appears the focus will be on emergency management, construction, and compliance for internet.
- K. CII Advisory Council (Heller)
No Meeting
- L. Commencement and Convocation (Pursell)
No meeting
- M. Developmental Education Advisory Council (McKeehan)
No Report
- N. Digital Media Advisory Committee (Shockey)
In the process of redesigning the Tarleton State University website to be more user friendly. Working on a redesign of the app because it had too many things on the menu. Checking with the manufacturer to see what can be done.
- O. Educator Preparation Council (Tallach)
Discussed questions on a few specific candidates and voted to approve or deny.
- P. Emergency Management Council (Emmert)

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Meeting to begin search for a director

Q. Employee Benefits (Nelson)

No Meeting

R. Environmental Advisory Committee (Shockey)

No Meeting

S. Faculty Development Committee (Miller-Levy)

No meeting

T. Faculty Handbook (Albrecht)

- Revisited Chapter 2 based on a desire to incorporate references to two new SAPS (Fixed Tern Faculty & Faculty Merit Plus process) into the document and to review wording changes recommended by Employee Services for alignment with TAMUS policy and state law. Once the SAPS are completed, both Chapter 2 and the SAPS will be submitted to Faculty Senate for review.
- Reviewed Dr. Murry's comments concerning Chapter 3. The group appreciated these comments and they will be incorporated into this chapter. Additionally, the chapter will need to be reformatted to incorporate the new SAP's description of Fixed-Term faculty. Once revisions to this document are reviewed by Academic Affairs, this chapter will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for review.
- Reviewed Dr. Murry's comments concerning Chapter 4. The chapter will need to be reformatted to incorporate the SAP description of Fixed-Term faculty. Section of the chapter are under review by the legal staff at TAMUS. Murray recommended inclusion of a statement on faculty civility. This statement could be developed by the Faculty Senate. Once revisions to this document are reviewed by Academic Affairs this chapter will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for review.
- Reviewed SAP related to fixed-term faculty appointments. The proposed document outlines processes and requirements for all full-time non-tenure track faculty positions and places them under the umbrella of fixed-term appointments. Once revisions to this document are reviewed by Academic Affairs, this SAP will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for review.
- Reviewed SAP related to Academic Dishonesty. Recommend inclusion of a definition of self-plagiarism. Once revisions to this document are reviewed by Academic Affairs, this SAP will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for review.
- SAP related to Faculty Merit Plus process needs to be submitted to the committee for review.

U. Hybrid/Online Course (Harris-Bozer)

No meeting

V. International Education Advisory Committee (Heller)

Discussion of student scholarships and awards. Set up guidelines and criteria.

W. Library Committee (Emmert)

No Meeting

X. Parking Committee (Albrecht)

No meeting

Y. SEMEC (Beach)

No Meeting

Z. University Calendar Committee (Pursell)

No Meeting

AA. University Curriculum Committee (Miller-Levy)

Met to pass curriculum items for Fall 2016.

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BB. University Discipline Appeals (Miller-Levy)

No Meeting

CC. University Diversity, Access, Equity, & Disability Service Committee (Pratt)

No Meeting

DD. University Planning Council (Albrecht)

- President's Annual Planning Retreat was January 28th for all account managers and other selected faculty/staff. Dr. Beach and I represented the Senate. The Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan was overviewed, followed by small group discussion of all areas of the strategic plan (Exemplary Service, Distinctive Engagement, Student Transformation, Academic Innovation), as well as civility. The follow up meeting was on February 18th to evaluate the retreat and make plans for next year and future year's priorities. Have not received feedback from that meeting.

EE. University Research Committee (Heller)

No Meeting

FF. UPMC (Albrecht)

No meeting

V. Old Business

A. Faculty Senate Conference Report

- i. Texas State presented report on treatment of non-tenured faculty
- ii. Tarleton State University will never have a leadership role in this organization due to our term limitation. If we want to hold a leadership position, we will have to change our constitution concerning term limitations.

B. Presidential Fellow

- i. Texas State presented report on their Presidential Fellow program. This program allows tenured faculty the opportunity to apply to work on a project of special interest with the President for a year. Funding is required as the Fellow moves temporarily to ½ teaching load while working the project. The President reviews the applications and selects a project meeting his plans for the University.

C. Regent's Professor – Discussion on why Tarleton State does not send forward a nominee for Regent's Professor every year.

- i. Dr. Randy Roisere moved the Faculty Senate endorse a yearly Regent's Professor nominee. Dr. Michael Landis seconded. Motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. 60X30TX – New Coordinating Board Initiative (replaces “Closing the Gaps”)

- i. At the previous TFSC conference, the group passed a resolution for faculty consultation before 60X30TX implementation. This was not effective. Do we want to take action on the resolution or possibly draft a resolution of our own addressing this issue? Further discussion required.
- ii. Response to University of Houston statement regarding changes in curriculum in regards to Campus Carry. Dr. Michael Landis presented information on the U of H statement and requested we develop a statement expressing Tarleton State University's philosophy. The statement will be posted on the Faculty Senate website. “The Faculty Senate at Tarleton State University affirms its commitment to the free expression of ideas in the classroom, despite the presence of firearms. We encourage our faculty to confront ‘sensitive topics’ boldly and openly.”

B. New Digest – Concerns and Comments

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- i. The new policy to avoid communications sent out to all faculty and students was the creation of the Digest that puts all communications in one email. This has led to several concerns:
 - (1) There appears to be no order to the placement of the communication in the digest so many important announcements are buried near the end and are being missed.
 - (2) The Digest is one document that appears to be frozen. Individual items can be opened but not saved or printed.
 - (3) Some departments (Athletics) still send out individual communications and other departments (everyone else) must use the Digest.
 - (4) Could we have a few focused Digests (Athletics, Arts, student organizations) rather than one continuing all communications?
 - (5) Dr. Beach will ask Harry Batson to come discuss the Digest at a future meeting.

VII. Announcements

- A. Faculty Senate Meeting Dates for 2016 (Second Monday of the Month)

Monday, April 11

Monday, May 2

- B. End of Semester Luncheon – April 28 11:30 to 1 – Dr. Laura Boren – Speaker

VIII. Dr. Beach adjourned the meeting at 5:01 pm.