

Dr. Keith Emmert— President

Dr. Don Beach — Past President, ex-officio
Dr. Anthony Pursell – President-Elect

Manon Shockey – Sec/Treasurer
Dr. Amber Harris-Bozer - Parliamentarian

Faculty Senate Minutes

Date: January 9, 2017

PRESENT:

Dr. Johnny Nelson for Dr. Nina Rogers, Manon Shockey, Dr. Jolena Waddell, Dr. Dustin Edwards, Dr. Karley Goen, Dr. H. Kevin Fulk, Dr. Beck Munsey, Dr. Brittany Rodriguez, Dr. Robin Pate, Dr. Don Beach, Dr. Anthony Pursell, Dr. Thomas Tallach, Ms. Melissa Cookson, Dr. Jacob Heller, Dr. Keith Emmert, Dr. Brooke Dubansky via Zoom, Dr. Amy Owen permanently for Dr. Jean Montgomery, Dr. Amber Harris-Bozer, Dr. Michael Landis, Ms. Francine Pratt, and Alejandra Arreguin with Texan News Service.

ABSENT:

Dr. Catherine Ronck, Dr. Kartik Venkataraman, CPT Gina Williams, Dr. Ju Xu, Dr. Ivelisse Urban, and Dr. Heather Mathewson

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Emmert at 3:06pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Pratt moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Dr. Waddell seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

After Faculty Senate luncheon expenses came out, we have \$750.14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

GUESTS: Provost Murray

1. She considers herself a good listener and apologized for being unable to attend a fall meeting due to her teaching load. She is willing to come as often as we need her to during the spring semester.
2. Legislative biennial cycle
 - a. New estimate of budget cuts is about 2.7%. We will not get a final budget until late July. If there are extended sessions, then no budget for the start of fall term.
 - b. College budget meetings will start mid-February to the end of March and each will have FS representation. Departmental and college level meetings will start next week.
 - c. Searching for a replacement for Dr. Kim Rynearson in Academic Affairs. This position spends a lot of time in a vehicle overseeing off-campus sites. Public announcement next week for the university and the search committee will have FS representation on it. This is critical due to the planning process for the FtW campus building.
 - d. Groundbreaking for Engineering building in March and the FtW building in August.
 - e. Kicking off the system centennial on the 27th. There will be many visible symbols of our relationship with A&M.
 - f. Reimagining the FYE comprised of 5 bucket groups for planning. About 70% of our students have one or more risk categories. Due to high-risk population, these bucket groups are evaluating best practices for addressing these risks.
 - i. Is the FYS course being used in the best manner?
 - ii. How do we help them find the right major?

3. Dr. Edwards – Student evaluation feedback concerns. How do we give honest feedback while not hurting their feelings? How do we retain them while being realistic? Murray- should be addressed during the first BIOL classes and contact them individually to visit after the first test. After looking closer at each situation, there are often other issues such as developmental courses or missing prerequisite. Show them the doors that are open to them. Emmert – concern over the evaluation component how it hurts the faculty member. Advising and career services is now joined to better address interests and issues as early as possible. Cluster groups based on meta-majors concept of similarly related majors and disciplines to give them the time to explore and determine abilities and interests. There will also be students who do not respond to tough love. Shockey – concern over the limited degree flexibility. Murray – the sooner we help them to belong and connect with a faculty member in their interest area, the more likely they are to be successful. Landis – social sciences agrees that students should not have to choose a major the first day. Pratt – as we see more students coming in as core complete or with up to 60 hours and curriculum flexibility. Also, concern over the age differences in junior level classes with 18 year-olds. Rodriguez – other problems is students who have criminal backgrounds, which will prevent them from entering the field they want. Murray – same age issues in teacher education, nursing, and medical lab sciences with age and experience. Continued discussion on age. Pratt – documents outliers and issues to justify potential comments or evaluation issues. Discussion and experience exchange continued. Beach – sense of entitlement and consumerism – they paid for the class so they should get the grade and diploma. Consumers not learners.
4. Beach – Concern over the increased cost of faculty to travel, attend conferences, etc. While we do more with less, more vocal students feel cheated when the faculty member is not in the classroom and giving them grades. Murray – clearly communicate and do our best. Heller – the university is trying to streamline processes and more research on strategic priorities as opposed to just doing random projects without proper vetting. Murray – concern over balancing faculty creativity and not just business based decisions. There are also external forces that dictate some decisions and expenditures.
5. Emmert – Proctoring exam delivery solution- There is overwhelming demand on the testing center and remote proctoring will allow use of other proctoring centers. For a price, we can adopt a proctoring solution like Examity or ProctorU that will be paid by the institution. Remote proctoring can be time-consuming to set up. The software can facilitate that process. System IT services has already bid it out and we can decide from there. It does come with a large price tag. We are looking into it.
6. Shockey – Status of TRB request at the farm and how will that affect an Ag building on campus. Provost – only one request for \$10 million dollars to replace facilities at the Farm. We have insurance and FEMA funds to cover 2.6 million. We won't know the answer until the session ends and we won't know about the Ag building for campus until we find out about the TRB. The lab facilities at the farm are not intended to replace a building but to add to our lab needs. Tallach – will this bring us up to comparable standards with other tier institutions? It will allow replacement of what was lost at a comparable standard. Beach – encourages attendance at Day at the Capital, which is beneficial to all and helpful politically.
7. Pratt - faculty on outlying campuses providing service to the university- how can they expand university service opportunities for them for tenure/promotion. Provost – we need to do a better job on engaging off campus via technology. They can reach out to the local director for equally valuable service opportunities in their respective communities. Those services will count as university service. Beach – Faculty appreciation lunch in FtW. Beck – it is important to provide equity across satellite campuses. Provost – some point there is a cost-benefit analysis. We cannot do everything the same at every place but when will we reach that critical mass?
8. Harris-Bozer – Millennials. Making the leap that the characteristics are not one age group but is the culture of higher education. We need to be careful how we treat the age group.
 - a. UG assistant funding – Can we get it back or get funding? Provost – you will get it back. The office of Student Research over-expanded last year and is making it up. That office is funded by IDC money and it grows with research growth and grants. Provost gets 5% to fund office of Faculty Research. About 10 years ago, all exceptional and line items outside of typical university funding were cut by 25%. They put the money into RDFs but they are reducing it every legislative session. 2/3 of our faculty are junior faculty. Beach- hard to do research with workload. Provost – seeing impressive packets.
9. Emmert – PUF money- potential to move away from it. We get PUF because we are an original member of the A&M system and others get HEF. We have evidence that the legislature is harming us by staying under PUF funds as opposed to moving to HEF where we could get more capital money. We will have to have a rep to take it forward and the other HEF schools would not support sharing their pie with another school as large as we are.

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10. Fulk – Workload – How soon will there be a faculty cohort with exceptional expectations will become the standard. Rumors are that administration will try to move to Tier 1 research institution. Provost – We are not vying for this due to limited research funds. Not currently aspiring to this. The system would like an emerging research institution; however, even the potential merger of Corpus and Kingsville would not achieve the required dollar amount. They did have conversations with each college in a what-if scenario. We benchmark against Sam Houston and SFA. We are currently in the Carnegie Masters level. Fulk- What is their teaching load? Provost – we are typical in our level of classification.
11. Emmert – Day of service on April 6th. We did not get much support in terms of freebies, recruiting, etc. Provost – See Denae Dorris and let her know what level so she can locate the appropriate items.
12. Emmert – Teaching load – can you give us some ideas of reasonable and equitable report that justifies allotments. Provost- Report A tool can be of great value as it allows you to look at all contributions, remote, travel time, etc. for identifying a big picture of work to see who is truly overloaded and who is doing what is required. We would need to negotiate with the DH's to see if we could reinstitute it. Emmert – Graduate release time. Provost – automatic release is more doable in the spring rather than the fall and no more than two people at a time. Emmert – concern over the loss of release time. Landis – it is in the workload rule that we are entitled to it so the problem is that we are not getting credit for it. Emmert - The policy needs more teeth. Provost – propose it as spring release and it may get more support from the DH, not fall.
13. Shockey – Gough/Moody renovations – supposed to rehab for IT services to consolidate for efficiency. Pre-proposal was affordable but with asbestos abatement was 2.5x's the original. The President is prioritizing the projects based on the realistic numbers. Four projects are over-budget so he will have to prioritize the top two.
14. Fulk – Release time. Members of the department are uncomfortable with what is expected from release time, the scholarly product. Provost – approved by the DH and share with your colleagues how you used your time. There must be agreement with the DH on what the deliverable is. We could develop a menu of possible deliverables for you to choose from but does not want to be overly prescriptive to allow for curricular differences.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES: There were no committee reports at this meeting!

Reports/Committee assignments

- A. **Academic Advising Council** (Shockey) –
- B. **Academic Assessment, University Evaluation and Effectiveness** (Edwards) –
- C. **Academic Council** (Emmert) –
- D. **Academic Council Executive Team** (Emmert) –
- E. **Academic Standards** (Emmert) –
- F. **Applied Learning Experiences Council** (Pate, Rogers) –
- G. **Athletic Council** (Beach) –
- H. **Campus Carry Council** (Emmert) –
- I. **Campus Ethics, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management** (Rodriguez) –
- J. **CII Advisory Council** (Heller) –
- K. **Commencement and Convocation Committee** (Pursell) –
- L. **Developmental Education Advisory Council** (Urban) –
- M. **Digital Media Advisory Committee** (Pate) –
- N. **Distance Learning Advisory Council** (Heller) –
- O. **Diversity Taskforce** (Landis) -
- P. **Educator Preparation Council** (Tallach) –
- Q. **Emergency Management Council** (Emmert) –
- R. **Employee Benefits Committee** –
- S. **Environmental Advisory Committee** –
- T. **Faculty Development Committee** (Pursell) –
- U. **General Education and Academic Assessment Committee** (Edwards) –
- V. **Interdisciplinary Degree Programs Committee** (Shockey) –
- W. **International Education Advisory Council** (Landis, Urban) –
- X. **Library Committee** (Emmert) –
- Y. **Parking Committee** (Emmert) –

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Z. **SEMEC** (Emmert) – not met

AA. **University Calendar Committee** (Beach) –

BB. **University Curriculum Committee** (Goen) –

CC. **University Discipline Appeals Committee** (Goen) –

DD. **University Diversity, Access, Equity, & Disability Service Committee** (Pratt) –

EE. **University Planning Council** (Beach) —

FF. **University Research Committee** (Heller, Mathewson, Venkataraman) –

GG. **UPMC** (Beach) –

HH. **University Budget Committee** (Emmert) –

II. **FERPA Steering Committee** (Pratt) –

OLD BUSINESS

Faculty Workload – Landis – was not addressed due to guest speaker and will be addressed at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Day of Service – will revisit this at the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Pate moved to adjourn. Dr. Munsey seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.