**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**APRIL 06, 2016**

**MINUTES (Approved)**

**PRESENT**: Rob Bartsch, Elizabeth Beavers, Sandra Browning, Stephen Cotten, Caroline Crawford, Tom Fox, Jennifer Fritz, David Garrison, Lisa Gossett, Rebecca Huss­Keeler, Amanda Johnston, Christine Kovic, Van Mayes, Pat McCormack, Scott McIntyre, Tim Michael, Keith Parsons, Bazlur Rashid, Leroy Robinson, Randy Seevers, Brian Stephens, Alix Valenti, Radu Vlas, Paul Wagner, Chris Ward, Jeff Whitworth, Paul Withey, Lei Wu,

Faiza Zalila.

**ABSENT**: Lisa Lacher, Ishaq Unwala, Matt Brown, Kent Divoll, Heather Kanenberg Mohammad Rob, Debra Shulsky.

**OTHERS PRESENT**: Yvette Bendeck, Darlene Biggers, Zbigniew Czajkiewicz, Glen Houston, Mark Shermis, Mrinal Mugdh Varma, Rick Short, Samuel Gladden, Carl Stockton, Karen Wielhorski.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 02, 2016**

The minutes were unanimously approved with the following amendments:

* Add Samuel Gladden and Lisa Gossett to list of attendees
* C&T Report: Change degree name to B.S.in Early Childhood Care and Education (BS ECCE).

Amend Requirements for a Minor to include the change-“students will be allowed to declare minor in their senior year”.

* TCFS Report: (Last 2 sentences) – TCFS also discussed SB15 Bill considered last session by the House of Representatives. (2) TCFS is considering supporting such legislation next session….

**PROVOST’S REPORT**

Provost Stockton indicated that about $200,000 was allocated for the Center for Faculty Development. He thanked members of the TLEC Restructuring Committee. Dr. Stockton added that the current Distance Education office on the second floor of the Bayou Building has been identified for the Center. The Faculty Senate Office will relocate to the current Title III office space (next door to Distance Ed Office). Studies on center models revealed the best practice was to have the Senate Office in close proximity to the Center for Faculty Development. Those changes will occur in late spring.

Dr. Stockton announced he accepted a position at Auburn University at Montgomery. His UHCL tenure will culminate at the end of June. He expressed appreciation for the support he received from the Senate for the past nine years. Dr. Garrison thanked Provost Stockton for his role in the formation of the new Center, identifying office space, and his overall support of the Senate.

Dr. Stockton congratulated all who worked on the Psy.D. Program proposal. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the program. The first six students have been admitted into the program.

**HOUSTON GUIDED PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (GPS)**

Dr. Bendeck provided an update on the Houston GPS Initiative. The initiative is based on an MOU entered into by and between Complete College America and seven Houston education institutions to develop and implement strategies to promote Houston-area undergraduate success and graduation. The institutions agree to follow the College America framework by establishing taskforces to target components such as Meta Majors, Requisite Remediation, Proactive Advising and Technology, Math Alignment, Structured Schedules. She briefly described each component. The project will be implemented over a progression of years.

**FACULTY SENATE CONSTITITON**

Dr. Beth Hentges highlighted the major amendments to the Senate Constitution (handout circulated). The proposed changes include:

* Include lecturers as faculty members and two library representatives
* Increase membership to twelve senators from each school (current-eight from each school). Election cycle will be 1/3 of the senators will be elected each year
* Term of office will change to three years (current- 2 years)

Dr. Hentges mentioned that the Constitution committee considered the current issue of obtaining eight senators from the school to serve when proposing the increase to twelve senators. The committee felt that there were arguments for increasing membership and the term of office. The difficulty of recruiting senators did not negate the benefit of increasing membership and term of office. Dr. Wagner pointed out that historically the schools struggle to get eight senators to serve. Why increase the membership? He added librarians were taken off from the Senate because they already have a voice in the shared governance. The faculty senate is the faculty members’ voice. Librarians may have a quasi-role that include administration. The faculty senate should be for faculty. Dr. Michael agreed, and pointed out the greatest concern was that librarians are not tenure-track. He noted that some universities limit to tenured faculty only on the Senate. Dr. Ward said that this issue has been discussed at the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Senates with only tenured faculty are rare in Texas. The majority of faculty Senates allow non-tenure track lecturers and librarians. In such cases, the issue was whether department chairs were allowed on the Senate. It would not be out of the norm if the definition of faculty members was expanded. Dr. Beavers added that there are excellent senior lecturers whose contributions positively impact the academics. Dr. Garrison pointed out that this was the first read of the document. He asked members to read and make notes. There will be opportunities to make changes and to vote on various parts of the proposal. If approved by the Senate, it will go to the general faculty. Dr. Hentges said that the committee is proposing changing the definition of faculty to include librarians and lecturers. It is asking for librarian representation on the Senate.

Dr. Hentges pointed out other proposed changes which include changing the names of Standing Committees to Budget and Facilities Committee, Teaching and Research committee, Faculty Life Committee, Faculty Governance Committee, Graduate Education Committee and Undergraduate Education Committee. No non-senate members will serve on the standing committees.

The next amendment is creating by-laws and making it separate from the constitution. Currently, there is only a constitution. To make any change, items have to be presented for vote of the entire faculty. Changes to the constitution have to be made by vote of full faculty. By-laws can be changed by vote of the Senate. Dr. Garrison asked senators to review the documents, share with faculty colleagues and email minor edits to Dr. Hentges.

Dr. Michael asked for redline copies with amendments presented last year as well as the constitution as it now stands. The documents will be sent out to all members.

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Curriculum & Teaching Committee:** Dr. Stephens presented two new program proposals—the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and the Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Mechanical Engineering. The MAT was unanimously approved by the Senate. Following discussion relating to the program budget, the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering was approved unanimously. The Provost asked for the proposal to be presented on the correct THECB form.

**Faculty Life Committee:** Dr. Browning reported the committee was currently revising the Faculty Grievance Policy. The updated draft should be completed by the summer. The committee will meet with the deans and Provost to discuss proposed changes to the Promotion and Tenure Policy.

**Budget Committee:** Dr. McIntyre said work continues on analyzing impact of accreditation on faculty salaries. Also, reviewing the impact of new method of funding summer school.

**SHARED GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Facilities & Support Services Committee:** Dr. Valenti said FSSC heard a progress report on on-going projects. There was an action item to create more space for SCE and labs on Bayou Building, third floor. They continue to discuss items relating to parking.

**Planning & Budgeting Committee**: Dr. Michael said no meeting convened in March.

**University Life Committee (ULC)**: Dr. Bartsch indicated that Dr. Fritz shared information on a new recycling project. The project goals are to increase recycling and decrease the amount of recycle bowls placed in trash cans. Trash cans were removed from classrooms and placed next to recycle bins in the hallways. Data results showed there was more recycling and fewer recycle items placed in trash. Results of the project will be presented to Ward Martaindale. A recommendation will be made to University Council.

ULC plans to study ways to address a problem people with walking disabilities are experiencing with getting around campus. The committee will contact the Disability Services, Human Resources and FMC to work on solutions.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Workload Committee**: Dr. Michael said the committee is working on defining labs. The goal is to have a draft completed by May and presented to Senate in Fall 2016.

**Online Proctoring**: Dr. Michael mentioned that more representatives are needed to serve on the committee.

**QEP REPORT**

Dr. Browning remarked that a one-day professional development workshop on creating critical thinking syllabi was held on March 4. A follow-up workshop was held on 1st April to provide assistance on creating critical thinking syllabi. On April 8, the QEP leadership team will meet to discuss the Impact Report and prepare the 5-year SACS Report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Garrison communicated that Dr. Brian Stephens and Dr. Tim Michael were nominated for president-elect at the Faculty Assembly. An online ballot will be sent out to faculty members by April 11. Voting will open on April 11 at 12 a.m. and close by Friday, April 15 at midnight. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet with President Staples to discuss the Interim Provost appointment.

Dr. Michael reminded senators to complete the COACH Survey.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.