Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Faculty Senate Meeting

September 15, 2006


Absent: Cook, Waheeduzzaman, Wingfield.

Guests: Sherry Dee Garrett, Dee Hopkins, Martin Lo, Nancy Nelson, Dan Pearce, Allison Schaum, Richard Sheppard, Caroline Sherritt, Brian Teter, Ping Tintera, Corinne Valadez.

I. Call to Order
Hartlaub called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Hartlaub acknowledged our visitors, one of whom was Richard Sheppard, who suffered injuries from an airplane crash in the summer. Dr. Sheppard responded to a question about his injuries, explaining that he had suffered broken bones, but was healing, and thankfully, no permanent injuries.

II. Approval of 8/25/06 minutes
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.

III. Mr. Brian Teter, Athletic Director
Mr. Teter is the newly hired Athletic Director who has been here for 7 weeks. He explained to Senators his philosophy and program emphasis about athletics. He would like to see a R&D mentality, which means Rings and Degrees. The athletic department will work very hard to recruit and retain student athletes who will be able to succeed in the classroom as well as on the field. A question was asked about the possibility of starting a football program. Mr. Teter explained that an outside firm was asked to determine the feasibility of such a program, and they are still working on a final report. Having a football program is not required by the Southland Conference. Another Senator asked about starting a soccer program. Mr. Teter was surprised that we did not have an existing soccer program, as it is an important sport in the community. Mr Teter also discussed graduation rates, and he reflected that the program here is only 8 years old. His goal is for 92.5% of the athletes in his program to be in good academic standing.

IV. Speaker Comments
Hartlaub discussed Deputy Speaker Cook’s attendance at the System Faculty Council Meeting on 8/25/2006 in College Station. There has not been a high level of participation by system campuses, and the Council would like to have at least 2 representatives from each campus attend meetings. There are 2 additional meetings this year, in October and in February. The Board of Regents is interested in faculty input, but low attendance weakens the System Faculty Council’s influence. Thomas added that the Faculty Advisory Council may attend meetings of the Board of Regents, so that may be a way to offer faculty input.

V. Election of two Senate representatives on the Enrollment Management Council
Thomas, Chair of the Committee on Committees asked for volunteers to represent Senate on the Enrollment Management Council. Wheeless explained that this Council assists in managing our growth and the enrollment of students. Oliver and Talley volunteered to serve on this Committee. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations, the motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to elect Oliver and Talley to the Enrollment Management Council. The motion passed.

VI. Action Item: Curriculum & Instruction Ed.D. changed to a Ph.D. degree
A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal to change the Ed.D. degree in Curriculum &
Instruction with an emphasis in Reading to a Ph.D. degree. The proposal was approved.

VII. Assignment of committee-generated topics to committees (Executive Committee)
Hartlaub explained that the Executive Committee assigned these topics to Committees, but the Senate needs to approve the assignments.
- Pay Issues [20 votes] – assigned to Faculty Affairs Committee. Yellen explained that there are 5 major issues, and the Committee will prioritize the issues. She mentioned that the Budget Committee will look at Merit pay. Some issues may be easier solved than others.
- Validity of Student Evaluations [8] – assigned to Academic Affairs
Hartlaub requested the Committees work on these issues and prepare a final report regarding the Committees’ progress.

Hartlaub explained that he received an email from President Killebrew regarding the Clinical Faculty Status policy. Killebrew felt it was too broad and Dean Hamilton is working on a revision.

Academic Affairs will also work on Grade Appeals.

It was moved and seconded to approve the committee assignments. The motion was approved.

VII. New/Revised Policies: Academic Department Chairs and Assistant and Associate Deans
Hartlaub requested Senators discuss these policies with their constituents. Will this policy change the desirability of serving as Chair, or the pool of candidates for the Chair position?

Buck proposed an unfriendly amendment striking section 2.3 of the Chairs policy. He noted the language was redundant and it created a problem with ballots for more than 1 person.

Reuter noted that this is not an action item, so we don’t need an amendment to discuss it. Lucero, acting as Parliamentarian, noted that Buck requested the amendment, so we need to act on it before we can go on. Some discussion ensued regarding procedural matters, so it was decided to continue with the amendment.

A motion was made and seconded to eliminate section 2.3 of the Chairs policy. Although other items were brought up, Lucero reminded Senators that we are only discussion the amendment. The question was called. A show of hands was called for, with 13 voting to eliminate section 2.3, 3 opposed to eliminating the section, and 3 abstentions. The Senate will recommend that Section 2.3 be eliminated from the policy.

Pohan discussed section 3.1 of the Chairs policy. The definition of summer term might be difficult as we continue to grow. There was discussion regarding the summer workload for Chairs, as well as the 12 month vs. 9 month appointment. The colleges all have quite different views on these issues. Less prescriptive language was suggested: “Duties of the Chair could involve administration, and/or teaching, and/or research, and/or service, as negotiated with the Dean.” Each Chair could negotiate with their Dean the teaching load, the service requirement, the research time, etc.

Thomas requested an amendment to replace the language in section 3.1 from the second sentence, beginning, “In most cases….” And ending with “…a normal appointment.” with the following language: “Duties of the Chair could involve administration, and/or teaching, and/or research, and/or service, as negotiated with the Dean.” It was moved and seconded to amend the paragraph. Hartlaub called for a show of hands. Eighteen Senators were in favor of replacing the language, 1 was opposed, with no abstentions. The motion passed to
amend the paragraph.

There was further discussion regarding flexibility for summer vacations, 12 vs. 9 month contracts. Hartlaub said that when he met with Dr. Kirby, the reason for the policy was because chairs were being paid to teach ½ time in Summer I and Summer II, but they weren’t here to either teach or do the administrative work. After more discussion on 9 or 12 month contracts, Willman offered a friendly amendment for 3.1, “Department Chairs length of appointment and length of term will be mutually agreed upon by the individual and the Dean,” to replace the first sentence in section 3.1. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the language in the friendly amendment.

Tally had asked for 15 minutes at the end of the meeting for an issue that she would like Senate to discuss. If we need more time to discuss the Chairs’ policy, we can schedule a special meeting.

Thomas brought up Section 6, which deals with compensation. If Chairs work a 12 month contract, should they receive a stipend for Chair duties? She suggested that compensation be negotiated based on teaching, service, and research duties. King asked if salary is not part of the appointment. Hartlaub relayed Dr. Kirby’s reasoning, which is that Chairs are compensated for 1 class in Summer I and 1 class in Summer II. However, the summer budget is figured differently, dividing by 9, and multiplying by 12.

Hartlaub noted that this is moving toward Chairs being full time administrators, and the College of Liberal Arts doesn’t want to do that. Pohan added that if the internal candidates don’t want a 12 month appointment, then do an external search. There is already inequity between colleges, and this would allow for more inequality between colleges.

Thomas is willing to work on the language and send it to Senators electronically. Tally remarked that this will also affect Section 5, on leave. Buck reminded Senators that this policy has been in process for 5 years, and is not reflecting the rapid change we have undergone during those 5 years.

Lucero recommends that we postpone the discussion until the next Senate meeting. It was moved and seconded to table the discussion and continue at the next meeting. The motion passed.

Talley had requested the floor regarding a news article about the University Preparatory High School Program, which is a partnership between Flour Bluff ISD and TAMU-CC. The program allows students to earn college credit while going to high school. There are 83 students this year with 100 expected next year. Talley asked what faculty are going to do with high school students in their classes, will they be monitored, what will happen when classes deal with topic or texts that may not be appropriate for minors, or approved of by parents of minors.

Dean Hopkins responded saying that everyone had been informed at the college level about this program. We were one of 2 schools selected in the A&M System, the other is TAMIU at Laredo. This is a program for marginalized, first generation college students, and high risk students. TAMUCC is partnering with Flour Bluff and CCISD is partnering with Del Mar. Hopkins explained that we want to participate to learn how K-12 schools prepare students for college. She suggested we invite the principal of the University Preparatory High School to tell us about the program. This is funded from the Gates Foundation contributing tuition money. She said faculty shouldn’t know there are high school students in their classes.

A motion was made and seconded to extend for 15 minutes. The meeting was extended.

Hartlaub asked if Senate wanted to get involved in this issue. A motion was made and seconded to discuss this issue at the next meeting. The motion passed. Wheeless said she would set up an informational meeting with the principal of the University Preparatory High School, if Senate would like.
IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Submitted by Sally Bickley, Secretary