

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Monday, March 5, 2018
BAB 304, 3:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Present: Angela Brown, Christopher Estep, Theron Francis, Eric Funasaki, Bibiana Gutierrez, Christopher Herrera, Sharon Hileman, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Billy Jack Ray, Francine Richter, Kathy Stein, Alicia Trotman, Joseph Velasco, Tiffiny Vincent, David Watson, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: April Aultman Becker, Steve Bennack, Jamie Boyd, Jay Downing, Avram Dumitrescu, Betsy Evans, Karrin Ford, Donald Freed, William Green, Kristofer Jorgenson, Marina Kimball, Rob Kinucan, Ken Laviers, Cynthia McAlister, Jennifer McCormack, Jeffery Meyer, Jennifer Miller, Samuel Renfro, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Saka, Gregory Schwab, Martin Terry, Liza Ware, and Bonnie Warnock.

II. SGA Report (Kadean Solis, SGA Secretary)

Red Out received \$2500 in donations and 400 shirts will be given out at the baseball and softball games on April 21. SGA is participating in a system-wide community service project. SGA officers are registering students to vote.

III. Guest Speakers

A. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACSCOC update)

A month from today the SACSCOC on-site visit will be done. Thanks to everyone for all your contributions, Sul Ross could not make it through the accreditation process without all of you.

IV. Approval of Minutes (2/12/18)

Christopher Herrera moved to approve the minutes from February 12 and Bibiana Gutierrez seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting

Some general issues that higher education institutions in Texas are facing include policy revisions on grievances and non-tenure-track faculty, special item funding, and Hazelwood. Evan Smith (CEO of the Texas Tribune) moderated a panel discussion on higher education in Texas. Raymund Paredes (Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) and Donna Howard (Texas House of Representatives, District 48) were on the panel. Issues

discussed included the effect of HB 5 which reduced requirements in Texas high school curriculums and the impact of the reduction in higher education funding by the state legislature. After the panel discussion, Joseph Velasco talked about the impact of budget reductions on institutions like Sul Ross with Dr. Paredes and asked him to keep Sul Ross in mind when creating policies on higher education. Joseph Velasco will continue going to TCFS meetings after being elected Vice President of TCFS.

B. Faculty Issues at RGC

After meeting with a RGC faculty member two weeks ago, Joseph Velasco thinks that morale is down at RGC, there is unhappiness over losing their only Executive Committee member, and there is dismay that the loss of the RGC Vice President position was disclosed to them via e-mail rather than in-person. Other issues at RGC include a \$500,000 budget deficit due to a drop in enrollment and no support from the CIO, for example with technology in their classrooms. Thus, RGC faculty are ready to hold a vote of no confidence in Dr. Kibler. Joseph Velasco asked the RGC faculty member if anything had been tried to address these issues and learned that nothing had been done. Joseph Velasco has not been able to check with RGC faculty since RGC Dean Veronica Mendez was made a Vice Provost and will be on the Executive Committee.

VI. Vice President's Report (Kathy Stein)

A. Committees and Councils for Academic Year 2018-2019

The list of openings on committees and councils for 2018-2019 was distributed. Please let Kathy Stein know which openings you are interested in. Nominations from faculty of all 3 colleges are requested so that there is better representation from each college on every committee and council. Theron Francis asked about student representation on committees and councils. Kathy Stein noted that she had talked to SGA about student representatives, but no students were recommended to her by the SGA President.

VII. Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Eric Funasaki)

A. Administration Pay Data

The spreadsheet compiled by Joseph Velasco on administration pay over the last 23 years has been put on the Faculty Assembly webpage for "Agenda, Minutes & Documents."

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report (Bonnie Warnock)

IX. Old Business

A. Sul Ross Legacy Plan and Campus Open Forums

There was no new discussion on the Legacy Plan. Joseph Velasco encouraged faculty to make recommendations through the online forum that sends anonymous e-mail to the Legacy Plan Committee.

B. By-law Change for Faculty Affairs Council Membership

The Executive Council proposed changing Faculty Affairs Council membership in the Faculty Assembly Bylaws from “tenured faculty members” to “tenured full professors.” Ryan O’Shaughnessy moved to accept the change and David Leaver seconded. The change was approved unanimously. (As a point of clarification, the Faculty Assembly Constitution states: “A change in the Bylaws requires a majority of the Faculty casting ballots.”)

X. New Business

A. Academic Excellence in Coaching Award

Start thinking about which coaches you want to nominate. At the next Faculty Assembly meeting all nominations from SGA, SAAC, and Faculty Assembly are being considered and the winner of the award chosen.

B. Outstanding Teacher Award

A ballot of eligible faculty was passed out and collected. The names of the top five vote getters will be sent to the selection committee.

C. Reports from Executive Committee Members

Ryan O’Shaughnessy asked if Executive Committee members could be invited to Faculty Assembly meetings so that Faculty Assembly could talk to them directly. Joseph Velasco mentioned that Dr. Kibler is and has been open to this. Please send Joseph Velasco any requests to have specific Executive Committee members on the agenda to discuss specific issues or present on certain topics.

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Council Reports

A. Honors Council (Kathy Stein)

Ten scholarship recipients have been selected for 2018-2019.

B. Sustainability Council (Bibiana Gutierrez)

The council has been working on Strategic Plan goals as well as with the community. On Earth Day the council wants to show a documentary, but a venue is needed. The council wants to work with Residential Life on dealing with the end of semester dumping of stuff by students.

XIII. Announcements

A. Undergraduate Student Research Symposium (Theron Francis)

The undergraduate student research symposium is Monday, April 23 from 12 pm to 4 pm. Faculty should encourage undergraduate students to participate and nominate students to present by March 31. Around 40 to 50 students will be chosen to present.

B. Graduate Student Research Symposium (Sharon Hileman)

The graduate student research symposium is Monday, April 23 starting at 4 pm. Graduate students need to submit an abstract to

participate in an oral presentation, poster session, or art exhibit. All work must be research based.

C. Graduate Student Fellowships (Sharon Hileman)

The application deadline for graduate student fellowships is April 1. Faculty need to encourage good students to apply. Since 3 letters of recommendation are needed, students need to start working on their applications as soon as possible.

D. Spanish Club (Filemon Zamora)

Cesar Chavez Day will be celebrated on March 29 with a showing of a film on Cesar Chavez. On April 11 a documentary on Berta Caceras, an environmentalist assassinated two years ago, is being shown and one of the co-producers of the documentary is leading a discussion after the showing.

E. Guest Lecturer (Bibiana Gutierrez)

On April 18 Andre Monteiro is speaking on the "Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma" at 2:30 pm. A conversation with Dr. Monteiro is scheduled to take place in the evening.

XIV. Adjourn

Bibiana Gutierrez moved to adjourn and David Leaver seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.