

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2016
Espino Conference Center Rooms C & D, 3:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:46 pm.

Present: Angela Brown, Suyu Dong, Jay Downing, Christopher Estep, Betsy Evans, Theron Francis, Eric Funasaki, Sharon Hileman, Kristofer Jorgenson, Rob Kinucan, Ken Lavers, Cynthia McAlister, Jennifer McCormack, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Jeanne Quarnstrom, Chris Ritzi, Kathy Stein, Joseph Velasco, Matt Walter, Scott Wassermann, Mazie Will, and Lisa Zakharova.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: April Aultman Becker, Steve Bennack, Jamie Boyd, Rosemary Briseno, Sandra Chambers, Heath Dingwell, Avram Dumitrescu, Carol Fairlie, Karrin Ford, Donald Freed, Thea Glenn, William Green, Bibiana Gutierrez, Valerie Howard, Robert Hunter, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Jeffery Meyer, Francine Richter, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Rubin, Mark Saka, Rebecca Schlosser, Russell Scown, Barbara Tucker, Liza Ware, Bonnie Warnock, David Watson, and Paul Will.

II. SGA Report (Danielle Lucero)

Homecoming activities were really successful, for instance, whitewashing of the Bar-SR-Bar had the biggest turnout ever. SGA is participating in Safe Treat on Halloween. Water bottle fillers will be placed on existing water fountains; this is something that students wanted. Sully Showcase is November 5 and club advisors were asked to get their clubs to participate.

III. Guest Speakers

A. Dominique Vargas (McNair Scholars Program)

The faculty was invited to the McNair-Tafoya Symposium on October 31 from 3-5 pm. Three oral presentations will be followed by a poster session with 16 students displaying their work. Also, the faculty should be looking out for students who would be good McNair scholars next summer. Student applications are due December 1 and research proposals are due February 1.

B. Rob Kinucan (University Ranch)

A brief historical overview of the University Ranch and how it has been used by ANRS faculty and students was presented. A report on how recent activities by the university and contractors of university projects have compromised the usefulness of the University Ranch was given. In particular, the removal of over 5000 cubic yards of topsoil that destroyed 4 key teaching and research areas and left a 10 foot deep pit mine over 1.5 acres as well as the dumping of university garbage. Dr. Kinucan feels that the University Ranch, which was intended for teaching and research activities, has been misused by the

university. Thus, last July Dr. Kinucan gave a presentation to the Campus Master Plan Committee and recommended that President Kibler put a stop to these destructive activities on the University Ranch. Dr. Kinucan would like a Faculty Assembly resolution thanking Dr. Kibler for accepting these recommendations and a Faculty Assembly resolution requesting that the university swiftly complete cleanup of the existing dump sites and remediate the pit mine. These resolutions will be considered in New Business.

C. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACS report)

Dr. Qvarnstrom distributed a handout on the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement that was given to first year and senior students last spring. The results and how Sul Ross compared to comparison groups was discussed. Dr. Qvarnstrom will explore the definition of terms used in the survey with SGA to see if they were affecting the results and also talk with SGA about strategies for getting a higher return rate this coming spring. The 2015-16 academic reports are being finalized and work will begin on the 2016-17 academic reports. Surveys for CORE curriculum courses will be sent out on November 1.

IV. Approval of Minutes (9/13/16)

Kris Jorgenson moved to approve the minutes from the September 13 meeting as presented and Rob Kinucan seconded. The minutes as presented were approved unanimously.

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. QEP

Last year time was spent on creating a theme for the QEP. This year time will be spent on refining the theme and looking at what needs to be targeted. The faculty was encouraged to give their thoughts to the QEP committee as well as attend the QEP meetings.

B. Mission and Vision Statements

A Strategic Plan subcommittee is revising the mission statement and creating a vision statement for Sul Ross. The subcommittee hopes to have a revised mission statement in a couple of weeks and then begin working on the vision statement. Send any thoughts, ideas, or comments to Joseph Velasco.

C. Budget Oversight

The committee had its first meeting in almost 2 years last month. They set priorities, discussed what items they will look at this year, and selected Chris Ritzi as chair.

D. Student Grievance Policy

Dr. Case wants to work with the faculty on updating the student grievance policy. This policy needs to be revised and solidified, in part for SACS purposes.

E. Texas Council of Faculty Senates/TSUS Faculty Senate

These meetings occur twice a year in Austin. Send Joseph Velasco any items that should be added to his report on Sul Ross for the Texas

Council of Faculty Senates meeting. Also, send Joseph Velasco any TSUS related concerns or questions so that he can bring them up at the TSUS Faculty Senate meeting.

VI. Vice-president's Report (Kathy Stein)

Spoke with SGA and gave them a list of committees and councils that can have student representatives. In the past, there has not been good student representation on committees and councils. Contact Danielle Lucero if your committee or council needs a student representative right away.

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

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report (Bonnie Warnock)

IX. Old Business

A. Resolution on Executive Raises

Last spring Faculty Assembly had several issues with the university budget, for example, with maintenance and operation budgets. A resolution was sent to the administration detailing these issues and asking them to forgo pay raises in 2016-17. During the summer, President Kibler sent Joseph Velasco a written response which addressed every issue raised and stated that the resolution was not going to be followed. Joseph Velasco can give Dr. Kibler's response to any faculty member who wants it.

X. New Business

A. Resolutions on the University Ranch

There was a discussion on the 2 resolutions proposed by Rob Kinucan at the end of his presentation on the University Ranch. Dr. Kinucan reiterated that the resolutions are to show appreciation for what has been done so far and to make sure that the restoration work gets done. Joseph Velasco, Rob Kinucan, and Bonnie Warnock will formalize these resolutions and present them at the next Faculty Assembly meeting for a vote.

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Council Reports

A. Teaching Council (Kris Jorgenson)

The council would like to allow faculty members who have been at Sul Ross for less than 2 years to be eligible for Teaching Council funds. Joseph Velasco interjected that Dr. Case is in favor of this and that the council is, in essence, making a motion to open up Teaching Council funds to all Sul Ross faculty. Matt Walter seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

B. Curriculum Council (Mazie Will)

The council has met and has a large stack of proposals to work through.

C. Athletics Council (Kathy Stein)

Sandra Chambers is working with OIT on an online grade check form for student-athletes. Faculty members would have one week to respond. Also, students are responsible for informing the faculty before going on trips that are related to official Sul Ross activities, athletic or academic, to receive excused absences.

XIII. Announcements

A. Faculty & Staff Meetings with President Kibler – 10/13, 11/8, 12/2

B. Welcome to New Faculty Assembly Members (Joseph Velasco)

New Faculty Assembly members Suyu Dong, Betsy Evans, Jen McCormack, and Lisa Zakharova were welcomed and introduced.

XIV. Adjourn

Kris Jorgenson moved to adjourn and Ryan O'Shaughnessy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.