

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2015
Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm

I. Call to order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm.

Present: April Aultman Becker, Sandra Chambers, Karrin Ford, Theron Francis, Donald Freed, Eric Funasaki, Bibiana Gutierrez, Sharon Hileman, David Howard, Valerie Howard, Robert Hunter, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Rubin, Kathy Stein, Joseph Velasco, Liza Ware, Scott Wassermann, Mazie Will, and Paul Will.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: Rafael Azuaje, Steve Bennack, Avram Dumitrescu, Christopher Estepp, Carol Fairlie, Ilda Gonzalez, Kristofer Jorgenson, Linda McAnally, Jeffery Meyer, Dona Roman, Esther Rumsey, Mark Saka, Dominique Sanchez, Gregory Schwab, Bret Scott, Marjorie Scott, Andrew Tegarden, Gregory Tegarden, and Bonnie Warnock.

II. SGA report

Report was given by SGA Vice-President Danielle Lucero. SGA is working on their Red Out campaign, in particular taking submissions for possible designs. SGA will hold a student referendum on October 20 on the proposed tuition and fee increases. SGA wants to have an open forum sometime in November to address the Campus Carry law. SGA is also getting ready for Homecoming and the Fall Carnival.

III. Guest Speakers

A. Gail Collier (pay stub issues)

Ms. Collier wanted to remind faculty that their pay stub is available on LoboOnLine. Faculty need to check their monthly pay is correct (9 month versus 12 month pay amount); stipends for overload, chair, etc. are being added; and monthly deductions are correct (especially if any changes were made during the past year). Faculty should also check their summer pay stubs (mainly compensation for activities that differ from their regular pay). She also encouraged faculty to update their LoboAlert contact information, emergency contact information, and TRS-ORP insurance beneficiaries.

B. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACS)

Dr. Qvarnstrom reported that 114 faculty, student, and staff members responded to the QRP survey and distributed a handout summarizing the results. She mentioned that the committee will meet soon to work on the QRP, so forward any ideas to the committee. She also noted that

the report on academic programs was still being revised and that work was being done on the report on non-academic programs. She showed the new SACS site on the Sul Ross website. An Office 365 account needs to be set-up to gain access to the SACS site which has a calendar of activities and deadlines regarding SACS.

C. Sandra Chambers and Kathy Stein (athletics)

Ms. Chambers and Dr. Stein began by outlining the roles of the Athletic Compliance Committee and the Athletic Council. The former reports to Dr. Kibler and insures that student/athletes are compliant throughout the semester on a day-to-day basis. The latter reports to the Faculty Assembly and provides faculty oversight of the former as well as handles athletic appeals. This structure was put in place to address the issues with institutional control of athletics that got Sul Ross in NCAA trouble. Bibiana Gutierrez asked about student/athletes' grade sheets. Ms. Chambers commented that all student/athletes have signed the FIRPA form which allows their grade information to be released by faculty; grade sheets need not be filled out on the spot, student/athletes are given at least 7 days to get them filled out, so a grade sheet can be returned to a student/athlete at a later time (like during office hours); faculty need to fill in both grade and absences to help keep the student/athletes accountable; and faculty need to report any problems with student/athletes or coaches to Sandra Chambers or Kathy Stein. Ms. Chambers also stated the she is working on an e-mail grade check system for student/athletes.

IV. Approval of Minutes (4/20/15 and 9/15/15)

Paul Will moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented and Mark Rubin seconded. Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's report

A. Upcoming TSUS Faculty Senate Meeting

Joseph Velasco will be attending the TSUS Faculty Senate meeting in a week. He sent an e-mail asking for items to bring up at the meeting. Items that had already been submitted included the Campus Carry law, the fact that it has been 10 years since funding for salaries has been addressed by the legislature, and the need for more special item funding. Bibiana Gutierrez asked about recycling and sustainability in the TSUS and at Sul Ross. Theron Francis mentioned that Dr. Kibler seems to be sympathetic to sustainability. Joseph Velasco stated that there are currently no plans for sustainability, but that there may be a need for future plans for sustainability. Further discussion on sustainability will take place at the November meeting.

B. Executive Council replacement for Sharon Hileman

Joseph Velasco thanked Sharon Hileman for her years of service to the Executive Council and Faculty Assembly. Theron Francis has agreed to replace her on the Executive Council.

C. Academic Calendar Committee Meeting

The committee met and reviewed the policies and regulations for the academic calendar. The committee found that there is more flexibility in scheduling than was previously realized. The committee will be working on building the academic calendar for the coming academic years.

D. President's Gameday Meetings

These pre-game and post-game meetings, in regards to football, are to become routine. These meetings will review how things went and try to prevent problems. For example, recognizing and addressing the need for emergency lighting in the stadium.

VI. Vice-President's report

VII. Secretary/Treasurer's report

Please send the names of Committee and Council chairs to Eric Funasaki and Mark Rubin (for the Faculty Assembly website).

VIII. Parliamentarian's report

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

Ryan O'Shaughnessy brought up the issue of a number of Sul Ross students being arrested for drug possession recently. He asked if the administration was aware of this and if there would be any kind of reaction or action by the administration. Joseph Velasco said that he would mention this to Dr. Kibler.

XI. Committee reports

XII. Council reports

A. Curriculum Council

The council is being chaired by Kris Jorgenson and has been meeting weekly. Proposals will be presented at the November meeting.

B. Library and Information Technologies Council

The council, which is comprised of all new members, met and elected David Howard as chair. The council will be looking at a collection policy for the library and insuring that the library is SACS compliant.

C. Faculty Affairs Council

Lorie Rubenser has been elected as chair. The council will only be dealing with tenure and promotion. The council will no longer be dealing with faculty grievances. Joseph Velasco will report on the new faculty grievance policy at the November meeting.

XIII. Announcements

A. Student Fee increases

Students will be voting on student fee increases on October 20.

- B. McNair-Tafoya Research Symposium
McNair scholars undergraduate student research will be presented on October 21 from 3-5 pm.
- C. Poindexter Lecture (College of Professional Studies)
Greg Herington, owner of Far Flung Outdoor Center, will be giving the Poindexter Lecture at 7:30 pm on October 20.
- D. Honorary Doctorates
The names of candidates for honorary doctorates need to be submitted to Yvonne Realivasquez by October 16.
- E. Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The Honors Club and the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend will be sponsoring a candlelight vigil and march on October 13.
- F. Academic Excellence in Coaching Plaque
The plaque has been mounted outside of the Espino Conference Center.

XIV. Adjourn

Donald Freed moved that the meeting be adjourned and Scott Wassermann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.