

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:38 pm.

Present: Mellela Bell, Jay Downing, Betsy Evans, Theron Francis, Eric Funasaki, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Francine Richter, Mark Rubin, Joseph Velasco, Matt Walter, Bonnie Warnock, Scott Wassermann, Yanfeng Yue, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: Steve Bennack, Heath Dingwell, Avram Dumitrescu, Carol Fairlie, Karrin Ford, Donald Freed, Ilda Gonzalez, William Green, Robert Hunter, Elizabeth Jackson, Kris Jorgenson, Rob Kinucan, Jeffery Meyer, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Saka, Russell Scown, Kathy Stein, Gregory Teagarden, Martin Terry, Barbara Tucker, Liza Ware, Mazie Will, and Paul Will.

II. SGA Report (Danielle Lucero)

SGA recently passed bills requesting the replacement of water fountains with water bottle filling stations; placement of recycling bins for paper, bottles, and cans on campus; and placement of more trash cans on campus. SGA is looking for donations for Red Out which will occur at a home baseball game. Danielle Lucero wants to bring up green practices at the state meetings with other SGA's.

III. Guest Speakers

A. Nadia De Luna and Jay Downing (Open Care Club)

The Open Care Club mission statement and principles were handed out and reviewed. This student club was established at the end of September in response to concerns voiced to Jay Downing about the campus carry law. The club hosts encounter groups every three weeks on various issues and works to foster understanding and caring between groups on campus with different viewpoints.

B. Betsy Evans (Library services for faculty)

The faculty was reminded about the opportunities to have a librarian speak to their classes, hold their classes in the library, and embed the library in their courses' Blackboard homepage. The library also provides instruction and orientation to help support faculty research, use of the archives, and course reserves.

C. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACS report)

Everyone's participation in the SACS process is desired, so please send any questions or suggestions to Jeanne Qvarnstrom. The 2015/16 administrative reports are being completed. The 2016/17 academic reports must be done by September 10, 2017. The survey on library,

facilities, and distance learning courses was distributed. Results are needed for both SACS and Sul Ross purposes. The responses from SGA to the NSSE survey results were passed out. This included how Sul Ross students defined terms on the survey, especially those rated low on the survey. Higher and higher scores on the survey each year as well as better and better response rates each year are the goals.

IV. Approval of Minutes (10/11/2016)

Matt Walter moved to approve the minutes from October 11 as presented and Theron Francis seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. TSUS Meeting

About 10-15 faculty members from around the system attended this meeting at the system office with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. Reports were given and the legislative outlook was discussed. The outlook for this legislative session is that TRB's are not likely and there is hope for Hazelwood reform (GI bill supplement) which is a heavy financial burden on universities.

B. TCFS Meeting

About 50-80 faculty members from public and private universities around the state attended this meeting at the Embassy Suites in Austin. There was a Title IX presentation by a UC Davis faculty member which warned that topics related to Title IX may become prohibited and threaten academic freedom. The film "Starving the Beast" was screened and TCFS passed a resolution commending the makers of the film. (Joseph Velasco showed the film's trailer and said that it would be nice to have a big viewing on campus. Also, the library will be purchasing a copy.) There was also a discussion on the issues affecting and climate at campuses around the state.

C. Mission and Vision Statements

The current mission and vision statements were given out. A subcommittee of the Strategic Plan committee working on them has met 5 times and includes individuals from RGC. Faculty input is wanted on both, so please send any comments to either Joseph Velasco or Jeanne Qvarnstrom during the next couple of weeks.

D. Strategic Planning – Financial Objectives

A new subcommittee, chaired by Dave Gibson, has been formed to align the goals of the Strategic Plan in regards to finances and affordability. In particular, how affordability impacts curriculum and financial priorities. Joseph Velasco is on the subcommittee to insure that the faculty voice is heard. Please send him any thoughts on affordability.

E. Student Course Evaluations

Student course evaluations opened on November 12. Changes to course evaluations for distance education and on-line courses are coming soon.

F. AAUP Membership

AAUP is 101 years old and has championed academic freedom and shared governance in higher education. There are over 400 chapters. The Executive Council wants to know if Faculty Assembly is interested in either an individual membership for the Faculty Assembly president or a chapter at Sul Ross. Joseph Velasco asked the faculty to look into whether AAUP representation would be beneficial.

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

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

VIII. Parliamentarian's Report (Bonnie Warnock)

IX. Old Business

- A. Resolution thanking Dr. Kibler for action taken on the University Ranch
Item tabled until next meeting.
- B. Resolution on recommendations for restoring the University Ranch
Item tabled until next meeting.

X. New Business

A. Special Committee on First Year Seminar

Helen Crane has asked Joseph Velasco about creating a special committee on First Year Seminar. Jenny Penland noted that a couple of faculty members would be needed for this committee which won't meet until February or March. The committee would help to coordinate, identify, and train faculty for First Year Seminar as well as work on improving the First Year Seminar.

B. Faculty Awards

Joseph Velasco feels that there needs to be more annual faculty awards. These awards could be administered by Faculty Assembly or the Provost's office. Input from the floor was solicited. Possible ideas for awards were: separate awards for teaching, research, and artistic endeavors; a community service and involvement award; a young faculty award (first 3-4 years and before tenure); and an on-line teaching award. This conversation will continue at subsequent meetings.

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Council Reports

XIII. Announcements

A. Survey on Library, Facilities, and Distance Learning Courses

Jeanne Qvarnstrom asked the faculty to please complete this survey.

B. Sul Ross Basketball

Sul Ross women's and men's basketball will be starting soon.

C. Sul Ross Football

Congratulations to the Sul Ross football team on its first winning season in 10 years.

D. Sul Ross Ultimate Frisbee

The Sul Ross Ultimate Frisbee team beat UT, Baylor, and Trinity at a recent tournament and finished 5th out of 15 universities.

XIV. Adjourn

Matt Walter moved to adjourn and Bonnie Warnock seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.