

Minutes
Faculty Assembly Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2017
Espino Conference Center Rooms A & B, 3:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Present: April Aultman Becker, Rosemary Briseno, Christopher Estepp, Donald Freed, Eric Funasaki, Thea Glenn, Jim Hector, David Leaver, Ryan Luna, Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Billy Jack Ray, Francine Richter, Lori Schreiber, Rebecca Splan, Kathy Stein, Joseph Velasco, Tiffany Vincent, Scott Wassermann, David Watson, Paul Will, and Filemon Zamora.

Absent, but counted in the quorum: Steve Bennack, Jamie Boyd, Suyu Dong, Avram Dumitrescu, Betsy Evans, Carol Fairlie, Theron Francis, Crystal Graham, William Green, Bibiana Gutierrez, Christopher Herrera, Robert Hunter, Kristofer Jorgenson, Rob Kinucan, Jeffery Meyer, Lorie Rubenser, Mark Rubin, Esther Rumsey, Mark Saka, Gregory Schwab, Gregory Tegarden, Martin Terry, Barbara Tucker, Liza Ware, Bonnie Warnock, and Mazie Will.

II. SGA Report (Danielle Lucero)

Helped with the Zuzu Verk memorial service as well as painted the desk green and purple in her honor. A safety walk on campus will occur later this semester. Red Out will be at the April 21 baseball game.

III. Guest Speakers

A. April Aultman Becker (QEP)

Work on the QEP has been ongoing for a year and a half. There are now three learning outcomes and a theme (Raising the Bar: Communicating for Success). Faculty's input on implementing the QEP is needed. In particular, creating a one credit junior/senior seminar course versus incorporating communication related student learning outcomes into existing courses. Either way, implementation must begin in February of 2019. There was a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of both options as well as other options suggested from the floor. A ballot to select one of the two options was distributed. Return ballots and send any thoughts or comments to April Aultman Becker.

B. Jeanne Qvarnstrom (SACSCOC update)

The National Survey of Student Engagement starts on Monday, February 20. All freshman and senior students will receive an e-mail invitation to take the survey. Faculty should encourage their freshman and senior students to complete the survey. Academic assessment reports are due on May 31 as a three year summary of

these reports is needed for the June 6 campus visit by SACSCOC. Send any questions via e-mail to Jeanne Qvarnstrom.

IV. Approval of Minutes (11/15/2016)

Ryan Luna moved to approve the minutes from November 15 as presented and Scott Wassermann seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. President's Report (Joseph Velasco)

A. Strategic Plan

The process will finish in April. The goals, objectives, and strategies are pretty well solidified. The Strategic Plan will help to ensure Sul Ross' future stays on course. A copy of the Strategic Plan is available on the Strategic Plan blog. Send any comments to Joseph Velasco or Bonnie Warnock soon.

B. Mission and Vision Statements

The old mission statement was over one page long. A ballot with four much shorter and different possible mission statements was handed out. Ballots need to be returned to Joseph Velasco by February 14 as the new mission statement needs to be done in a week. Also, send any thoughts to him this week.

C. Possible "Starving the Beast" Screening

Joseph Velasco is still trying to have a screening of this film on campus. He may be able to borrow the TCFS's copy. Faculty, staff, students, and the community will be invited.

D. Student Grievance Policy Draft for Faculty Review

A new policy from Dr. Case which gives students clear steps to follow when submitting a grievance was passed out. Send any feedback to Dr. Case.

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

A. Committees and Councils for 2017-18

In March the process for filling openings on committees and councils for 2017-18 will begin. Faculty should think about which committees and councils they want to serve on starting this fall.

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

Last semester Rob Kinucan gave a presentation on the misuse of the University Ranch to the Executive Cabinet. As a result, Dr. Kibler ordered a halt to the dumping of trash, excavation of soil, and other destructive activities taking place on the University Ranch. A resolution thanking Dr. Kibler for taking this action was drafted by Rob Kinucan and Joseph Velasco. This resolution was unanimously

approved. At a subsequent meeting there will be a discussion on buying plaques, one for Dr. Kibler and one for ANRS.

B. Resolution on recommendations for restoring the University Ranch

Rob Kinucan has asked that this resolution be tabled to allow the university time to work on restoring the University Ranch. If in the future the university has not done enough, this resolution can be revisited.

C. Special Committee on First Year Seminar

This committee was created last fall to have faculty advisement on First Year Seminar and is being chaired by Brandy Synder.

D. Faculty Awards

Joseph Velasco sees a need for more faculty awards (currently there are only the Outstanding Teaching Award and the newly established Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award) and wants to implement one new award each year for the next few years. Ideas from the floor were solicited for the new award for next year. After much discussion, a research/artistic endeavor award will probably be the first new award. A committee may need to be formed to create guidelines for new awards. Send Joseph Velasco any thoughts or comments.

X. New Business

A. Faculty Athletic Advisor (Kathy Stein)

1. Late afternoon scheduling and limited evening scheduling

Sul Ross is losing student/athletes because too many courses are being offered from 2-6 pm when teams practice or have games. Departments were encouraged to schedule classes, especially those with only one section, before 2 pm. Also, departments were asked to consider the possibility of having labs in the evening, after 6 pm, instead of just in the afternoons.

2. Mandatory field trips in conflict with conference scheduling

There have been problems when student/athletes were not able to go on field trips for their classes because of an athletic event (which is an excused absence). The Athletic Department wants to work in partnership with faculty when these conflicts occur. Contact Sandra Chambers regarding any issues concerning student/athletes.

B. Hiring Freeze

Joseph Velasco asked if there were any thoughts or comments in response to Dr. Kibler's meeting on the hiring freeze. A short discussion on the hiring freeze ensued.

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Council Reports

A. Honors Council

Kathy Stein noted that the Honors Council had met.

B. Teaching Council

Chris Estepp reminded faculty that Teaching Council applications are due this Friday. Send applications to Kris Jorgenson, chair of the Teaching Council.

XIII. Announcements

A. Sul Ross Ultimate Frisbee (Joseph Velasco)

The Sul Ross Ultimate Frisbee team will be hosting its "Big Bender" tournament in Alpine at the intramural field on February 18 and 19. There will be college teams from Sul Ross, Angelo State, and New Mexico State along with club teams from Alpine and El Paso.

XIV. Adjourn

Paul Will moved to adjourn and Donald Freed seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.