

## Minutes

### Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate Joint Membership Meeting

Monday, November 30 | Zoom, 3:30 PM

*This inaugural Joint Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate Membership Meeting will be Chaired by the Faculty Senate President with minutes recorded by the Faculty Assembly Secretary-Treasurer. These duties will switch-off each year hereafter.*

#### *I. Call to Order*

Dr. Ortiz called the meeting to order and introduced himself. He explained the purpose of the meetings and emphasized that our bodies are stronger when we work together.

#### *II. Officer Reports*

##### *1. Dr. Michael Ortiz, Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College Faculty Senate President*

Dr. Ortiz shared about his involvement on the Second Century Committee made up of RGC and Alpine faculty and staff. This Committee was prompted by budgetary needs and is submitting final recommendations to the President's Office on December 7, 2020. It was asked whether the committee's recommendations would be made public.

##### *2. Dr. Kathy Stein, Sul Ross State University Alpine Faculty Assembly President*

Dr. Stein introduced herself and shared enrollment numbers from the fall 2020 semester: 1118 under grad, 38 post-bac, 41 graduates for Alpine; 785 undergrad, 14 post-bac, 117 grad students for RGC. RGC was online for the entire semester; Alpine was F2F and online only (51% F2F). At around week 12, Alpine faculty were given the opportunity to shift entirely to online for the remainder of the semester.

#### *III. New Business*

##### *1. Support for faculty in tenure process (Stein)*

Dr. Stein shared that this item has been discussed at Faculty Assembly membership meetings. The question is: what kind of support do we want

to foster for faculty? She shared about a proposal for a three-year review as shared by Dr. Chris Ritzi (Arts and Sciences) as well as a packet devised by Avram Dumitrscu (Arts and Sciences).

Dr. Stein opened the floor for discussion.

Currently Alpine and RGC each has their own Tenure and Promotion Council. The Councils separately make recommendations based on the received applications. The Councils report their recommendations to the Joint Council on Faculty Affairs, made up of the six most senior Alpine members and the three most senior RGC members of their respective Tenure and Promotion Councils. The Joint Council report all recommendations to the Provost's Office.

## 2. *Moderated emails and problems for students (Stein)*

A discussion took place regarding the moderated email policy being enforced by the President's Office – in an effort to reduce the number of emails being sent University-wide. Dr. Ortiz asked if anyone would object to the loosening of the emails (thus increasing the amount of emails received) and nobody present raised objection.

The following comments were captured from the Zoom chat:

- I agree that we should encourage effective communication across the university. Access is important.
- I agree—the system is not working.
- It hasn't worked for my students or myself.
- We are also seeing delays in the messages going out. Sometimes coming out after the meeting took place.
- College wide email. It shouldn't be limited to university communication.
- can admin produce a “tool” to create a list serv eg mailchimp other crm etc  
provide a tool like mailchimp etc
- Many missed an opportunity to hear an excellent scholar via Zoom for Native American Heritage Month. The request was sent out, but it was never delivered to the faculty and students on either campus.
- I think we need both...loosen the restrictions and a central hub
- Here is what Texas Tech uses  
<http://events.ttu.edu/cal/main/showMain.rdo>
- Is there some way we can have a link on the Sul Ross homepage for Campus Activities?

- My students say they get too many emails from the University. At the schools I've been at in the past they have a good app and social media to spread the word about events.
- FYI: the communications team has accepted an invitation to join chairs meeting on wed. please relay ideas or needs to chair for that meeting.

I will relay what was discussed here

### 3. *Functions and decisions ceded to SHSU and lack of budgetary information (Ortiz)*

Dr. Ortiz shared concerns from faculty over the functions we appear to be paying SHSU for right now, specifically but not limited to the administration of Blackboard. The Shared Services Agreement was made available from the Provost's Office but Dr. Ortiz had not had a chance to review prior to this meeting. It was noted that the contract for budgets and payroll services being managed by SHSU goes through August 2021 and that those involved should communicate what is and what is not working to the President's Office.

To that end, it was noted that there is much confusion about the lack of local account approvals. Dr. Joey Velasco, as Chair of the Budget Oversight Council, asked that conversations related to the budget include the Council so that they might better understand their role in the changing landscape.

### IV. *Announcements*

Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom's announced a proposal entitled Planning for a Peer to Peer Learning Series and requested feedback via a Survey URL listed within the proposal. She will also send this out to all faculty via email.

### V. *Adjournment*

Dr. Ortiz adjourned the meeting.

