

Faculty Senate Minutes

5/5/2023

Attendees: Veronica Mendez, Jennifer Miller-Ray, Mary Jane Saucedo, April Ortiz, Maria Gear, Jesse Salazar, Tom Matula, Audrey Taylor, Ed Moura, Sam Garcia.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. April Ortiz at 10:06 am.

Review of November 2023 Minutes: Dr. Tom Matula made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Veronica Mendez seconding a motion, with all voting in favor to approve the Feb. 2023 minutes.

Officer Reports

Dr. April Ortiz shared that she and Dr. Audrey Taylor were asked to serve on an ad-hoc committee to review the tenure and promotion policy found in the faculty handbook. The ad-hoc committee worked in unison to bring about suggested changes to the faculty senate and faculty assembly. The ad-hoc committee did vote unanimously against including cooperation in the tenure and promotion process. The faculty assembly recently met to review the proposed tenure and promotion. Dr. April Ortiz shared a resource, [On Collegiality as a Criterion for Faculty Evaluation | AAUP](#), which discusses best practices sharing that cooperation or collegiality is not a best practice to include as a criterion for faculty evaluation. It is generally advised to not include this as it is used to not promote diversity with homogeneous thinking as a result. Cooperation has been included as a component of review in the past. Changes in the handbook was presented to Faculty Assembly and Faculty Assembly voted to add cooperation back into the process. Dr. Audrey Taylor has shared the revised handbook changes. Dr. April Ortiz shared that it was up to Faculty Senate to decide if they agree with Faculty Assembly or not. The provost has asked for us to consider what next steps will be if Faculty Senate disagrees with Faculty Assembly vote on the tenure and promotion guidelines.

Dr. Audrey Taylor shared the round up report from the Texas State system meeting and she shared that post tenure review is currently part of the Texas State System. Dr. Audrey Taylor noted that SRSU RGC is not currently doing this but will need to begin to address this. Dr. Audrey Taylor shared that Faculty Assembly kept using synonyms to describe cooperation and collegiality during the meeting she attended, which is the issue of including this as a component.

Committee and Council Reports

Curriculum Council Report: Dr. Veronica Mendez shared that we are up to date with the curriculum committee which was explained at the all faculty meeting. The council appreciates that everyone submitted in a timely manner. Dr. Sam Garcia asked if Dr. Barbara Tucker had submitted Dr. Sam Garcia's curriculum change request. Dr. Veronica Mendez shared that these have not been submitted but it will be reviewed in the next academic year.

ODE Report: Lifesize is going away at the end of August. Dr. Tom Matula shared that they use it a lot here but they are talking about replacing it with TEAMS. It was asked who is making these decisions. It was shared that Dr. Chris Herrera is making a lot of changes to IT without talking to RGC students, faculty, or staff.

In Alpine they will not need as many classrooms as they will be synchronous or asynchronous face to face courses and don't need teleconference.

A Distance Education Fees Resolution was presented by Dr. Chris Herrera to ODE, which would provide fees to fund Distance Education salaries, instructional designers, etc. for a new office for Online Learning. That one central office will have more control on teaching and learning. It was shared that graduate studies already oversees all fully online programs and that this office could oversee many of these items, saving administrative costs.

No other reports.

Old Business:

No discussion for old business.

New Business

A motion was made by Dr. Tom Matula, with Dr. Audrey Taylor seconding to accept changes to accept Faculty Handbook proposed by the ad hoc committee without collegiality. A discussion was had on to include cooperation and collegiality in the handbook. The motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Veronica Mendez made a motion to accept the three amendments adopted by FA: (1.) changes of changing the tenure timeline; (2) adding college review, and (3) adding the narrative requirement to all sections with Dr. Tom Matula seconding with unanimous approval.

Dr. Tom Matula made the motion to Opposes Cooperation and Collegiality with Dr. Sam Garcia seconding, all voting in favor. This motion passes unanimously.

Procedures to change the handbook: It was suggested that electing 2 senators at large, 2 Senate at large from FA, to exclude administrators.

Program Coordinator Pay: It was discussed that there are issues discrepancies regarding program coordinator pay.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.