

## **Faculty Senate MINUTES**

Meeting held on April 12, 2024

1:30-3:00pm (UC 251)

**Senators:** Dr. Brian Billings, Dr. Jaime Cantrell (President) Dr. Katheryn Hartshorn, Selena Jeffries, Dr. Yusin Jung, Dr. Sara Lawrence, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Sheila Moore, Dr. James Nguyen, Dr. Godpower Okereke, Dr. LuzMary Rincon (Secretary/Parliamentarian), Dr. Sebastian Schmidl, Dr. Laura Sykes, Dr. Faycal Znidi (Vice-President)

**Invited Guests:** Dr. Ross Alexander (President), Dr. Melinda Arnold (Provost), Dr. Angela Sikorski (Assistant Provost)

- I. Call to Order.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Senate President, Dr Jaime Cantrell at 1:33 pm.
  
- II. President’s Report.....Dr. Ross Alexander
  - a. 1:33 pm
  - b. First draft legislative appropriations request is submitted, it is called the East Texas Rural Healthcare Initiative. Funding for sixteen new healthcare focus programs on the bachelors, masters, and doctoral level. Request is for 8.2 million dollars.
  - c. First draft funding request for new building for Nursing, Health, and Human Services building. This request is 8 million dollars. This is funding for the Wadley building project that has been halted. A&M Health is the funding partner for the teaching hospital.
  - d. Eagle landing will include 10 units, 40 beds, and laundry facilities. A restaurant with 6 tables and a rotating menu.
  - e. Anticipating a sharp increase in enrollment.
  - f. Hiring. Meeting with Nursing Dean candidates. Student Engagement Recruiters, all but one position has been filled with varied locations.
  
- III. Provost and VPAA’s Report.....Dr. Melinda Arnold
  - a. 1:43 pm.
  - b. Follet will no longer be our bookstore provider. We are changing to Barnes & Noble in June. This will provide easier book ordering. Website in Spring, ad hoc until then.
  - c. Faculty question presented: Any updates about the faculty merit pool as related to the APRs going out soon? Dr. Alexander says he has to present at the Programmatic Budget Review and awaiting feedback from the Regents. This will decide FY 25 budget pool.
  
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 3/08/2024.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
  - a. Minutes are not ready and will be submitted at a later time by Christy Watson for approval.
  
- V. President of Faculty Senate Report.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell, 2:12 pm

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- a. Convocation – Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024
    - i. Ad Hoc Committee
      - 1. Sunday, August 25 – Convocation. 4 – 5:30 with reception, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. In Eagle Hall. Dr. Jaime Cantrell to chair with Sykes and Billings
      - 2. Dr. Billings, piano, Dr. Nakashian for speech.
    - ii. Sheila Moore (2024; representing Nursing, Kinesiology, & Social Work)
    - iii. Yusun Jung (2024; representing Computer Science, Math, and MIS)
    - iv. Brian Matthews (2024; also representing Management, Marketing, and Supply Chain)
    - v. Faycal Znidi (2024; representing Engineering & Physics)
  - b. Senators with Terms Ending in May 2024 – Department Elections/Nominations by May 8<sup>th</sup>. Drs. Matthews and Znidi will be rolling off 2024.
    - 1. New Senators will be needed on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - 2. Engineering and physics, management marketing and supply chain, computer science math and Mis. And then Sheila with nursing Elections in May for new Candidates
- VI. Committee Reports & Business Items
- a. Curriculum Committee..... Dr. Godpower Okereke
  - b. 2:18 pm
    - i. M.S. in Engineering
    - ii. B.S. in Computer Engineering
    - iii. M.S. in History to M.A. in History
    - iv. M.A. in History SCH Hours Reduction
      - 1. Consent agenda. MS engineering Bs computer engineering MS In history to MA history, and MA hours reduction from 36 to 30 and those were all approved by the curriculum committee.
  - c. Core Curriculum Assessment.....Dr. LuzMary Rincon
  - d. Educational Technology.....Dr. Sebastian Schmidl
  - e. Academic Rules & Procedures.....Dr. Sara Lawrence
    - 1. 2:18 pm
    - ii. Updates on Faculty Handbook
      - 1. Ad hoc committee to be formed
      - 2. Faculty handbook has a very rough draft. Hard to update with so many changes going on. Quick guide vs handbook? Partnering potential with OTAFAs. Onboarding is the biggest complaint. Is the handbook a standing committee instead of ad hoc? Where does it belong? Faculty Resources & Guidance Committee? Tentative title.
    - iii. 11.07.99.H1 Awarding of Honorary Degrees
    - iv. 11.08.99.H1 Award of Posthumous Degrees
    - v. 31.08.01.H1 Granting of Emeritus Status to Faculty
    - vi. 12.06.99.H0, Post Tenure Review (R&P)

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1. See in May. Two separate processes. APR process? Will be added to May meeting.
  - vii. 12.03.99.H1, Faculty Academic Workload and Reporting (R&P)
    1. Need to come up with guidelines. Chair transition and minutes from committees are imperative.
  - f. Academic Standards.....Dr. Sheila Moore
    - i. 2:48 pm
    - ii. Met earlier in the week. Main focus was the need to have guidelines to set committee's purpose. Hoping for Joe and Sebastian's input.
  - g. Faculty Welfare.....Dr. Brian Billings
    1. 2:50 pm
    - ii. Regents Award
      1. Dr. Brian Billings volunteers to serve on committee. Faycal Znidi, LuzMary Rincon, Godpower Okereke, and Laura Sykes volunteers. Email to be sent to call for more members.
      2. Survey Monkey surveys, membership to be renewed.
  - h. FRED.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
  - i. Budget Committee.....Dr. James Nguyen
    - i. Still trying to get CUPA data. Has spoken to Dean
- VII. Old Business
- i. Doctor of Physical Therapy- Curriculum Committee
  - ii. Revision to 12.01.01.H1, Tenure and Promotion, has been submitted to System for approval. (R&P)
  - iii. 12.99.01.H0.01, Faculty Development Leave, is published. (R&P)
- VIII. New Business
- a. Updates from Assistant Provost.....Dr. Angela Sikorski, 1:48 pm
    - i. New Program/New Certification Process
      1. OTAFA Lunch & Learn – program/certificates to increase enrollment. New processes and forms online. I Site to IER. Will reach out to faculty members to schedule meeting. Updates to wording and reiterate meaning. IER makes sure viable before proceeding. More streamlined form available online under “Faculty Forms”. State wants to track completers of different programs. Approvals go: department, college, Faculty Senate, then Provost office. Process: Complete proposal form, route for departmental approval, then approval in college meeting, then Provost. IER works with you through entire process. Meet with IER to get started and get any process information you may need. iSite ticket allows for better organization. Can we change verbiage from IER approval? Feels like a bypass of shared governance. Dr.

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Sikorski will make a note to discuss this. Important beginning step if proposing any degree is to come up with the curriculum and discuss with other faculty.

- ii. Division Chair Training & Handbook
  - 1. Structure changes. Building resources for this transition.
- iii. Barnes & Noble: Summer & Fall Textbook Ordering
  - 1. Questions to follow up on: Own or rental books? Digital? Can they keep required books off the list? How will new B&N work for RELIS?
  - 2. Faculty determines modality. Electronic or print, same cost.
  - 3. \$24 semester credit hour, one flat fee, and all charges through financial aid and not the bookstore. This will be automatic unless opted out by the student. Summer book ordering is still done through Follet. Books can be delivered to the students physically or digitally.

IX. Meeting closed at 2:59 pm

X. New Meeting will be held May 10.