

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 1, 2009

Senate members present: Joe Willis, Laura Latham-McKenzie, Ollie Oliver, Deon Christensen, Lynn Mock, Terry Gilmour, Sonia Ford, Damon Kennedy

Faculty/Guests Present: Michael Makowsky, Simon Cornell, Kyle Kundomal, Rex Peebles

The meeting was called to order by Ollie Oliver at 4:00 PM.

Ollie Oliver announced that he has taken a new job and will no longer be able to serve as Faculty Senate President. He moved that Joe Willis serve as president. The motion was seconded by Terry Gilmour. Laura Latham-McKenzie moved that the nominations close and the motion was seconded by Michael Makowsky. Motion passed; Joe Willis will serve as Faculty Senate President.

Ollie Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes and a second was made by Lynn Mock. The motion passed.

Terry Gilmour made a motion to approve the agenda and a second was made by Damon Kennedy. The motion passed.

Joe Willis thanked the senate for the nomination and outlined his intentions as President to be an advocate for the faculty. He encouraged input and support from faculty and the importance that the membership of the senate represent all divisions.

Terry Gilmour announced the meeting dates for this semester have been set for November 5 and December 3 at 4:00 pm. Location of each meeting will be announced at a later date. Executive meetings are scheduled for October 29 and November 19 at 2:00 pm. Those interested are welcome to attend. Terry Gilmour also announced that the remainder of the budget from last year was spent on a bicycle rack for the Health Sciences building (\$538) and clocks and pencil sharpeners for the Marie Hall Academic Building (\$718.82). There is \$1500 in the budget for this year.

Under the first item of new business the membership of the Senate was discussed. The following are members of the senate: Lynn Mock and Valerie Steiner from Health Sciences; Damon Kennedy and Terry Gilmour from Social/Behavioral Sciences; Diane Allen and Joe Willis from Fine Arts/Communications; Sonia Ford and Cindy Cochran from Math/Science; Deon Christensen from Technical Studies; Doug Avery from Business Studies; Julia Vickery from Student Services; Laura Latham-McKenzie from Fort Stockton. Vacancies will be address and filled by the next meeting. Joe Willis encouraged members to find a representative from their division for those times when he/she could not attend the meeting.

Under the second item of Senate business, the change in policies approved by the board in September were discussed. Rex Peebles informed the group that three policies directly affecting faculty had been modified and approved by the board; Faculty Role and Responsibilities, Sick Leave, and the Grievance Procedure. All policies were changed to reflect the practice of the college in terms of sick leave and the

grievance procedure. Faculty are considered 40 hour a week employees for purposes of sick leave calculations. Dr. Peebles assured the faculty that although the policies have been changed to be more descriptive, faculty will see no changes in expectations for their role at the college or responsibilities. Dr. Peebles will provide a document in writing for Senate review, and to be included in the faculty handbook, addressing the 40 hour a week description and the additional week at the end of the spring semester now included in the faculty Memorandum of Appointment.

Under the third item of new business the awarding of professional development credits tied to faculty rank was discussed. The members agreed that the awarding of credits toward rank should be consistent and it should be known upfront how each professional development activity will be counted for rank. Dr. Peebles offered to ask the deans from each division to provide a summary of how he/she determines and calculates professional development towards rank and will provide an overview by the next senate meeting. Further discussion will be held.

Joe Willis opened the floor to additional concerns the members would like to address. One concern was brought forth to re-number the academic building to a more student friendly system. Another item for discussion is the process of student evaluations of instructors and instructor evaluations of administration.

Michael Makowsky announced that the Take an International Student to Lunch will be on Friday, October 2 at 1:00 at MD Pizza Factory. He encouraged faculty to invite international students to the lunch.

The next Faculty Senate Meeting will be on Thursday, November 5 at 4:00 pm. Location will be announced.

Terry Gilmour moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM, the motion was seconded by Laura Latham-McKenzie.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sonia Ford