

Faculty Senate Monthly Meeting
Food Service
November 10, 2008
5:15 p.m.

Faculty Senators NOT present:

Jeff Looper – ACT (inactive), Don Birchum – APT, Randall Davis – BET, Don Sharp – CMT (inactive), Brenda Niekamp – DA (inactive), Chris McCauley – DDT, Linda Martin – ECR (inactive), Mark Schneider – FST, Jerome Mendias – IME, Linda Melendez – PHAR, Ben Matus - Ombudsman

Meeting called to order - Richard Wheet at 5:15 PM

October minutes – accepted, approved

REPORTS

Treasurer – have money

President's Cabinet Meeting –

Funding 2010 – THECB proposed substantial increase – no guarantee the legislature will fund it.

2009 Chancellor Excellence Award – must have worked on a LEAP committee

Board of Regent meetings will be held in Waco until further notice.

Proposed a reorganization of the NTS system – one administrator for all campuses. One group for all campuses, All campuses are currently operating their networks differently.

Promoted Alexis Neuman to VP position, no increase in pay, just title change, systems operation personnel will not listen to a director level position but will to VP level position.

Board Of Regents Meeting -

- * New proposed funding formula and model – Granulate curriculum, all curriculum in little pieces, as student finishes gets paid certain amount

- * Possibly make changes to new funding formula whether the state approves it or not.

- * Marshall pushing faculty evaluation policy to everyone – 0 – 9, wants everyone to have it similar to theirs

- * All faculty dealing with secondary students are to go through Criminal BG check. All new faculty to have check before they are hired.

- * Harlingen has online credential tool – everything is divulged. Richard indicated that faulty should see what is to be published prior to the release to the general public.

- * SOS ES 2.10 – Credit Rewards for Assessment and Training – discussion of an overall fee to be charged for taking any tests to challenge a course. – send comments to Richard

- * Administrative drops for students – it was decided that the VP of instruction is the only one allowed to do administrative drops. All requests are to be sent to the VP.

- * LMS Moodle update – decided to out source the servers at about \$100,000 with an additional \$50,000 for training. No longer really as open-sourced as first noted and not free.

- * Dual credit – discussed charging tuition. Harlingen, Marshall and West Texas are charging, Waco will continue to be free. Waco does charge for academic credit hours.

- * Technology Lab Fee – possibly either charge a lab fee per course part of the general tuition fee be sent back to instruction to cover the laboratory costs.

- * Question about faculty contact hours - instructor contact hours depend on with the legislature approves the new funding formula.

- * Richard asked about faculty taking courses. The current SOS will only allow faculty to take a maximum of 4 hours of release time. With the new SOLE policy, the SOS can be rewritten to let supervisors have discretion in giving time off. The SOS is currently be redrafted.

Old Business

* Department. Chair Stipends using new method of compensation – using the new method of compensation, Elton looked those chairs with dual programs and the data indicated that due to the size of the second program, it didn't make fiscal sense to increase their stipends. The chairs affected were satisfied with the process by which the decision was made.

* Richard has been able to obtain a copy of the new compensation plan for department chairs.

* Directors cannot use the course improvement survey in a punitive way and it is not really a course improvement but is really a faculty evaluation by students. Steven Moss was assigned to look at rewriting the evaluation. Instruction administration is looking at implementing an additional four week evaluation.

* Richard brought up that some courses were not offered in the fall semester so those courses are not being evaluated.

* 360 evaluation – The VP of Instruction initially said no to upward evaluation of instructional personnel. But the VP of Instruction will allow Harlingen's Faculty Senate to run a pilot of the evaluation process and afterwards the Waco faculty will use whatever Harlingen uses. The Waco VP of Instruction seems to be unwilling to allow the Waco Faculty Senate to become involved in the evaluation of the Waco instructional administration. The Faculty Senate from Harlingen will pilot it in 2009 and the Waco campus will use it in 2010. This was initially a Waco concept but the VP of Instruction has indicated that he prefers the Harlingen plan better than the Waco plan but Waco has never been allowed to present a plan.

* New department chair decisions – the Faculty Senate has suggested that the faculty within a department be allowed to have input into the decision to select a new department chair. The actual choice would still rest with the VP for Instruction. Since there is no COP on this process that allows faculty input, faculty in general will not be allowed input.

* If departments hire new faculty, does faculty get have input into the decision of what whether or not to offer a contract. The final decision would not rest with the faculty but only as input into the final decision – response NO - faculty may or may not have input in regard to new hires. The department chairs, cluster chairs and VP for Instruction will make those decisions.

* There seems to be a breakdown in communication and cooperation between the faculty / faculty senate and the current instructional administration. Instructional administration does not seem to want input and communication is poor. Most of the input the faculty senate in regard to instruction has to go through Elton Stuckly.

* Term limits for DC – it was suggested that the department chairs be appointed for terms of 3 years (or something similar). After 3 years, the department chair appointment would be reviewed by the VP for Instruction with input from faculty in that department as to whether or not to reappoint the department chair. Richard will inquire but gives little hope except for the normal "NO" without much decision on the topic.

* Elton Stuckly indicated that David Day is still only the interim Associate VP for Instruction and there is a new cluster director for aviation even though initially when the new cluster was formed the Richard was told at an Instructional Director's meeting that it was only an organization adjustment and no new cluster chair would be hired.

* Motion - Steve Betros - Ask President Stuckly if he knew about faculty having no input into hiring. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

* Requested by Faculty Senate to ask President Stuckly about rotating Department Chairs or having input into their selection.

* Questions by some senators. - Why will the Instructional Administration not work with the Faculty Senate anymore? There seems to be a total lack of regard for any Faculty Senate input into the instructional process in Waco. In the past, there had always been cooperation between the faculty senate and instructional administration. Should there be a vote of no confidence in the current VP for Instruction? After some discussion, the question was tabled until the new meeting.

* Announcement of possible Waco extension center in Odessa. TSTC would teach technical courses for Odessa College. Waco is the only one that seems to have extensive expertise to teach those broad ranges of technical courses.

* All Corporate College courses being taught have to go through the regular instructional divisions at the respective campuses.

* Get info from Harlingen on 360 evaluation and hope to have some input into the process.

New Business

* Faculty Credentials – Administration indicates that Dale has no right to question – and they will hire as they see fit.

* Procedure for selection of faculty – if someone comes up with a proposal, submit it to the senate.

* Course improvement survey – already discussed, Need to give advance warning so it and all the other surveys can be scheduled on a timely basis. It was suggested the survey dates be put on the college calendar prior to the beginning of semester so the faculty can plan around them. Ask President Stuckly if they can be done online.

* Academic appeals proposal – Draft written by David Day. Send reviews to Richard and he will forward them to David Day.

* December Faculty Senate meeting is after the end of the semester and the January meeting is set for the first day of classes. Motion to skip December – seconded and voted, approved
Motion to move January meeting to second Tuesday – seconded and voted, approved

* Motion that the TSTC Waco faculty should be treated like faculty in other colleges and given the same input into the instructional decisions and the direction of instruction. - Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned – 6:25 p.m.