

Faculty Senate Meeting
Lamar University
March 1, 2017
8th floor Mary and John Gray Library

Presiding: Vivek Naratarjan

Attending: **Arts and Sciences:** Christian Bahrim, Valentin Andreev, Judy Smith, Cheng-Hsien Lin, Jennifer Daniel, Kami Makki, Stacey Knight, Michael Beard, Yasuko Sato, J.P. Nelson, Joseph Kruger, Randall Terry, Gina Hale, Adrienne Blackwell, Ozge Gunaydin-Sen; **Business:** Tim McCoy, Karyn Neuhauser, Purnendu Mandal, Vivek Natarajan, James Slaydon, Seokyon Hwang; **Education:** R.J. Davis, Rick Carter, Anna Nguyen, Ken Young, Janice Kimmons, Belinda Lopez, Mamta Singh; **Engineering:** Paul Corder, Xinyu Liu, Xuejun Fan, Nicholas Brake, John Gossage; **Fine Arts and Communication:** Nicki Michalski, Xenia Fedorchenko, Zanthia Smith, Bryan Proksch; **Library:** Michael Saar; **College Readiness:** Melissa Riley; **Lamar State College Port Arthur:** Mavis Triebel.

Absent: **Arts and Sciences:** Ana Christenson, Michael Beard, Ted Mahavier, Charles Popp, Martha Rinker, Jennifer Ravey, George Irwin, Tom Sowers, Carol Hammonds; **Education:** Vanessa Villate; **Engineering:** Gleb Tcheslavski; **Communications and Fine Arts:** Vinaya Manchaiah, Sherry Freyermuth, Joel Grothe; **Library:** Sarah Tusa.

Call to Order: 3:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: February 1, 2017

- James Slaydon moved to approve the minutes
- Valentin Andreev seconded
- Approved by consensus

Guest Speaker: Dr. James Marquart, Provost and VP Academic Affairs

- Enrollment is up this semester over all except for Engineering which is down. Currently there is a recruiting effort to admit more diversity and International students.
- Also investing time and resources to enlarge the number of first year students admitted. Currently doing major recruitment efforts in the Houston, Dallas, etc. areas.
- Have been working on establishing cooperative interests with Lone Star College, San Jacinto College, Lee College, Lamar State College Port Arthur, and Lamar State College Orange to develop a seamless transfer between the community colleges and Lamar University for students to continue their education.
- Retention and Graduation rates have been 30% for the past six years. Need to work on improving this rate.
- On March 2, 2017, there will be a meeting to contract with an expansion program of Degree Works.
- Additional changes: Looking to move away from offering developmental math in the future.
- Also looking at revising the Advising Center
- Freshman Orientation was held two weeks ago with 500 possible freshman's attending with their parents.

- The next Cardinal View will be held in downtown Houston to talk to prospective students and their parents.
- Faculty are encouraged to participate in the freshman orientation activities when they occur.
- Looking to create a data resource to trend academic progress of students better.
- Financial aid and Scholarships were able to send awards out to the students by the end of January. There was a state and federal audit completed in the fall to ensure that the monies were being properly dispersed to the recipients.
- The Library renovation is going well
- The CICE building is beautiful. Had a port management seminar there that was well received as well as a dinner for distinguished alumni.
- Setzer Center renovation is going well so far-Hope to be completed by the end of the year.
- The Quad area is to be opened later this summer.
- There will be a ground breaking ceremony for the new Science and Technology building in April. The building will be decorated by faculty driven input.
- Plans are being made to renovate two of the older dorms.
- Discussed SACS-Commended Dr. Tony Martin for all of his input on the SACS report before his passing.
 - Theresa Hefner-Babb has assumed coordination of the SACS report and is progressing well with it.
 - Report will be due to SACS in September 2018.
 - The visit is currently planned for April 2-5, 2019
 - Plan to have a consultant come in July to look over what we have.
 - The Faculty Handbook is in the final stages for review and will be sent out to Faculty Senate members soon for review.
- The Education Coordinating Board has had a major impact on what we can do with programs in the future.
 - A proposal has been presented to develop a PhD in Speech, Deaf and Hearing.
 - A proposal for an MS in Port Management has been delayed.
 - Proposals were turned down due to out poor retention and graduation rates with our undergraduate students.
- Texas Educational Association/Administration (TEA) rulings have affected Educational programs.
 - It has been the policy to evaluate students in the Educational administration track Principals 3 times on line.
 - Have been informed that such evaluations must be done face to face. This will add an additional \$500.00 to the costs for students.
- The budget is still in limbo. Dr. Evans has been meeting with the Legislature to justify our budget.
- There is a hiring freeze in effect from February through August 31, 2017. Schools are applying for waivers to hire. Freeze could possibly extended if the legislature cannot agree on a budget.
 - However there is currently a search for a chair for the Math department.
 - The records department is short 6 people, need 2-3 more people in advising.
 - Position openings are being evaluated on a case by case basis.
- Legislation is being proposed to exempt one semester of tuition for freshman if they maintain a 3.2 GPA.

Guest Speaker: JudithMann, QEP Director

- Works with first year students

- The QEP is due by September which consists of a white paper, but as yet no specific topic has been selected.
- Proposals have been sought from all departments. Only 4 departments have submitted ideas.
- Currently in the process of narrowing the topics down to 2 proposals.
- 228 people gave feedback on the proposals but for a University of our size this is not enough feedback.
- Also currently looking at Institutional data and Literature Review. Need more proposals and broad based feedback from the faculty, students, staff, etc.
- In the process of developing a survey for faculty to complete.
- The committee will be going to every department for input. Main topic will be retention of students.

-

Faculty Senate President's Report:

- New Business:
 - Faculty Senate and Committee elections need to follow the process for department and colleges.
 - Want to have newly elected Senators to be able to come to the May meeting
 - Sarah is working on the list of Faculty Senate representatives on University committees.

Faculty Senate Committee Chair Reports:

- Academic Issues-Melissa Riley
 - No report
 - Waiting for Dr. Marquart to determine whether they need to meet again regarding concerns with Proctor U.
- Budget and Compensation-Rick Carter
 - No report
- Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Jennifer Ravey
 - Will not meet this month
- Research and Development: Faculty Developmental Leave (FDL): Cheng-Hsien Lin
 - Survey responses are good. Top reasons for not seeing R and D leave:
 - Lack of support from department Chair
 - Lack of support from College Dean
 - Family lack of support
 - Not feeling they are qualified to ask for R and D leave.
 - Have determined that a need exists to have a workshop on how to fill out the packets
 - Dr. Evans was surprised that Deans and Chairs have not been supportive of R and D leaves. There is a need for the Deans and Chairs to be informed on the Faculty Developmental leave process.
- F2.08 Task Force: Nicki Michalski
 - Seeking feedback by e-mail on the proposal that was passed out
 - Hope to be able to vote on the proposal at next month's meeting.

- Faculty Salary Equity: James Slaydon
 - Received the remainder of the CUPA data but it is essentially unusable.
 - Do have information from Sam Houston State on their equity policy.
 - Hope to be able to vote on proposal for the University in May.
- Faculty Issues: Jennifer Daniels
 - Next meeting March 8, 2017 in Parker Room 105 at 3:30 pm
 - Have found out that the F2.08 is a faculty driven form and any changes to the form content can only be done through a vote by Faculty Senate.
 - Jennifer will be meeting with Dr. Marquart and Dr. Palanki next week.
 - Feels like this committee has become a complaint department.
 - Dr. Marquart is looking at creating an Ombudsman position in the future to deal with such problems.
 - Reminded everyone that all departments need to have promotion and tenure guidelines in place.
 - The problem with filling the MBA position has been resolved
 - The policy for adding items to promotion/tenure dossiers after initial submission has been completed.

Old Business: None

Adjournment:

- Valentin Andreev motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:25
 - James Slaydon seconded
 - Approved by acclamation.
- Respectfully Submitted:
Dr. Judy Smith