MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF
February 7, 2001
ATTENDANCE:
Arts and Sciences: Christine Bridges-Esser, Kevin Dodson, Bruce Drury, Joe Nordgren, Joe Pizzo, Kathy Roberts, Pam Saur, James Stevens, Cindy Stinson, Walter Sutton. Absent: Iva Hall, Vernice Monroe
Business: Larry Allen, Richard Jones, K.C. Sen, Celia Varick
Education: Kimberly Griffith, William Holmes, Desmond Rice, Kimberly Wallet-Chalambaga. William Worsham.
Engineering: Valentin Andreev, Peggy Doerschuck, Alec Matheson, David Read Absent: Keith Gonthier,
Fine Arts and Communications: Randy Deal Absent: Wayne Dyess, Kurt Gilman, Steve Hodges, Lane Roth.
Library: Jon Tritsch, Sarah Tusa.
Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel
CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Faculty Senate President Randolph Deal.
MINUTES
The minutes of 12-6-2000 will be approved at the next meeting.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Deal reported that the Executive Committee has not met with President Simmons since last semester due to scheduling difficulties. However, we are now back on track and will meet with the President on Wed., February 14, 2000.
Dr. Deal announced that he is leaving in the Fall for a job at Baylor University. He will fulfill his duties as Faculty Senate President until a new president is elected.
OLD BUSINESS:
None
COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Academic Issues Committee: Chair. Kevin Dodson. There is a proposal for an Academic Master Planning Steering Committee. Dr. Dodson stated that his committee will meet with Dr. Kevin Smith on Thursday Feb. 8 to discuss the charge of the committee, its membership and how faculty members will be elected. There are two fundamental issues that the committee wishes to discuss with Dr. Smith. One that the faculty will be elected by their college not appointed by the Deans and that the Faculty Senate president be added to the committee. The concern of this committee is that without elections some departments will not be represented. It was suggested that this be a standing committee for consistency sake.
There was a motion by Dr. Dodson, seconded by Bruce Drury that the Senate recommend that all faculty members be nominated and elected by faculty in their college and that the committee would include the Faculty Senate President.
The motion passed by acclamation.
Budget and Compensation Committee: Chair. K.C. Sen reported that we have selected a consultant for the salary equity study. Arthur Anderson out of Houston has made a presentation and will study both internal and external equity. This firm will compare similar sized schools and the study will be completed in Aug. 2001.
Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Committee: Chair Sarah Tusa reported on the budget for the Distinguished Faculty Lecture. The budget was $6, 935. Actual expenses totaled $6,642.89 plus the cost of mailing the lecture programs. She gave thanks to the committee, the Department of Information Systems & Analysis, Chester Runnels, Mr. Jeffrey Wisor, Mr. Mark Asteris, Dr. Patrick Harrigan and the members of Sigma Nu, Mr. Dale Fontenot and Mr. Frank Blaisdell, and to the members of the Lamar Student Chapter of the Geological Society of America.
Sarah Tusa also reported the need to elect a new Chair and encouraged anyone interested to apply.
Faculty Issues Committee: Chair. William Holmes stated that the recommended changes in the Faculty Handbook on Appeals were approved and passed on to Dr. Kevin Smith. His committee is waiting for a response and follow-up.
Faculty Senate Research and Development Leave Committee: Chair. Pam Saur encouraged all senators to inform their colleagues to apply for research and development leave. She and Dr. Smith will send out through Mirabeau an announcement that the leaves are available in the Fall. For further information contact your committee member or Dr. Pam Saur or Dr. Kevin Smith.
NEW BUSINESS
A resolution was presented to the Faculty Senate by Pam Saur, seconded by Sarah Tusa and passed unanimously:
Resolution
Presented to the Faculty Senate on February 7, 2001 by Pam Saur, Chair of the Senate Research and Development Committee
Whereas: Many recipients of long-semester development leaves have been granted funds for travel, equipment, and other research expenses in addition to salary replacement to release them from teaching during their leaves; and
Whereas: The current leave application form stipulates that budgets for expenses other than salary are permitted ONLY for applicants for summer leave; and
Whereas: There is no compelling reason to distinguish between summer and long term leave recipients regarding whether or not they are retraining for anew positions at Lamar University;
Be It Resolved That the Faculty Senate submit to the Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Kevin Smith, the following proposed changes in the leave application form:
1. Strike the sentence: NUMBERS 28-31 TO BE COMPLETED ONLY BY THOSE APPLYING FOR SUMMER LEAVE.
2. To #30 "Statement of the amount of funds requested for the development project" add "(Maximum $5.000)" and add "in addition to salary replacement" after the word "funds".
3. Re-number items 28-31 so that the item applying to summer leave applicants only is the last item. Add "(For summer leave applicants only)" to #31. (It concerns summer teaching plans.)
4. Move the place for the applicant's signature to the end of the form rather than before items 28- 31.
A letter was received by Randy Deal asking for support of a change in the Regent's Rules that would enhance faculty opportunity to grieve dismissal, denial of tenure and promotion. The proposed changes is as follows with the desired addition in upper case:
Paragraph V.4.433 pertaining to faculty
"A hearing officer may not recommend changing the institution's action regarding tenure non renewal, termination of employment, or denial of promotion unless the faculty member establishes through a preponderance of the evidence THE ESTABLISHED UNIVERSITY POLICY (CRITERIA) HAS BEEN VIOLATED or that he or she has been denied a right guaranteed by the constitution or laws of the United States or the State of Texas.
A motion was made to support these changes by Bruce Drury and Seconded by William Worsham. The motion passed by acclamation. Dr. Deal will write a letter in support of the proposed changes.
In response to a letter written by the Faculty Senate President of Sam Houston State University protesting Southwest Texas State University's request to change their name to Texas State University, thus implying flagship status in the Texas State system, Dr. Deal asked for Lamar University Faculty support for a similar letter to be sent to Mrs. Neal, Texas State System Chair.
The motion was seconded by Kevin Dodson and Valentin Andreev and passed unanimously.
The letter is as follows:
Dear Mrs. Neal:
It is our understanding that Southwest Texas State University is proposing that their institution assume designation as the flagship institution of the Texas State University System. Toward this end they have also requested that the name of the university be changed to Texas State University. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Faculty Senate of Lamar University adamantly and unanimously opposes such a designation and the name change that would imply flagship status.
It is the opinion of the Lamar University Faculty Senate that no one institution deserves designation as the flagship university of the system. Flagship designation should be based neither upon enrollment nor doctoral degrees. The TSUS consists of a number of excellent academic institutions. Each institution has unique strengths. This proposal would diminish the faculty and academic reputations of our sister schools within the system.
Historically, flagship universities come in to being as a result of one nationally recognized and truly comprehensive university deciding to expand to satellite campuses. In our system no institution is so superior as to warrant a flagship status at the expense of the other member institutions.
The Faculty Senate of Lamar University hereby expresses our considered and unanimous opposition both to the proposed name change for Southwest Texas State University and its desire to be designated "flagship" of the TSUS System.
The letter is signed by Dr. Deal as President of the Faculty Senate.
Dr. Andreev announced that Dr. Birdwell-Sykes has asked the Senate to recommend a speaker for the Honors Convocation in the Spring. Dr. Deal has agreed to forward a recommendation.
It was reported that Dr. Birdwell-Sykes has also asked for Faculty Senate support for an assistant for the Honors Program. The senate view was that no additional administrators should be hired unless evidence indicated a need. She should make a proposal to the Senate for its support.
The Senate was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.
If you have any concerns that you want the Senate to discuss, please contact your Senator or the Senate Secretary: (8600