Category: [Minutes](http://hpcc.cs.lamar.edu/senate/index.php/minutes-and-resolutions/minutes/old-minutes)

Hits: 94

Faculty Senate   
Held on: December 5, 2007, 3:00 pm   
Held at: 8th Floor John Gray Library

Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 5, 2007  
  
Call to Order: 3:05  
  
Attending: Arts and Sciences: Mike Matthis, Steven Zani, Mary Kelley, Kyehong Kang, MaryE Wilkinson, Sheila Smith, Rose Harding, Dianna Rivers, Nancy Blume, Kenneth Rivers Business: Alicen Flosi, Jai Youn Choi Education and Human Development: Elvis Arterbury, Kim Wallet-Chalambaga, Lula Henry, Barabara Hernandez Engineerging: John Gossage Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski, Zanthia Smith, Randall Wheatley, Sumalai Maroonroge Library: Sarah Tusa, Jon Tritsch Developmental Studies: Umporn Tosirisuk Lamar Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel  
  
Absent: Arts and Sciences: Kenneth Dorris, Lloyd Daigrepont, David Castle, Jeremy Shelton, Ray Robertson, Emma Hawkins, Terri Davis, Don Owen, Randall Terry, Hikyoo Koh, George Irwin, Chris Bridges, Chung-Lhih Li Business: Soumava Bandyopadhyay, George Kenyon, Celia Varick Education and Human Development: Fara Goulas, Joel Barton, Jane Irons Engineering: Selahattin Sayil, Brian Craig, Che-Jen “Jerry” Lin, Paul Corder, Mien Jao, Malur Srinivasan Fine Arts and Communication: Monica Harn, Kurt Dyrhaug  
  
Approval of the minutes: moved by Dianna Rivers, seconded by Umporn Tosirisuk  
  
  
Presentation by Stephanie Yearwood:  
o You are probably hearing about the strategic plan for Lamar University  
o There are several stages that can only be carried out by academic departments, so we have been talking with the deans about this.  
o This includes improving faculty/student contact.  
o We are also still working on building the faculty credentials database. We have identified the people who are “exceptions”.   
o They are being asked to complete a special form.   
o This is not intended as an insult, it is an acknowledgement that people’s careers evolve and fields of study evolve. It also indicates that your credentials are not in your degrees but in other experiences.  
o The quality enhancement plan has been in development for two years. The topic has been set at freshman success.   
o This was selected by looking at our most recent data about freshman retention. We retain about 60%, which is below even the lowest of our peers.  
o As of December, we have selected a QEP Director, Sherry, who will direct the STARS center and the planning process.  
o We also have a draft of the Lamar University learning outcomes. This is a new document.   
o It is a compilation of what we want our graduates to know when they leave us.   
o It will be formally brought to faculty senate after it is approved by the Curriculum Council.  
o It is five hooks that our curriculum will hang on. These elements are largely already in place, this formalizes them.   
  
President’s Report: Kurt Gilman  
o Change to Football Fee Plan: An announcement concerning the fee plan was recently posted on the my.lamar website   
o Univ. Prof./Merit Award Schedule: Also on my.lamar  
o From ExCom with Pres./Provo.:  
o Asst. VP IT Support Services: Dr. Doblin stated that Cliff Woodruff is retiring. The future status of that position is unclear at this time.  
o Assoc. Dean Appointments: Because of concerns raised by the Faculty Issues Committee, search procedures for these will be reviewed by Dr. Doblin.  
o From ACD:  
o Faculty pay and I.R.S.: There was very little input on this issue put forth by the deans. We will continue to keep the issue current with the administration.  
o “6-drop rule process”: There is a draft form for this currently circulating and is under review by the deans.   
o Humberto make-up days: There was limited discussion and concerns raised by Dr. Doblin about the number of professors that actually held class on the designated days.  
o Classroom capture technology—Paula Nichols: This looks to be a very valuable instructional tool for faculty, and a tremendous learning resource for students. More on this as it becomes available.  
o The TSUS Board of Regents will meet on the LU campus on Feb. 21-22. Lamar faculty & student research presentations will be made, and a booklet containing these will be distributed to TSUS board members.  
o Additional:  
o LRPC: The complete Strategic Plan draft is now on the web, under “Administration,” “SACS.”  
o Of particular interest is section 1e.1 which concerns IT .  
o Faculty Development: I will be attending the TFDN Conference II at Texas Tech Univ. on Dec. 11-12. More concerning this will be discussed under “New Business.”  
  
Academic Issues: no report  
  
Faculty Issues: Lula Henry  
o We are trying to combine the tenure and promotion paperwork into one document. Chris Bridges is working on this.  
o We are still working on the draft of the hiring handbook that Dr Doblin has written. We have given him 3 items to review.  
o We are working on which committees it will be acceptable for department chairs to serve on. Some committees do not have enough people in attendance and this might help. It is important to make sure that there is not a conflict of interest between the Chair’s duties and the work of the committee, so some committees would not be appropriate for Department Chair membership.  
  
Budget and Compensation Committee: Ann Matlock  
o The Budget and Compensation Committee of the Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 14, 2007. All of the committee members had examined in detail the merit raises in the colleges. It was the consensus of the committee that had a merit raise of 3% was in effect in the colleges and departments. That is, each college seems to have received 3% in merit raise funds, and that most departments also receive 3%. There is no evidence that any dean withdrew funds from the merit pool to be awarded outside the merit process. A more detailed, college and departmental report will be distributed to the members of the Faculty Senate at our first meeting in 2008.  
o The committee has discussed what we think would be most useful for us to work on next. We believe that this would be a good time to examine the information that is being given to faculty in their merit raise letter. We have decided that, instead of surveying the faculty as we have done in the past, we would like to examine actual merit letters. We are asking that members of the faculty senate help us in this task by providing copies of that letter that they have received, with all names, salary amounts and other identifying information removed. We need one sample letter from each department. We will then be able to provide a detailed report to you and to the administration. Please send your sample letters to: Ann Matlock, Art Department, P.O. Box 10027. Thank you, in advance, for your help.  
o The next meeting of the Budget and Compensation committee will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in the seminar room of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building, where we have been meeting this year.  
  
Development and Research: John Gossage  
o The committee met the Wednesday after Thanksgiving and considered 9 requests for semester long development leaves.  
o Jean F. Andrews for “’I must go down to the sea again...’: LeRoy Colombo—Deaf Lifeguard of Galveston  
o Rebecca Boone for “The Renaissance in the Cabinet”  
o Ana Beardsley Christensen for “The role of the respiratory protein hemoglobin in arm regeneration of brittlestars (Echinodermata, Ophiuroidea)”  
o Barbara L. Michiels Hernandez for “Constructing a Foundations of Health Promotion Graduate Textbook and Online Component”  
o Shyam Shukla for “Sustainable Development: Establishment of Green Chemistry Research and Education Programs at Lamar University”  
o There were also two full year requests.  
o Mary L. Kelley for “A Threefold Proposal”  
o Maria Elena Sandovici for “Ethnic Groups and Immigrants: Minority Culture and Political Participation in Western Europe”  
o There were two summer requests.  
o Jeff Forret for “Conflict and Community: Slaves, Violence, and Culture in the Antebellum South”  
o Pamela S. Saur for “Gerhard Roth’s New Novels: Continuity and Innovation”  
o All were found to be meritorious and recommended for funding. The actual number funded will be determined by the Provost.  
o Thank you to the committee for their hard work and flexibility with meeting on an odd schedule.  
  
Distinguished Faculty Lecture: Steve Zani  
o We met the Wednesday after the lecture and reviewed the event. It went well. There were few complaints.  
o There is debate over where to hold the dinner, if there can be wine served and so forth.  
o The main issue is the declining number of proposals. Please encourage friends and colleagues to apply and feel free to self-nominate. The call will be made in February.  
  
Old Business:  
o There is no old business.  
  
New Business:  
o There were documents emailed to you, for review, about faculty development.  
o Dr Bridges forwarded the Senate’s earlier proposal about the faculty development office.   
o It is a thorough proposal developing the need and impetus for the founding of such an office as well as the elements that should be included.  
♣ Teaching excellence development programs  
♣ Mentoring services for new faculty  
♣ Grant writing assistance  
♣ Increase of faculty development leave funding  
♣ Research assistance for faculty  
o The executive committee has gone a step further and wants to call for the development of a fully developed center.  
o It is not official, but has been suggested that the administration might be supportive of hiring a vice president of faculty development.  
o There was also a proposal for a faculty technology support center. This should be integrated into the faculty development center. It should not be part of a department.  
o One of the items on the capital campaign includes a faculty development center. There is also rumor that there is a donor interested in funding this.  
o We can re-endorse what the earlier ad-hoc committee did or we can go further and pass a resolution.  
o No one is opposed to the executive committee presenting a resolution in January urging support for the center without the budgets from 2004.  
o The only concern is that the administration is becoming top-heavy, an inverted pyramid.   
o A suggestion is made that the resolution should be framed with the funding coming from the capital campaign, not the faculty pool.  
o The question is asked if there is research to support that having a vice-president for faculty development is more effective than a lower level of administration.  
o The materials from the earlier faculty development conference indicate that these centers are self-sustaining.  
o The most successful seem to have found their administrators in a national search.  
o Now is a good time to present this request given that earlier today President Simmons convened what he called an economic conference.   
o We are poised for a period of strong growth. This is largely due to the 15 billion dollars of growth expected in South East Texas in the near future.  
o He said that we are constrained by the need for more faculty.  
o This means we need more money from our supporters.  
  
o The budget on the old proposal is not too far off. It should be revised and submitted with the proposal because the administration will want to see dollars and cents.  
o We could pass a resolution supporting the center and then follow up with a recommendation from an ad hoc committee about the revised/updated budget and proposal.  
o We should make a decision about the best approach after Kurt attends the next meeting and we find out how long it will take to revise the proposal.  
o It is noted that the faculty have an advisory committee for the development center so that it is not run from the administration.  
  
  
o The university has been testing Turn-It-In.Com. We are now going to collect information from the faculty about how useful it is and if we should buy the program. Please send comments to Steffi Yearwood.  
  
Open Comments: none  
  
Motion to Adjourn, 4: 48 by Umporn Tosirisuk, seconded by Sarah Tusa.