

Faculty Senate Minutes  
December 2, 2015  
Landes Auditorium, Galloway

**Attending: Arts and Sciences:** Patricia Heintzelman, Cristian Bahrim, Tom Sowers, Kami Makki, Valentin Andreev, Ana Christensen, Stacey Knight, Jennifer Ravey, Adrienne Starnes, Jiangjiang (Jane) Liu, J.P. Nelson, Chandru Chandrashekar, Ming Lou, Jennifer Daniel, James Armacost, , Cheng-Hsien Lin, Ted Mahavier **Business:** Ricardo Tovar-Silos, Karyn Neuhauser, Vivek Natarajan, **Education:** Randy Davis, Diane Mason, Janice Kimmons, Vanessa Villate, Dorothy Sisk, Cristina Rios **Engineering:** John Gossage, , Qin Qian **Fine Arts and Communication:** Nicki Michalski, Bryan Proksch, Richard Gachot, Joel Grothe **Library:** Michael Saar, Sarah Tusa **Lamar State College Port Arthur:** Mavis Triebel **College Readiness:** Melissa Riley

**Absent: Arts and Sciences:** Judy Smith, Carol Hammonds, T.J. Geiger, Mark Mengerink, Roger Cooper, Martha Rinker **Business:** George Kenyon, Seokyon Hwang **Education:** Ken Young, Rick Carter **Engineering:** Paul Corder, Wendell Bean, Xinyu Liu, Jenny Zhou **Fine Arts and Communication:** Xenia Fedorchenko, Zanthia Smith, Connie Howard

Call to Order: 3:31 p.m.

### Guest Speakers

Provost Marquart:

- He is trying to meet with all departments by the end of May to learn about where they are, where they want to go and help develop plans about how to get there.
- He has a focus on student recruitment. We have hired a transfer student recruiter and are focusing on community colleges as well as the Houston and Dallas areas. One of the primary draws is a solid financial aid program and we have hired a scholarship executive director to assist in getting information out early so those top students can focus on choosing Lamar.
- There are hiring plans in all colleges. He wants to add tenure track faculty and is enthusiastic about the quality of candidates we are attracting. He is also working on clinical (non-tenure track) hires to support instruction. Diversifying our faculty is a priority.
- There are exciting things going on regarding construction and new buildings. We have hired Terry Phillips, a programming consultant, to guide our construction projects. In the new science building there will be 40,000 square feet of useable space. The rest is hallways, bathrooms, etc. There is a committee of about 25 people who are helping with design, addressing space needs and so forth. This will be the first new academic building at Lamar in 40 years. The plan has to go to the board in December of 2016 for approval. Before that, in February 2016, the programming will be sent to Dr. Evans for his approval. There are 3 committees working to design the classrooms of 2020 as opposed to 2015. There will be interdisciplinary space as well as creative space including a design kitchen.
- HEAF was 1.4 million dollars this year. Most of it was invested in the learning environment. Some of it was put toward personal computers. We are trying to get computers on a 2-3 year

rotation. It is important to remember that you can also write new computers into grant proposals.

- The Board of Regents approved a 5 year master's program in biology, and another in port management. They also approved a PhD in speech and hearing. These approvals were partially facilitated because we have a strong network of alumni involved with various boards of regents in the state. We are also trying to use that network to increase our recruiting.
- When we bring in job candidates, they are always told that they need to be good in the classroom; they will need to teach. They also need solid scholarship; quality is more important than quantity. We will provide them with start-up packages for travel and such things that will assist with their scholarship. The third component is service faculty need to "check the box". Also, adding external review to our process would help the new faculty to be more successful. The important thing is that we want them to stay.

Dean Bob Spina, College of Education and Human Development

- He is trained as an exercise physiologist and has held numerous positions at a variety of schools. This has given him insight about different ways things can be done.
- Next to educating students, hiring new faculty is the most important thing. A new faculty member is a multi-million dollar investment. Thus, recruiting is a major focus. We need to recruit for diversity and high quality.
- Our COEHD is known for our online programs, especially the education leadership program. We need to build to our strength, especially since we are now facing more competition.
- Kinesiology and Family and Consumer Science are discussing a collaborative degree.
- The college has a variety of positions open including the chair of FCSC, director of on-line education and 2 faculty for EDD in Education Leadership.
- We are working on a partnership with Apple and that is very exciting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Vivek Natarajan made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Valentin Andreev seconded the notion and it carried.

**Old Business:**

- Priscilla may be able to help with online grade changes.
- We will talk to administration about both grade change issues and communication regarding event coordination to prevent conflicts.

**New Business:**

- Tom Sowers made a motion to ask Priscilla to turn on the function that will allow people to see old syllabi on line. The motion was seconded by Karyn Neuhauser and carried.
- Issue two on the agenda was already covered by Provost Marquart.
- If you are interested in contributing gifts to the adopted family for Christmas, they need to be given to Delores Black. There will be a wrapping party on Friday.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Academic Issues, Melissa Riley:

- They have been discussing class lengths. There are 100 minutes more 1 semester than the other.
- She met with Vivek Natarajan, Priscilla Parsons and Melissa Hudler about setting up an online syllabus template. Priscilla thinks this is do-able. There will be tabs for university policy, college policy, department policy so that faculty will only need to add their specific class policies.
- The committee is discussing the possibility of starting classes on the hour and half hour.

### Budget and Compensation, Valentin Andreev:

- The committee will continue to discuss equity issues and additional benefits at the February meeting.

### Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Jennifer Ravey:

- An email will be sent with information regarding the next meeting.

### Research, Cheng-Hsien Lin:

- We have 9 applications.
- The committee is trying to get information about the actual amount of funding available.

### F2.08 Revision, Nicki Michalski:

- We are still waiting for our charge.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.