

ASU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

3:00 p.m., October 28th, 2020

Cavness Science Building, Room 100, and Remote Access via Zoom (due to COVID-19)

Rozena McCabe President KIN	X	Flor Madero Vice President COMM	X	Christopher Shar Secretary SWK	X	Twyla Tasker Parliamentarian C & I	X
Kelly Moore (in lieu of Lee Atkins) PT	X	Anthony Bartl PSCI/PHL	X	Alfredo Becerra NURS		Robert Briwa HIST	X
Michael Conklin AEF	X	Drew Curtis PSY	X	David Faught ENG/LANG	X	Carlos Flores T ED	X
Manuel Garcia ENG	X	Mark Hama ENG/LANG	X	Dinah Harriger HSP		John Kellermeier AGRI	X
Heather Lehto PHYS/GEO	X	Nick Negovetich BIO	X	Lopa Roychoudhuri CS	X	Rene Segoviano M & M	X
Andrew Siefker MATH	X	Tammy Stafford NURS (CLIN)	X	Devon Stewart VPA	X	William Taylor SEC STUD	X
Ralph Zehnder CHEM	X						

Call to Order @ 3:00 p.m.

I. Invited Guests

- General Hawkins, President – present
- Dr. Don Topliff, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs – present
- Dr. Javier Flores, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management – present
- Ms. Sandra Fuentes, Staff Senate President – present
- Ms. Kristen Kilpatrick, Student Senate President – absent
- Ms. Rebekah Brackin, Director of Communications and Marketing – absent

II. Announcements and Questions

- Dr. Topliff reminded faculty senators that registration for the ITLC Lilly Conference was open and would remain so until the start of the conference on November 30th. Angelo State University has a site license provided by the Office of the Provost for all faculty to attend. Additionally, Dr. Topliff reviewed the procedure for suspension of the tenure clock for faculty whose timelines may have been negatively impacted during the past 6 to 8 months as a result of COVID-19. Per OP 06.23 section 4, item d, faculty members may submit a written request to the Office of the Provost requesting timeline suspension following consultation with their Department Chair or College Dean. Finally, Dr. Topliff discussed the return to campus for the spring semester. The semester will commence on Monday, January 25th, 2021 and will proceed for 15 weeks with no spring break. The elimination of spring break is meant to minimize students' potential exposure to COVID-19 while away and spreading the virus upon their return.
- Dr. Flores reported that the University will request the Board of Regents to approve a permanent change in the admission policy allowing students to be admitted without national testing scores (ACT or SAT) due to COVID-19-related complications. In place of such scores, students may use high school class standing and high school GPA. This is being done as a reflection of national trends as well as to remain competitive with other higher education

institutions. Dr. Flores also discussed the changes in effect for upcoming student activities, including Homecoming Week, to accommodate the need for social distancing.

- Ms. Fuentes reviewed the agenda from the staff senate's meeting on Monday, October 19th, including the conferring of monthly RAMStar awards to two ASU staff members.
- Dr. McCabe provided a brief update on the redesigned website for Angelo State University in lieu of Ms. Brackin, who was absent. The revised website provides a stronger presentation of the institution to the world at large in addition to it being a useful resource for students, staff, and faculty.

III. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Dr. Hama moved to accept the minutes from the September 30th, 2020 meeting and his motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

- Academic Affairs (Dr. Mark Hama)
 - Report on the committee's review of OP 06.27 was deferred to unfinished business.
- Bylaws and Standing Rules (Dr. Andrew Siefker)
 - During its recent meeting, the committee discussed recommendations for additions and corrections to the Faculty Senate's Constitution, such as rules for electronic voting. The committee has divided responsibilities for reviewing and suggesting changes and will report back to the senate body with its conclusions.
- University Affairs (Dr. Heather Lehto)
 - The committee's work to review OP 06.29 and OP 06.32 was deferred to new business.
- Student Affairs (Dr. David Faught)
 - No report.
- External Affairs (Dr. Drew Curtis)
 - The committee is continuing its review of OP 06.17 and OP 06.26 with no current suggested changes for OP 06.17 and only a minor suggestion for OP 06.26. The committee also continues its review to clarify and improve the process of faculty nominations made for the Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards.
- Committee on Committees (Dr. Flor Madero)
 - Work to address earlier implementation of the annual Qualtrics survey canvassing faculty for their committee preferences has commenced and the committee seeks to present and discuss its initial efforts during the next Faculty Senate meeting in November.

V. Unfinished Business

- Faculty Select Committee
 - The committee's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6th.
- Task Force for Returning to Campus
 - Planning for the return to campus for spring semester was discussed by Dr. Topliff during the meeting's initial announcements. Dr. McCabe briefly noted the positive engagement of students she has seen in regard to abiding mask guidelines and completing the daily wellness screening application.

- Student Evaluation of Faculty/Courses (OP 06.27)
 - Committee members have submitted their recommendations and suggestions for changes regarding OP 06.27 to Dr. Hama, who is reviewing and compiling them for discussion at the November's Faculty Senate meeting.

VI. New Business

- OP 06.26 Faculty Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day
 - The Senate accepted the report from committee and it will be taken by senators to their individual departments for review and feedback.
- Departmental criteria using IDEA in Faculty Evaluations
 - Faculty senators were encouraged to discuss with their departmental colleagues the degree to which each department weighs the IDEA survey within the overall process of annual evaluations.
- OP 06.29 Faculty Non-Reappointment and Tenure Revocation
 - No structural changes to the operating policy were made, but Dr. Lehto reviewed several changes to language within the policy for correction and clarification. A recommended amendment to the policy was introduced specifying that faculty members be made explicitly aware within the policy of the options available to them in instances in which tenure is revoked. Dr. McCabe requested the committee consider this recommendation before the next Faculty Senate meeting. The Senate accepted the report from committee, and it will be taken by senators to their individual departments for review and feedback.
- OP 06.32 Promotion of Non-Tenure-Track Positions
 - No changes were recommended by the University Affairs committee. The Senate accepted the report from committee, and it will be taken by senators to their individual departments for review and feedback.

VII. Roundtable

- Dr. Briwa inquired about the manner in which the Faculty Senate may proceed in accommodating transgendered students' request that class rosters list their preferred names of address. Dr. Flores indicated he would work with Faculty Senate on this issue.

VIII. Adjournment