

Faculty Senate Minutes 20 January 2010

1. President Catherine Leach called the meeting to order at 3:15.

The following members were present: Lea Ann Alexander, Claudia Beach, Troy Bray, Beverly Buys, Shelia Buxton, Martha Dale Cooley, Debra Coventry, David Etienne, Linda Evans, Rhonda Harrington, Megan Hickerson, Paul Huo, Catherine Leach, Pedro Lopes, Patty Miley, Basil Miller, Rochelle Moss, Don Peterson, Ingo Schranz, Anna Smith, Glenna Sumner, Celya Taylor, Allison Vetter, and Fred Worth. Teresa Porter (Staff Senate President and Representative) and Taiquera Mc Neely (SGA Representative) were also present. Members absent were Rafael Bejarano, Troy Hogue, and Barbara Landrum.

2. Dr. Vernon Miles, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, recognized Dr. Celya Taylor and Dr. Basil Miller who were honored at a reception last Friday for receiving their doctorate degrees. Because the budget will be even tighter, Dr. Miles explained the new cuts possible if HSU must cut another one or two percent. At this time, HSU is in the black and will be financially astute by continuing to operate in the black. This is important since the Higher Learning Commission will visit in 2012. We have been asked to be more frugal in our use of paper because of excessive copies made.

Dr. Miles announced that the Compensation Task Force, which he chairs, will be named by the end of the week to study all means of compensation. Last year, the Legislature had mandated a raise for the classified staff but not the faculty.

Dr. Miles said the Campus Climate Survey had a good response: 136 faculty, 12 adjuncts, 68 classified staff, 49 non-classified staff, and 274 students responded. Positive remark #1 is that people can find their way around campus easily; #2 HSU is ethnically welcoming; #3 staff and faculty are helpful. The #1 negative response was on the planning process. The strengths had three (3) more positive than negative comments. The University will edit any comments that slander/ would not be suitable to repeat about individuals or offices. There will be a bracketed comment noting that there was an edited comment in that spot and a notation as to why that edit was necessary.

The Assessment Team will meet January 20, today, and the report will come soon.

The Student Evaluations were discussed, and since 40% is enough to be statistically valid, Dr. Miles says HSU will give the online evaluations more time because they allow anonymous student comments. 70% response was noted for faculty who gave an incentive to do the on-line survey. The number of students in seats in classes for all classes the fall 2008 was 16,335 students/seats; some of these students might take four or five classes. The fall 2008 paper evaluation had 9,770 responses, giving a result of 59.81%. Dr. Miles' two primary concerns about the "old" way of doing evaluations are that hand written comments were going straight to professors and that all of the faculty do not participate in spring evaluations.

In fall 2009, there were 3,577 students enrolled at the time fall 2009 evaluations were done, and that is unduplicated head count. Of that number, 1,441 students logged in for a 40.29% result, but there is no way of knowing if the students filled out evaluations for one, two, three, or five classes. All we do know is that 40% logged in. The number filling in the evaluations could be much larger.

Dr. Miles' report was followed by a discussion of the online evaluation, the number of evaluations returned, and suggestions for anonymous comments by members of the Senate and the SGA representative.

3. The minutes of the December 2, 2009, meeting were approved.

5. Election of officers was the next order of business. The new officers are Troy Bray, President-elect; Martha Dale Cooley, Secretary; Celya Taylor, Board of Trustees Representative; Ingo Schranz, Web Master-Elect. The Senate elected the following representatives : Vicki Faust, Representative to Staff Senate and Megan Hickerson, Representative to the Graduate Council.

4. President Leach's Report of Visit with Dr. Welch follows.

Dr. Welch and I discussed the recent cuts to the FY2010 budget. He stated the \$438,000 January cut was unexpected and larger than the \$425,000 reduction we received in October. This most recent cut to the budget represents 2.36% of the current budget.

The cut will be covered by the following:

- \$226,000 savings from the debt service budget. Because we were able to use stimulus money to cover part of our operating funds, Henderson will be able to remove \$226,000 from our debt service budget to cover part of the cut.
- approximately \$193,000 savings from a recent bond defeasance. Henderson refinanced the bonds at a lower rate with no extension of time.
- approximately \$20,000 will come from salary savings. These savings are a result of delays in replacing positions.

The stimulus operating funds and the bond defeasance savings will also be available in the FY2011 budget. The bond defeasance will be approximately \$290,000 next year.

Welch stated that there is no guarantee that the state and Henderson will not experience any more budget cuts this fiscal year. Henderson received approximately \$2,000,000 from the Educational Excellence Trust Fund this year. This fund is based on the prior year's collections. The forecast is for a 6.1% reduction in those funds for next year. That translates into an approximate \$170,000 cut in this funding for Henderson next year.

Welch states his number one priority is to keep all employees employed at their current salaries. There will be no personnel reductions, no cuts in benefits, and no hiring freeze at this time. He did mention that there will be a slight increase in family plan insurance this year. He noted that the premiums will still be less than they were two (2) years ago. The individual plan premiums will still be paid for by the University.

There are no proposed program budget cuts; however, the University Budget Committee has been asked to develop mechanisms to be used for program budget analysis. All purchase requests and expenditures will require the approval of a vice president for the rest of this fiscal year.

Old Business

A senator asked about the ad hoc committee formed in 2009 to discuss the University's royalty policy.

New Business

1. Faculty Senate members were asked to list their preferences for 2010 committee assignments.
2. All committees should meet prior to the executive committee's meeting the week before the regular meeting. This gives time to send the agenda including committee recommendations for the meeting to the faculty.
3. The 2008 Faculty Senate passed a resolution stating that the Faculty Senate will nominate a faculty member for the Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year Award. The 2010 Faculty Senate will follow up on this.
4. Late last fall, the information for the Faculty Excellence Awards was sent out, and the nominations must be ready by April first. The Faculty Excellence Awards Committees has been elected.
5. Web Master Paul Huo asked the Senate to decide which format –Word document, PDF, or Web page—is preferred. The Senate requested both Word and PDF formats be used.
6. An inquiry about the mandatory ten (10) office hours' being excessive since faculty have virtual hours and call forwarding was referred to the Academics Committee.
7. A request to update the Faculty Handbook to address technology use was referred to the Operations Committee.
8. A request for the creation of an Honor Board comprised of faculty and students to deal with academic integrity /academic misconduct/plagiarism was referred to Academics Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Dale Cooley

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Faculty Senate Secretary