

Faculty Senate Meeting - Agenda August 27, 2015, 2:30pm | G102 Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. **Time: 2:32pm**
 - b. **Attendance: 36 Members**
- II. **Reading of the Minutes - Minutes Approved**
- III. **Reports from Officers, Boards, Special Committees, Standing Committees - Karen**

introduced all of the new Faculty Senate Officers and Senators to the group. For a complete list, see the end of these minutes.
- IV. **Unfinished Business** – There was only 1 item of unfinished business, which was a report on the status of the Academic Dishonesty Committee’s recommendations. The conversation is on hold until both of our new Vice Presidents are on board (VPI doesn’t begin until 9/1) since the next step is to figure out where the “cheating list” is going to be held. Karen will bring up the issue to Dr. Riley.
- V. **New Business**
 - a. **Report from the Senate President as we set our goals for the year:** Karen shared that the theme for the year is “Building Community.” This theme is in response to the campus becoming too stuck in our own individual division siloes as well as past serious issues that have occurred. She hopes to rebuild the faculty community through several goals (listed below).
 - i. **To improve communication** – The website has been updated (see bottom of page for web address) and will continue to be updated with meeting minutes, committee lists, etc. Karen has also been sending out monthly reports on what is going on with System Office, such as information regarding raises and the salary compression issue. Next week is another meeting about salary compression and she will send updates after that. Karen is also working on a list of campus committees and has received one from Beverly Mulvey but will be updating it with the help of the Faculty Senate Officers and Senators. She will also work with the VPI on this list. The goal is to have a list to refer to when individuals are looking to get involved on campus (professional development / institutional service). Finally, Karen has asked Dr. Riley for a campus directory, which Steve Sheffler’s office will be coordinating.
 - ii. **To improve professional development** – There is concern that there has been no official faculty professional development plan for years and while other campuses have a full-time person dedicated to faculty professional development, we do not. Karen will be talking about this issue with Dr. Riley, who is creating a task force to work on addressing the issue of professional development on this campus.
 - iii. **To improve meetings** – Meetings will have snacks and be more efficient.
 - iv. **To improve unity and morale** – Karen thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to make a point to get to know new and continuing faculty. She mentioned that the Faculty Senate Board had a luncheon, and she is working on a breakfast gathering with the President and VPs where small groups would

have breakfast with them. Also, it was mentioned that the 20th anniversary is coming up and there will be many events to go to during this celebration.

- b. **Magic Questions: What would make our college better? What would make your job better?** – Karen posted these questions to the group to help brainstorm ideas on things Faculty Senate could work on. Some suggestions provided were addressing the registration issue, since faculty have experienced a negative impact from this situation, as well as to address the scope of professional development, since it is believed that the amount each division gets for Professional Development hasn't changed despite the addition of new faculty members. This last point was clarified, as it is supposed to be a percentage of each faculty member's salary and that this formula for funding should be looked into. Karen will discuss these two items with Dr. Riley and report back.
- c. **New Student Activities Advisory Committee** – Karen discussed a committee opportunity. Michael Daily (Student Activities Coordinator) is recreating a Student Services Advisory Committee to aid in transparency and to serve as an advisory group for student activities. If you are interested, let Karen know.
- d. **Adjunct Representatives?** – Based on conversations had by Faculty Senate Presidents, Karen posted the question of whether or not we should add the position of Adjunct Representative and if so, what should it look like. Some campuses have it, some don't. She suggested 1 representative per division with no voting rights.
 - i. Motion: To add 1 Adjunct Representative position for each division
 - ii. Motion was seconded.
 - iii. Discussion: Clarification was then asked for regarding why they would not be allowed to vote, and it was stated that this was a decision that was made a while ago (adjuncts not being able to vote). It was brought up by Michele that the constitution does not specifically state that adjuncts cannot vote, as there is no "voting" section and under "membership" they are included as members. There is concern over adjuncts having the ability to vote, and it has been an understood practice that they cannot, but concern was expressed over why would get involved if they can't vote (what would be the point). Point was raised that we need to advertise more to adjuncts about their inclusion in Faculty Senate.
 - iv. Vote Called: 29 Yes | 0 Opposed – Motion Passed
- e. **Other New Business**
 - i. The issue of registration was raised again, with the specific question of if we could discuss how it is being handled since faculty have had to do clerical work because of the mix-up. The concern was discussed and the following motion was presented:
 - 1. Motion: In the spirit of improving unity and communication, we should invite the VPSS to introduce self and discuss concerns
 - 2. Motion was seconded.
 - 3. Discussion: There is concern over doing this as it was done in the past with not so positive results. There is concern that this happens every year, and in addition to the server issue that there are mixed signals and

contradictory communication with no ownership of mistake. It was suggested that the new VPSS might need more time to adjust to campus, since he is new, before coming to address the concerns of Faculty Senate. It was also suggested that maybe there be some structure to help keep the interaction communicative and constructive.

4. Vote Called: 4 Yes | 12 Opposed – Motion Failed
- ii. It was then suggested that maybe we hold a reception for the new leadership (President, VPI, VPSS) instead of just asking VPSS to address a meeting.
 1. Motion: Faculty Senate should hold a reception for the new administration (President, VPI, & VPSS).
 2. Motion was seconded.
 3. Discussion: People generally agreed it was a good idea but that there needed to be snacks involved.
 4. Vote Called: 31 Yes | 0 Opposed – Motion Passed (Faculty Senate Board will organize)
- iii. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate meeting times be changed.
 1. Motion: Change the Faculty Senate meetings to begin at 3pm.
 2. Motion was seconded.
 3. Discussion: Biology has a lot of faculty who teach until 3pm so it would be helpful for meetings to start at 3pm, versus 2:30. It would improve access for those faculty members.
 4. Vote Called: 22 Yes | 1 Opposed – Motion Passed
- iv. The issue of reviewing the Faculty Senate constitution was raised.
 1. Motion: To create a committee to review the Faculty Senate constitution.
 2. Motion was seconded.
 3. Discussion: It was generally seen as a good idea. The only question was if any member could join the committee (instead of just board members) to which the answer was yes.
 4. Vote Called: 22 Yes | 0 Opposed – Motion Passed
- v. The new business item of the Student Services Advisory Committee was addressed again, with the added suggestion that this committee work together with the funding committee to help improve communication between those who make decisions about funding and those who work with the funding.

VI. **Announcements**

- a. Leadership Academy: Mike Devoley spoke about this opportunity; if you haven't been in The Academy, you should talk to someone who has. It is considered professional development, only takes up 4 Fridays per semester in addition to a weekend field trip to Austin and a weekend at Camp Allen. You only need to have been here for at least 2 years and be accepted in to the program. Danny Kainer added that you get the opportunity to visit different campuses.

- b. **Emergency Funds:** Karen Buckman shared the existence of an emergency fund that Faculty Senate has access to that can be used to help students. It can't be used to pay tuition or buy books, and it can't be given out as cash, but it can be used to do things like pay rent. The emergency fund has a budget of \$15,000 and was not used at all last year. This year, so far one student has been awarded \$500.
 - i. It was suggested that maybe this money could go to purchase books for a Lending Library of textbooks held in the library. It was noted that faculty can put books on reserve in the library and they control how students can access the books (can they check it out or not as well as how long they can have it).
- c. **Lone Star College – Montgomery Food Pantry:** Karen shared that it will be open Monday & Friday afternoons and students just have to fill out a form once and can access food from the pantry.
- d. **AFT:** Martina Kusi-Mensah announced that there are AFT forms in the room and if you have any questions you can speak with her.
- e. **Student Services:** Rachel Trackey shared that she is very encouraged about the new leadership and that there might be changes in student services so to be aware and that the new leadership seems to be open to concerns.
 - i. It was asked for Rachel to keep Faculty Senate updated on changes.
 - ii. It was also shared by another faculty member that when Dr. Butler had only just started here, he had a meeting he titled "Bring What you Don't Like with Campus" where he gathered all the faculty concerns, and a lot was changed for the better from that meeting. Karen will bring this idea up to Dr. Riley

VII. **Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm

Next Meeting:

- Officers & Senators: 9/17/2015 @ 2:30pm | Room TBA
- Faculty Senate: 9/24/2015 @ 2:30pm | Room TBA

Lone Star College – Montgomery Faculty Senate 2015 – 2016

Officers: President: Karen Buckman | Vice President: Habib Far | Secretary: Michele Richey

BASS Senators: Amy Curry | Craig Livingston | Phil McCue

BELS Senators: Simone Andrade | Martina Kusi-Mensah | Mark Whitten

NASH Senators: Justin Chance | Janeau Houston | John Kleist

TEAM Senators: Rob Kreps | Carlos Landa | Chase Waites

Counselor Senator: Neil Phillips

Librarian Senator: Angela Colmenares

For information on the Lone Star College - Montgomery Faculty Senate, visit our website at:

<http://www.lonestar.edu/25364.htm>