

Cameron University  
Faculty Senate  
Approved Minutes: October 4, 2019

**Officers Present:** Shaun Calix (Chair), Sheila Youngblood (Chair-Elect), Aubree Walton (Secretary)

**Senators Present:** Greg Herring, Jim Heflin, Corey Sanders, Joanni Sailor, Paula Wyatt, Dana Lee, Matt Van Sant, Cathy Blackman, Randa Hollandsworth, JD Little, Jarred Kelsey, Ali Soylu, Abbas Johari, Jeff Metzger, Douglas Catterall, Courtney Glazer, Lynda Robinson, Claudio Re

**Guests Present:** VPAA Vanderslice, Lisa Restivo (Office of Distance Learning), Darius Morris (SGA President)

**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to order (Calix)**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting (September 6, 2019)**

Minutes were amended and approved.

Dr. Heflin made the motion to approve the September 6, 2019 minutes. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion. Without objection, the minutes were accepted.

**III. VPAA Vanderslice**

Dr. Vanderslice provided an update on the following Academic Affairs topics:

**(a) Equivalency of Online Course and Traditional Course Participation Time.** To address HLC expectations regarding seat time equivalency between online and face-to-face courses, Council of Chairs drafted an equivalency guide to assist faculty with online course development. Faculty are encouraged to review the draft and provide feedback.

**(b) Textbook adoptions.** Dr. Vanderslice described the new online textbook adoption process.

**(c) Financial Aid Disbursement.** Despite attempts to thoroughly communicate the new disbursement process, a considerable number of students were unaware of the new disbursement schedule. Additional efforts will be directed towards improving student awareness of the disbursement process, including availability of the textbook voucher program.

**IV. Katherine Pierce – CU Payroll/Benefits Coordinator**

Katherine Pierce provided Faculty Senate with an update on the new Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance coverage that will take effect on January 1, 2020. The Human Resources Department will provide more detailed information at two Open Enrollment meetings planned for 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Open Enrollment period runs October 28<sup>th</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**V. SGA Update**

SGA President Darius Morris provided an update on the following SGA plans.

- (a) **Financial Aid Forum.** SGA plans to host a financial aid forum; the goals are to share information about the new disbursement practices and gather feedback on student experiences.
- (b) **Bookstore Forum.** To support the new bookstore vendor's successful transition, SGA is hosting a forum with the bookstore director.
- (c) **Graduation Regalia Forum.** SGA will be hosting a Regalia Forum to gather student feedback on campus policies and practices related to permissible/impermissible graduation regalia. Current policy restricts graduation dress code to traditional regalia (unadorned cap, gown and honor society regalia). The goal is to determine whether policies should be modified to permit additional practices such as cap decorating and cultural regalia.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**Teacher Education Council:** Dr. Robinson provided an update on Teacher Education Council. Students must pass the OGET prior to being admitted to the teacher education program. Teacher Education Council voted to accept ACT/SAT as an OGET substitute as long as the ACT/SAT results include a written essay component.

**Research Committee:** Dr. Johari shared events from the last Research Committee meeting. Because the volume of proposals exceeded available resources, the Research Committee limited funding to the proposals that involved student research. Dr. Vanderslice noted that it may be time to evaluate allocation of internal grant money. Specifically, the university may need to increase the amount of internal grant funds allocated to faculty research.

**Curriculum Committee:** At the most recent meeting, the Curriculum Committee considered several proposed course deletions and course number changes.

**Faculty Development Committee:** The Faculty Development Committee met in September to consider a number of faculty proposals. With a few minor adjustments to budget proposals, the Committee was able to fund all proposals.

**General Education Committee:** At the September meeting, the General Education Committee examine NSSE data and discussed HLC requirements regarding alignment of online and face-to-face courses.

**VII. Old Business**

- (a) In response to Faculty Senate's request, President McArthur will host and moderate an open meeting regarding Distance Learning practices. The meeting is scheduled for November 7, at 3:30 p.m., in the CETES Conference Center.
- (b) Dr. Justin Little will replace Dr. Heflin as faculty senate member of IAC.

**VIII. New Business**

Dr. Metzger moved to remove the faculty senate position from IAC committee membership. In support of the motion it was noted that it has been difficult the past few years to fill the faculty senate IAC position. Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of IAC and whether a senator could serve on IAC without being required to evaluate program assessment. The motion was not seconded. Dr. Calix offered to speak with the IAC Chair and Dr. Oty before the next Faculty Senate meeting.

**X. Adjournment**

Dr. Johari moved to adjourn. Dr. Catterall seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.