

TEXAS COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES

BUSINESS MEETING

March 7, 2009

Minutes

Prior to calling the meeting to order, President David Weissenburger was honored by the executive committee, along with attendees, for his service to the organization as president for the last five years.

President David Weissenburger called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M. Present were faculty senate members from twenty-six campuses.

In a motion made by President Weissenburger and seconded by James Eldridge, the minutes of the October 25, 2008 Business Meeting were presented and approved.

Sarah Moreman, West Region Vice President, presided over the election of two Vice President positions, East and South Central Regions, inasmuch as Joe Kotarba, East Region Vice President, was running for re-election. She asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. Wynne Chin, University of Houston, asked to speak on Joe Kotarba's behalf as did Wesley Wynne, Sul Ross State University Rio Grande Campus. Prior to a vote, Sally Swearingen, Stephen F. Austin State University, attending for the first time, asked the Executive Committee to introduce themselves and explain the regions they represent which was accomplished. In a motion by James Eldridge, University of Texas Permian Basin, and seconded by Murray Leaf, University of Texas at Dallas, Joe Kotarba was elected by acclamation.

Sarah Moreman introduced Alba Ortiz as the current Vice President South Central Region who is running for re-election. She called for nominations from the floor and there being none, Juan Hinojosa, Texas A&M International University, introduced a motion which was seconded by Dan Wells, University of Houston, and Alba Ortiz was elected by acclamation.

President Weissenburger called for Officer Reports.

Joe Kotarba announced that he had nothing to report.

Sarah Moreman, Web Page Editor, presented the website and many of its features, acknowledging Murray Leaf for the many links he provided and thanking Wesley Wynne, Webmaster, for all of his contributions.

Treasurer and Vice President Alba Ortiz presented the treasurer's report which was accepted unanimously.

Northeast Region Vice President and Program Director Peggy Landrum asked that the Meeting Evaluation Form that was distributed on Friday be completed and sent to her or any of the executive committee members as the committee is very interested in planning future meetings based on responses to this evaluation.

Anjoo Sikka, President-Elect, University of Houston, proposed a motion for Texas Council of Faculty Senates to fund a long-term research project regarding the public's perceptions of faculty.

Significant conversation ensued with an amendment to the motion and a second motion was introduced. After discussion, Paul Loeffler, Sam Houston State University, motioned that the original motion be withdrawn. A vote defeated the original motion and Larry Petterborg, Texas Woman's University, motioned to create a task force to address the public perception of faculty.

Murray Leaf seconded the motion and a vote carried it. The task force consists of Esther Rumsey, Chair, Sul Ross State University-Alpine, Paul Loeffler, Beth Thomsett-Scott, University of North Texas, Ann Medford, Midwestern State University and Joe Kotarba will be the Executive Committee Liaison.

President Weissenburger announced that he and Texas Council of Faculty Senates had received some excellent publicity from "Houston Chronicle", "Chronicle of Higher Education" and a newspaper in Bryan/College Station.

President Weissenburger expressed his gratitude to the Texas Council for their support and expressed that Anjoo Sikka will be a great leader. He will continue to work with the group for a year as Past President.

President Weissenburger announced that we had a guest from the community college environment, Laura Lawrence, Northwest Vista College, San Antonio, again at the spring meeting. Laura expressed that they are very interested in attending our meetings as they have the same issues that four-year colleges have, but not a forum like we provide. President Weissenburger noted with P-16 initiatives underway that, with approval, he would like to open up our fall meeting to the community colleges as our guests to learn their interest in coming together as a single group. A motion was made and passed unanimously to invite the community colleges to our meeting. He and Sharon Grimm to begin work on this project.

Regarding new business, Michelle Moosally, University of Houston-Downtown, expressed her school's objection to the potential legislative approval of a bill allowing hand guns on campus. She asked if Texas Council of Faculty Senates would be willing to present a resolution against this bill. A motion was made, seconded by Murray Leaf, and the vote carried with one "no" vote and two abstaining votes. The resolution follows these minutes. Murray Leaf advised that this bill is HB330.

Murray Leaf also noted that the bill to appoint a faculty member to the board of regents is House Bill 1893 and Senate Bill 1164.

James Eldridge, in the interests of conservation, suggested that members should prepare Roundup Reports and e-mail them to Sharon Grimm to retain as well as to forward to Wesley Wynne for publishing on the website. This would be done as soon as possible and at least a week in advance of the meeting so that whoever is interested in reading or copying them could do so. The oral reports will still be given at the meeting.

The Fall Meeting date for Texas Council of Faculty Senates is October 23-24, 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Grimm
Executive Secretary

RESOLUTION REGARDING HAND GUNS

WHEREAS, allowing concealed firearms on university campuses threatens our ability to create and maintain a safe, open learning environment for students, faculty and staff,

Be it resolved that the members of Texas Council of Faculty Senates
oppose any legislation or initiatives that will overturn the present prohibitions on carrying concealed weapons on university campuses.