

TEXAS COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES

BUSINESS MEETING

February 27, 2010

Minutes

President Anjoo Sikka called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M. Present were faculty senate members from twenty-seven four-year campuses and one community college campus.

In a motion made by Esther Rumsey, Sul Ross State University Alpine, and seconded by Beth Thomsett-Scott, University of North Texas, the minutes of the October 24, 2009 Business Meeting were presented and approved.

President Sikka introduced the TCFS officers, their roles in the organization and called for their reports.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates Treasurer and Vice President South Central Region Alba Ortiz presented the Treasurer's Report, copy of same given to all members, indicating that TCFS's financial situation is solvent, but encouraged the payment of dues in order to meet the needs of the organization. In a motion by Murray Leaf, University of Texas at Dallas and seconded by Beth Thomsett-Scott, the report was accepted unanimously.

Peggy Landrum, Texas Woman's University and Vice President Northeast Region and in charge of special projects solicited input for ideas for future meetings of TCFS.

Sarah Moreman, Sul Ross University Alpine, Vice President West Region, and Web Page Editor encouraged members to refer to the website for news about the organization and links to other sites of interest. Since Wesley Wynne, Sul Ross University Alpine and Webmaster was in attendance at this meeting, she expressed her gratitude for his contributions to the website. She also noted that it had been suggested that a discussion board be set up on the website for members to use.

This meeting being the last one for David Weissenburger, Tarleton State University and Past President, he was thanked for eight years of service to TCFS and extended an open invitation to attend any meeting in the future. Dr. Weissenburger indicated his interest in pursuing the attendance of community colleges to our meetings.

Joe Kotarba, University of Houston, Vice President East Region and in charge of election of officers and the Fellows Program (still on hold by the CB) announced that this is an election meeting for the offices of President-Elect, West Region Vice President (currently held by Sally Moreman) and Northeast Region Vice President (currently held by Peggy Landrum). The president-elect position calls for a commitment of four years, one as President-Elect, two years as President and one year as Past President. Vice Presidents are elected for a two-year term. The candidates pre-nominated were Sally Moreman for President-Elect, Wesley Wynne and Esther Rumsey for Vice President West Region. For Vice President Northeast Region, Peggy Landrum and Lavelle Hendricks, Texas A&M University Commerce were nominated. Wesley Wynne asked that his name be removed and that he would like to attend the meetings in a non-officer role.

There being no nominations from the floor, on a motion by Todd Richardson, Sally Moreman was elected President-Elect by acclamation as was Esther Rumsey. For the Northeast Region, the two candidates are allowed two people to speak on their behalf. Peggy Landrum spoke on her behalf as did O. Jayne Bowman, Texas Woman's University. Lavelle Hendricks spoke on his behalf as did Louis Katz, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi. After a vote by members, LaVelle Hendricks was elected Vice President, Northeast Region and Peggy Landrum was thanked for her contributions to TCFS.

Regarding current issues, President Sikka asked for follow-up on the public's perception of faculty and higher education research project. She suggested that TCFS develop a white paper or document addressing what faculty can do to improve same. She called upon Esther Rumsey, Chair of the committee working on same. Esther Rumsey who teaches classes re communications, is working with a class to develop a template for gathering information. The first question they have answered is "who are their audiences?". They have identified four, i.e. 1) students, 2) university staff, 3) senior administration and 4) tenured faculty. Her group is putting together questions regarding current perceptions and beliefs and are hoping to get information out before next legislature session. She will put information on website.

Regarding planning for upcoming meetings, the Executive Committee has suggested bringing in legislative aides to Fall Meeting for a round table discussion to meet them during social hour. Murray Leaf suggested we invite the legislators rather than aides.

Members suggested bringing in representative from the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Other members expressed that meeting with representatives from the press/media might be a better idea.

President Sikka reminded everyone to complete the meeting evaluation form. She also announced that the state rates for hotels will be increasing for 2011 to \$115.00

President Sikka questioned whether changing the fall meeting date one week to October 29-30 would be a major imposition. There were no objections. This will allow

anyone wishing to attend the Coordinating Board meeting on the Thursday prior to our meeting. So, officially, the fall meeting date is October 29-30, 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Grimm
Executive Secretary