

UTPA College of Education College Council Minutes
Meeting Date: November 28, 2006

Fifth Official Meeting of the 2006-2007 COE College Council

Representatives Present: Leo Gomez, Francisco Guajardo, Michael Guerrero, Santiago Silva, and Paul Villas

Representative Absent: Laura Saenz (Laura Saenz is the College Council Secretary and, therefore, responsible for taking minutes at all Council meetings. In Laura Saenz's absence, the Council meeting was recorded via audiotape, and later transcribed by her).

Others Present: College of Education Interim Dean, Velma Menchaca

CALL TO ORDER

COE College Council Chair, Michael Guerrero, called the Council meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes: Francisco Guajardo moved to approve the November 7, 2006 meeting minutes contingent on amendments to Action Item 3, Announcements Item 13, and Meeting Adjournment Item 14. Action Item 3 amendments to be made included (a) changing Miguel Guerrero to Michael Guerrero in paragraph one and (b) changing the wording in the third paragraph from Michael Guerrero "moved" to Michael Guerrero "suggested," and (c) changing Paul Villas "seconded the motion" to Paul Villas "acknowledged and agreed" with Michael Guerrero's suggestion. Announcements Item 13 amendments included (a) changing Gary Mounts to Gary Mounce, (b) changing Van Reedhead to Van Reidhead, and (c) changing Bobby Guinn to Robert Guinn. Adjournment Item 14 amendment included changing Michael Guerrero moved to adjourn the meeting to Paul Villas moved to adjourn the meeting. Leo Gomez seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed.

2. Reset Calendar for the At-large Member Election: Council members reviewed possible procedures for resetting the calendar for the At-large Member election. Leo Gomez moved that an electronic message be sent to the faculty by the end of the current meeting date. Leo Gomez moved that the message include (a) the At-large Member nomination form, (b) the specific dates of the term, (c) an explanation regarding our effort to try and preserve the integrity of the process, (d) the date of closing nominations, December 4, 2006 and (e) the date the formal election will be held, December 11, 2006. Francisco Guajardo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Michael Guerrero asked that Paul Villas and Leo Gomez take the lead on sending the electronic message to the faculty. He requested that the dates be carefully laid out for the faculty.

3. Establish Calendar for Spring 2007 Council Meetings: Paul Villas moved that the Spring 2007 CC meetings be set as follows: January 23, February 20, March 20, April 17, and May 8. Santiago Silva seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Interim Dean's Concerns Regarding the College Council's Report: Interim Dean, Velma Menchaca stated that she believes that the term "concerns" does not accurately represent her position on the report. The Interim Dean further stated that she understands the report addresses valid issues voiced by the faculty at the spring 2006 retreats and believes we should begin to examine how we can remedy some of the issues that emerged. On the other hand, the Interim Dean was taken aback by the wording of the introductory paragraph of the report and the general tone of the report. The Interim Dean expressed concern that the tone might negatively affect the College's improving spirit of collaboration.

Paul Villas stated that he could understand how the Interim Dean and others might interpret the tone as being negative and forceful; however, this was never the intent of the Council.

Interim Dean, Velma Menchaca stated it is important that the faculty not feel overwhelmed by trying to remedy every issue this year.

Leo Gomez stated that he has a deeper concern regarding the Council's lack of adherence to the process established by the by-laws for sending recommendations to the Dean of the COE. Leo stated that the Council has decided and evaluated priorities of the COE without input from faculty. Leo Gomez further stated that we have not adequately clarified what the Council is about.

Paul Villas and Francisco Guajardo stated that Leo Gomez has brought up concerns that have validity. Francisco Guajardo further stated that we are a young Council with a lot to learn and that Leo Gomez's concerns are duly noted.

Santiago Silva expressed frustration over the lack of the collaboration within the Council. Santiago Silva stated it is clear that there are issues that need to be resolved among Council members before we can move forward.

Michael Guerrero reminded the Council of the process used to generate the report and that, at the time of submitting the report to the Interim Dean, the Council recognized Leo Gomez's concerns, but felt that the process outlined in the by-laws did not apply to the report to be forwarded to the Interim Dean.

Leo Gomez reiterated his position.

Interim Dean, Velma Menchaca stated she believes the report and concerns have legitimacy, but that we need to prioritize our goals.

Leo Gomez moved that we pull the report from consideration for the Interim Dean and that we reexamine our priorities.

The Council agreed to review the report items at future Council meetings.

Paul Villas reminded Leo Gomez that the report is a discussion item and not an action item. Leo Gomez and Santiago Silva disagreed with Paul Villas' interpretation.

Michael Guerrero expressed concern over offending the Interim Dean. He clarified that it was never his intent to offend the Interim Dean and that he understands that the various task forces established have already begun the important work of addressing the issues that emerged from the report.

Paul Villas, Leo Gomez and Michael Guerrero discussed clarifying procedures for making motions in the future.

2. Managing Dean's Request for Delay of College Council Decisions: Michael Guerrero requested advice from the Council regarding how to handle requests from the Dean that might delay the follow through of decisions and actions agreed upon by the Council.

Francisco Guajardo responded by stating that the Interim Dean's request be met and this represents common sense and courtesy.

Michael Guerrero stated that he felt that it's a little more complicated than simply extending courtesy to the Dean.

3. CC Chair's Autonomy to Make Decisions/Communicate with Faculty: All Council members provided input regarding balancing the Council's need for autonomy and the important job of collaborating with the COE Dean and other administrators.

4. Revisiting of By-laws:

a. Article IV, Section F, 3 (Robert's Rules of Order): Michael Guerrero stated that CC minutes must be stored in the Dean's office.

b. Article V, Amendments: Michael Guerrero requested that revisions ad hoc committee note the guidelines for amending by-laws can be found under Article VI.

c. Article VII (Procedures for communicating faculty support for or feedback on policies being contemplated by the Dean): Michael Guerrero requested that the ad hoc committee revisit Article VII.

5. H&K Faculty Needs and Concerns: Interim Dean, Velma Menchaca stated that she will be meeting with Dr. Sale to address the concerns of the H&K faculty.

6. By-laws ad hoc committee: Michael Guerrero requested that CC members seek volunteers from their respective departments to participate on the ad hoc committee.

7. Report to Executive Council: Michael Guerrero stated that he would be sharing or bringing up the following four points at the Executive Council meeting on Thursday: (a) the Dean's plan to act on CC report, (b) policies being contemplated by the Dean, (c) issues related to load, and (d) CC participation in budget issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Paul Villas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Santiago Silva seconded. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Saenz, Secretary