

Cameron University
Faculty Senate
Approved Minutes: October 11, 2019

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

Senators Present: Jim Heflin, Corey Sanders, Matt Van Sant, Cathy Blackman, JD Little, Ali Soylu, Abbas Johari, Jeff Metzger, Douglas Catterall, Claudio Re, Leisha Estep, Kirsten Underwood, John Geiger, Jennie Hanna

Agenda Items

I. Call to order (Calix)

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

II. Issue #1: Format Expectations for Distance Learning Open Meeting

- Dr. Calix provided an overview of the purpose of this special Faculty Senate meeting.
 - He reminded the body that the November 7 Distance Learning Open Meeting was requested because the Distance Learning policy is perceived to be substantially different from what Faculty Senate approved in 2018.
 - Since scheduling the Distance Learning Open Meeting, several faculty have expressed questions/concerns regarding the proposed format for the open meeting. Specifically, faculty have inquired whether the President should be moderating the open meeting.
- Discussion regarding proper format of open meeting
 - Dr. Calix was asked why there is a concern with having the President moderate. Dr. Calix responded that some people anticipate the meeting to be contentious and if he is moderating a meeting where people are upset, his attempt to maintain order might create a perception of shutting down faculty participation.
 - Dr. Calix was asked if he would be comfortable moderating the meeting. Calix responded that he is willing to moderate upon President McArthur's consent.
- Dr. Calix summarized the discussion as identifying two possibilities: use a third party moderator or have no moderator.
- Dr. Youngblood proposed that a third alternative is to have faculty submit questions in advance. This process allows for anonymity. Calix could read the questions and President McArthur can respond. If faculty want to ask follow-up questions or original questions during the open meeting, that is okay too.
- Dr. Catterall moved that Faculty Senate submit a proposal to Dr. McArthur, respectfully requesting permission to allow Dr. Calix to serve as discussion facilitator, which would include collecting questions in advance, reading them aloud during the meeting, and moderating live questions. Dr. Heflin seconded. The motion carried.

III. Issue #2: Faculty Concern Regarding University Committee Structure and Governance

- Dr. Youngblood introduced the topic by reading aloud a written statement submitted to her by a faculty member. The message expressed concern that university committee chairs are not being elected from the faculty. The message referenced recent experiences in the Research Committee and the Faculty Development Committee.
- Dr. Catterall asked whether the handbook explains the role of ex officio members, including their ability to serve as committee chair. If not, he recommended that Faculty Senate draft a handbook amendment that clarifies ex officio members cannot serve as committee chair.
- The body was reminded that the underlying concern is whether faculty are allowed a voice in university committees. Precluding ex officio members from serving as committee chair does not necessarily resolve shared governance concerns.
- Dr. Calix noted that the November Faculty Senate agenda will address this issue further. He affirmed that it is permissible to request the VPAA to leave the room during discussion, and he reaffirmed that the VPAA is more than willing to leave when necessary.

IV. New Business

- Dr. Soylu inquired about the proper format for Faculty Senate meetings. He proposed reconsidering how time is allocated between announcements and faculty senate concerns. Other faculty noted they like the campus updates/announcements because they do not otherwise have access to the information. Dr. Soylu proposed that we reference the Bylaws to determine faculty senate's purpose.

V. Adjournment

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