

**Prairie View A&M University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**January 17, 2008**

Senate Speaker Grace Goodie convened the monthly meeting of the PVAMU Faculty Senate at 4:06 pm in Room 137 (Training Room) of the Juvenile Justice and Psychology Bldg. Faculty Senators from the College of Nursing participated through video conferencing. A quorum (23 of 40 senators) was present.

**Senators Present:**

- Agriculture and Human Sciences: Grace Goodie, Wash A. Jones
- Architecture: Akel Kahera, John Okello, Peter Wood
- Arts & Sciences: George Brown, Arouna Davies, Seab Smith, Lee Henderson
- Business: Gin Chong, Michael Williams
- Education: Clarissa Booker (for Irene Duke); Queen Martin, Albert Johnson, Jr.
- Engineering: Ziaul Huque, Suxia Cui, James Northern
- Juvenile Justice & Psychology: Ronald Server
- Nursing: Odelia Peters, Evelyn Whitley; (Through Video Conferencing: Pamela Brandy-Webb, Abida Solomon, Isaac Lee Smith)

~ Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting was not done.

~ Verification of Current Bylaws: Secretary Jones announced, in response to a previous inquiry, that the Bylaws listed on the Faculty Senate website are the updated Bylaws and the ones under which we have been operating this year.

~ Faculty Handbook/Tenure Policy: Henderson moved and Chong seconded to approve the current Handbook as revised with appropriate changes and that it be posted on the PVAMU website; Motion passed; Northern will be responsible for posting the document onto the PVAMU website;

Senator Northern presented information regarding his research on the handbook to compare information and links; Some members of the Executive Committee met on Jan. 15 to discuss this issue; he met with Provost Thomas-Smith earlier on Jan. 17 regarding tenure rules; per Thomas-Smith, it's up to the Faculty Senate to make necessary changes/recommendations as appropriate to the Handbook and University Rules regarding tenure; the Faculty Senate is to review the documents presented by Northern and recommend changes to Northern to send to Dr. Wright; Northern explained how University rules were approved after Dr. Wright transitioned into his current role; Northern will email the handbook documents to everyone along with University Policies on Tenure, and faculty will have two weeks to review and give feedback (by Jan. 31). Northern will distribute information to the faculty on Friday, January 18.

Jones is to request again from the Deans regarding Dr. Wright's request for all colleges to have tenure information included on the college's website. Question regarding the status of those in limbo who were not granted tenure this year. Goodie addressed the question to say that tenure actions won't be retroactive; Northern indicated

his intent to reduce the size of the handbook by referring to policies in the handbook rather than including the actual policy in the handbook;

Davies asked if Senators can see previous rules compared to what they are now; Northern responded that departments had authority to stop the tenure process or not to stop it (that is now changed); He indicated that Dr. Wright wants the tenure process for each faculty member to go at least to the Provost

~ Clarissa Booker presented a report from the University Academic Council:

- Non-Faculty Senate tenured faculty should serve on review boards for fairness and equity
- Changes for catalogs need to go from the department to the college to UAC
- The University is working on the 2008-2010 catalog
- The Higher Education Coordinating Board is working to reduce the number of hours for graduation to 120
- She relayed information regarding a fee increase (for University College advisement); Lettie Raab explained the fee during the UAC meeting; Mary Lee Hodge approved the fee; George Brown asked if the Faculty Senate could take action or what authority the Faculty Senate has regarding this issue; he suggested that the Faculty Senate should be included in the loop of UAC actions
- Odelia Peters asked a question regarding remedial courses at the University, but Booker stated that the UAC did not discuss this matter at its meeting
- Brown requested that the UAC provide a report to the Faculty Senate monthly

~ Evelyn Whitley asked about the issue of merit raises in the College of Nursing; response: merit raises were not based on the specific packets done by faculty; other criteria were used.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes recorded by Wash A. Jones, Secretary