The Coastal Bend College Faculty Senate met at 3:30 pm on Friday, October 3, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Emmanuel Alvarado, President.

Senators Present:

Emmanuel Alvarado, President  
Donna Atkins, Immediate Past President  
Megan Capeheart  
Kathleen Cuyler  
Juanita Dominguez  
Anna Green  
Lewis Jaimes  
Elden Price  
Juan Sanchez  
Bobby Uzzell

Visitors Present:

Jeanene Jones  
Christy Moreno

Due to the absence of Faculty Senate Secretary Betty Sims who was at a nursing conference, Donna Atkins acted as secretary taking notes for the Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Juan Sanchez, seconded by Juanita Dominguez, the Minutes were approved as written.

The President reported on the status of the title change. He met with College President Dr. Espinoza and HR Director Kathlyn Patton. Dr. Espinoza wants the procedure system wide and coordinated. The title will be designated in future contracts. New full-time positions will be advertised as Assistant Professor to attract more qualified applicants, and the individual will come in with that title unless the person brings in more teaching years. Updates will be made to the webpage, business cards, catalogs, and letterhead. A form for faculty to complete will be made available on the HR webpage and Dr. Espinoza asked all faculty members to complete this process and return it to HR by November 15.

A comment made at a recent Coastal Bend College Board of Trustees meeting was discussed. The comment was about not giving faculty raises again this year and that it was unacceptable to the Board that this was happening. A Senate sub-committee will be appointed to prepare a letter for the Board thanking them for this comment and their support and requesting raises for next year.
The process for Teacher of the Year was discussed. Selection of this year’s winners will be made by last year’s winners, Anna Green Hazelrigg, Kevin Behr, and Kelly Rea along with Pete Treviño and Dr. Patricia Candia. A place on the college webpage will be set up for to announce this and a Blackboard shell will be created for all submissions from students. The closing deadline for this is November 2. There will be a two-week review period following this to choose winners.

The Program Review process was discussed. Dr. Alvarado stated that Dr. Espinoza was very much data driven and that we must be explicit in our documents and follow Randy Lindeman’s direction in completing these with an end of semester deadline for completion.

The Senate discussed officer openings and meeting absences. The committee agreed to wait until Betty Sims formerly resigns as secretary to begin working on a replacement. The Nominating Committee will be in place by that time. Andre Barrera’s absences due to back surgery were discussed. He has only missed two meetings and this is acceptable according to the Constitution and Bylaws. Should he need to miss another meeting during his recovery, he will be asked for a proxy representative so he can remain a Senator.

Dr. Alvarado discussed the idea of having smaller committees. The current seven-member system is not working. People are not volunteering and those who do after they are “begged” don’t show up for meetings because they did not have the original commitment. He suggested four member committees and the Senate agreed this was a good idea. Additionally, the Bylaws don’t allow Senators to chair standing committees and he felt this should be changed to allow this. It will be taken to the Bylaws Committee. The Senators present felt both of these were good ideas.

The student awards ceremony was discussed. This is to be a faculty driven event at all sites, and Dr. Alvarado will do further investigation.

There was some concern expressed about comments made by Dr. Espinoza at the recent Board of Trustees meeting about declining enrolment in relation to the number of faculty the college has. Faculty remains about the same with fewer students. The Board indicated it did not support a reduction in force at this time and hoped enrollment numbers would increase.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.