**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Round Rock Campus, Willow Hall 212 , 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow).

Meeting called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner.

**Follow up from PAAG November 6, 2019**

Senators discussed the November 6, 2019, PAAG meeting.

* Senators addressed the budget issues raised by the administration and the increased numbers of undergraduate students enrolling in new programs. There is a concern that there could be a negative peripheral impact on other programs, especially in the general education core, with increased numbers of students. New programs usually are allocated new faculty lines. However, students must first move through university core courses in units that may not have the faculty to cover the increasing numbers of students.
* Senators addressed the negative effects of the budget on faculty morale and the continued erosion of pay as merit raises do not cover inflation.
* Senators discussed the answers by the administration concerning environmental sustainability issues raised by the senate. Senators suggested that we should look at benchmarked universities. In the meantime, the university administration should try to lessen our environmental footprint (use less paper, electronic only, etc.). Senators suggested that we ask Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services, to attend a future senate meeting. Senate Chair Bezner will extend an invitation to Mr. Algoe.
* Senators discussed creating a task force, as suggested by the administration, to look at adding an environmental designation to courses. Senators suggested we discuss the issue with Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, to begin the process.
* Senators discussed the issues brought up by the administration concerning the departing chief diversity officer and the office of diversity and inclusion. Discussion centered around the possible solution that the administration has suggested of including all diversity and inclusion issues under one umbrella. Senate Chair Bezner announced that Dr. Scott Bowman, special assistant to the provost for inclusion and diversity, will be at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 20, and senators could discuss any ideas with him at that time.

**Format for Policy Review Edits**

There has been a change in the policy review process that senators have used in the past. Senators discussed the format changes, reviewed the revised Senate guidelines, and suggested some changes. The new Senate policy review guideline document will be available to senators on the Faculty Senate TRACS site.

**University Lecturers Series Review of Revised Rubric**

Senators discussed the revised rubric. The committee is trying to make the rubric clearer and more transparent with more detailed descriptions. The current criteria will remain the same, however, the weighting for items has been revised. The number of points used to score proposals are not changing, the rubric is simply providing a better explanation for reviewers. Senators did have some concerns over the complexity of the new rubric.

Senators voted unanimously to suspend the rules. Senators voted to approve the new rubric.

**Revisions to AA/PPS 04.01.50, Policy on Awarding Faculty Merit Raises**

Senators discussed the proposed changes to AA/PPS 04.01.50 Awarding Faculty Merit Raises. Discussion centered around the definition of high-performing faculty, which was not clearly spelled out in the policy revision. There were also questions concerning the guidelines or benchmarks that will be used to define merit for high-performing faculty. Senators agreed that there needs to be a clear operational definition and that departments must be clear when using those definitions. It also seems that the link to the guidance document is difficult to find and needs to be more obvious.

Senate Chair Bezner will contact Associate Provost Thorne with the senate’s suggestions.

**Adding Honors College and/or University College Senate Representation**

Senators discussed the issues brought up by the Honors and University Colleges concerning faculty representation on the senate. Senators discussed the various issues of the possibility of this change. Senators were committed to finding a simple solution to enfranchise the faculty who are in the Honors and University Colleges to address the concerns that result from these colleges not having representation on the Faculty Senate. The Nontenure Faculty Committee (NLFC) has elected to add representation from these colleges on the NLFC.

Senators voted (with two abstentions) to charge Senate Chair Bezner to investigate how this could be accomplished.

**Appointment of Senators to Serve on the FDL Supplemental Award Committee**

Three senators were requested to serve on the Faculty Development Leave Supplemental Award Committee. Senate Chair Bezner, Senator McClellan, and Senator Ledbetter volunteered to serve on the committee. Senate Vice Chair Ceballos will serve as an alternate.

**Policy Review**

Assignment of senators to review specific University and Academic Affairs policies:

* [AA/PPS 02.02.02 Small Class Report](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/02-02-02.html). Due November 15, 2019. Senator Martin
* [UPPS 07.07.05 Emergency Loan Program](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-07-05.html). Due November 18, 2019. Senator Jensen
* [UPPS 08.01.21 Service Vehicle Access to Bobcat Trail and Quad](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/08-01-21.html). Due November 18, 2019. Senator Wesley
* [UPPS 08.01.13 Reservation Policies – LBJ Student Center and Student Center Mall](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/08-01-13.html). Due November 18, 2019. Senator Nolan
* [UPPS 07.11.01 Disability Services for Students](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-11-01.html). Due November 18, 2019. Senator Davenport
* [UPPS 05.04.03 Emergency Operations](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/05-04-03.html). Due November 19, 2019. Senator McClellan
* [AA/PPS 04.01.10 Faculty Criminal Background Checks](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-10.html). Due November 29, 2019. Senator Luizzi

**Faculty Question Concerning Study Abroad**

A faculty member submitted a question to the senate concerning a possible bill, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act (S. 1198/H.R. 4555) in the U.S. Senate. The bill would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 for providing and expanding study abroad opportunities for undergraduate students. Senator McClellan will investigate the issues and how they relate to the faculty members concerns and will provide a response.

**Announcements**

Dr. Scott Bowman, special assistant to the provost for inclusion and diversity, will attend the first hour of the November 20, Faculty Senate meeting.

Senators were instructed to read program proposals and have questions ready for the upcoming curriculum committee presentation.

**Approval of Minutes**

The November 6, 2019 minutes were approved by senators.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan