**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

JCK Regent’s Room, 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, Lyn Litchke, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Denise Trauth (president), Gene Bourgeois (provost), Debbie Thorne (associate provost), Micky Autrey, Paul Hart, Rebecca Raphael, Joseph Laycock, James Wilde, Soon-Jae Lee, Craig Hanks, Gary Winek, Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow).

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner

**President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)**

President Trauth presented information and answered questions concerning:

* Budget and merit raises.
  + The university originally wanted to increase tuition by 3.95%. However the requested amount was reduced to 2.6%. This means that there may not be enough to fund a merit increase.
  + The system office asked the university to look at differential tuition. The university determined that they would institute a $10 differential tuition per credit hour for students in the College of Business and the College of Science and Engineering. In the first year this could amount to approximately $3.2 million.
  + The highest priority for the administration is a merit pool for faculty and staff. However, it takes approximately $6 million for a 3% pool. Consensus from the cabinet was not to do merit if it was not more than 1%. In the event there is no merit pool, the administration wants to push any available funds into the following year’s funding. However, senators voiced concerns that even a 1% merit pool is valuable to faculty and staff.
  + There is still a concern over reduced enrollment. If next fall’s enrollment is good, there is a possibility that there could be a merit raise in January 2021. The administration is committed to finding funding and merit is their highest priority.
* Requiring search committees to attend training and/or use the diversity tool kit.
  + Senators expressed their preference to require some sort of training for search committees concerning inclusion and diversity in hiring practices.
  + President Trauth stated that there are a number of searches always underway and that requiring training could place an undue burden on trainers. Currently colleges and departments are requesting training as needed. Equity and inclusion workshops are also incorporating this type of training. The administration requested senate support to ensure the toolkit is used by search committees in their colleges.
  + There was discussion concerning the creation of a diversity and inclusion certificate. There are still questions about where it counts, what is the purpose and the process of obtaining one. The Faculty Senate stated their support for a diversity and inclusion certificate process.
  + There was discussion concerning target of opportunity hires (the university target of opportunity program is meant to help diversify faculty). Currently units can request that an existing faculty line become a target of opportunity hire.
* Debrief from Board of Regents meeting.
  + President Trauth stated that the budget made up a large portion of the meeting.
  + An important motion approved by the Board of regents was a public/private partnership to add another building in the current STAR Park area. A company would build the facility, rent space, and recruit tenants. All tenants would still have a relationship with Texas State.
  + There was a discussion with Regents concerning the next residence hall on campus that would be located across from the president’s house. The university wants to grow the freshman class, however, space is limited. The administration wants to use some form of private funding to accelerate building. This approach would be less expensive and the construction cycle would be faster.
  + There was a discussion with Regents concerning the Infrastructure Research Laboratory (IRL) at the STAR Park complex. This is currently in the planning process and would also use some form of public/private partnership to fund.
  + The administration also discussed the future of the STAR Park complex with the Regents. A potential plan is to create a smart park as a living laboratory to use as a test bed for science and engineering students and faculty.

**Environment and Sustainability Questions and Clery Report Update**

Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services, presented information and answered questions concerning environment and sustainability issues on campus and an update on the recent Clery Report.

* Mr. Algoe discussed the current state of the Environment and Sustainability office and having a temporary director in place. The Stars report will be certified and sent by the end of December 2019. There was some discussion concerning the university becoming a green campus and the difficulties involved in the process. There was a question concerning light activation motion sensors. There are motion sensors in some areas, but due to safety concerns sensors cannot be used everywhere on campus. Mr. Algoe stated that he fully supports coding some academic courses in the university catalogue as having an environmental and sustainability focus. There was a discussion concerning fossil fuel endowment investments, however, the university is unable to dictate investment strategies. The university operates under Texas State University System policies that guide investments. There were faculty concerns over recycling at the Round Rock campus. Mr. Algoe discovered that no one with the contracted company had responsibility to dump recycling outside. His office is working with the contractor to add the requirement to include recycling.
* Mr. Algoe discussed the current status of the Clery Report. His office finished the required report, but time constraints caused some reporting errors. After the report was published the Department of Education (DOE) placed the university under program review. The university has hired outside consultants to assist in the reporting and review process and are still compiling data. To finish this process the university asked for, and was granted, a 90 day extension. During this review Mr. Algoe indicated that the reported Clery Report numbers could change once again. To keep this issue from happening again the university is hiring a full time Clery compliance staff member. The university could pay a fine as part of the DOE review, however, the amount is uncertain at this time.
* Mr. Algoe was asked about a faculty concern over email advertisements for restaurant franchises through official email for on-campus dining. He stated that dining facilities are owned and operated through contracts with the university, not individual franchises. One senator clarified that the faculty concern was not over the announcement of a new dining facility but rather over the inclusion of information promoting or advertising the service. Mr. Algoe responded that he was noting that concern.

**University Curriculum Committee report**

The University Curriculum Committee (UCC), presented the most recent committee recommendations, which included degree proposals for a Master’s degree in Construction Management (thesis and non-thesis), and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies. Both proposals have been approved by the UCC. After questions and discussion over the two proposals between senators and college representatives, the recommendations by the UCC for the two programs were voted on and approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

**Approval of Minutes**

The December 4, 2019 minutes were approved by senators.

**Policy Review**

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

* UPPS 03.01.12 Use of Courtesy Vehicle Allowances Provided by the University. Due December 13, 2019. Senator Jensen.
* UPPS 05.04.04 Security Alarm Systems. Due December 18, 2019. Senator Wesley.
* UPPS 07.08.02 University Withdrawal of Students from the University. Due December 18, 2019. Senator Davenport.
* UPPS 02.01.12 Tuition and Fees Refund Appeal Policy. Due December 18, 2019. Senator Martin.
* UPPS 08.03.04 Public Art and Memorials. Due December 19, 2019. Senator Ledbetter.
* AAPPS 01.02.11 Role, Evaluation and Step-Down Salaries of Department Chairs and School Directors. Due January 8, 2019. Senator Bell-Metereau.

**Announcements**

The January 22 Faculty Senate meeting will be conducted by Vice Chair Ceballos.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan