**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

JCK 880, 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.

**Guests**: Emilio Carranco (director, Student Health Center), Oren Renick (chair, Academic Governance Committee), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow).

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

**Faculty Ombudsman Selection Committee**

The senate was contacted by the associate provost to assist in identifying three faculty members to serve on a committee to help select the next university ombudsman. Senators discussed and identified possible faculty candidates who will be contacted to see if they would like to participate.

**Joint CAD, Council of Chairs, Faculty Senate and Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meetings**

Senators discussed potential Faculty Senate topics for the Joint Council of Academic Deans (CAD), Council of Chairs (CoC), and senate meeting slated for February 20 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Senators decided to recommend to CAD and CoC a discussion on the merits of training for search committees concerning diversity and inclusion.

The Texas Council of Faculty Senates will be meeting in Austin on February 21. Volunteers were solicited to attend and Senator McClellan agreed to represent the senate.

**National College Health Assessment Data**

Dr. Emilio Carranco, director Student Health Center, presented information on the recent National College Health Assessment report. The ACHA-NCHA II is a national research survey organized by the American College Health Association (ACHA) to assist college health service providers, health educators, counselors, and administrators in collecting data about their students' habits, behaviors, and perceptions on the most prevalent health topics. Some of the findings from the report included:

* Students are less healthy and experiencing higher levels of stress and distress than students in previous years.
* Higher levels of stress and other mental health concerns are overwhelming students’ ability to cope and leading to illness.
* The majority of students are not engaging in behaviors that can lead to improved health like exercise, eating nutritiously, managing stress, and sleeping 8 hours each day.
* Failure to address current health problems will likely lead to more health problems, lower quality of life and less academic and personal success.
* Decreased student success associated with increased academic difficulties, lower self-efficacy and lower GPA.
* Lower retention due to students dropping out and some never graduating.
* Financial losses due to lower retention of students.
* Increased costs associated with the need for more student support services, counseling and health care resources.

Dr. Carranco suggested several courses of action for how the university could respond to the findings of the study:

* Share the NCHA II data with faculty, staff, and students to raise awareness about our students’ health and wellness challenges and the need to expand our efforts to support their health and wellness.
* Create a Presidential Task Force on Health & Wellness to evaluate the NCHA II findings further and develop recommendations for strategic initiatives to address the problems.
* Adopt a public health, socio-ecological model for a comprehensive response that is more likely to achieve success.
* Identify contributing factors and mitigate their effects to the extent possible to reduce stress and enhance health and wellness.
* Develop campus-wide initiatives that engage key segments of the campus community to create innovative and effective solutions.
* Expand prevention and education efforts to help students develop the skills and behaviors needed to improve their health and wellness..
* Increase ability of faculty and staff to identify and assist students in distress by providing training and educating them on how to engage campus and community resources.
* Expand student support services to meet the growing demand for service and to enhance student success.
* Make student health and wellness an institutional priority to improve student health, retention and success.

Senators discussed the report’s findings and asked questions concerning the data created from the survey. Senators discussed how the university could use the survey dataset to explore other aspects of the findings.

**Academic Governance Committee Report**

Dr. Oren Renick, chair of the Academic Governance Committee, reported on the 2018/2019 perception of academic deans surveys and the progress of the new personnel committee policy.

The committee found that while the surveys were being accomplished, nothing is really being done with the data and results. They looked at different patterns in the data and perceptions and found responses across the two years fairly consistent. The data show that when deans change perceptions change to the positive, at least temporarily. There is now increased data on questions concerning academic governance. Observationally, there are significant increases in survey comments and the positive assessment of the various deans.

The committee is still working on the new personnel committee policy. A sub-committee was appointed and is currently working on the first draft. They will present the finished draft to the full committee once it is finished. Once the committee has a finished draft they will forward to the senate for review and comments.

Senators discussed the report findings and how to use the data in various ways. The senate asked the committee to follow-up with written comments from the survey to the senate. The senate will bring the issue back to the agenda. Senators were asked to closely look at files provided by the committee.

**International Education**

Senators discussed a proposal concerning an international education initiative from a faculty member. The document was a proposal for alignment and validation, with related background,

discussion, and context toward international education. Senators discussed the merits of the proposal and its possible implementation. Senators decided it would be better to have the faculty member work directly with the international office concerning the proposal.

**Academic Freedom Committee Cyber Harassment Policy**

The chair of the Academic Freedom Committee, Vince Luizzi, presented the committee’s views on a recent suggestion from the associate provost (AP) concerning the proposed cyber-harassment policy. The committee wants to have a visible standalone policy, not one that would be subsumed in another policy as advised by the AP.

Senators discussed the policy and separate proposals and decided to continue the discussion with the AP concerning the policy.

**Approval of Minutes**

The January 29, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by senators.

**Policy Review**

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

* [AA/PPS 04.01.02 Hiring and Employment of Temporary, Non-Continuing Faculty](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-02.html). Due February 21, 2020. Senator Ceballos.
* [UPPS 02.06.03 Excused Absence Policy related to University sponsored events](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/02-06-03.html). Due February 7, 2020. Senator Jensen.
* [UPPS 04.01.05 Network Use Policy](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/04-01-05.html). Due February 10, 2020. Senator McClellan.
* UPPS 04.01.12 Email Account Management. Due February 10, 2020. Senator McClellan.
* [UPPS 08.01.07 Sewell Park](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/08-01-07.html). Due February 11, 2020. Senator Supancic.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan