**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Guests**: Rosario Davis (assistant vice president and director, International Affairs), Ting Liu (Health & Human Performance), Nico Schuler (Music), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Lauren Goodley, Dale Blasingame, Judy Oskam, Harry Bowers, Roque Mendez, Taylor Acee, Liang Li, Laura Kennedy, Rosario Davis, Andrew Ojede.

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

**International Advisory Council**

Rosario Davis, assistant vice president and director, International Affairs, and members of the International Advisory Council, Ting Liu, Health & Human Performance, and Nico Schuler, School of Music, presented information concerning the Office of International Affairs and the council. Members discussed the council’s accomplishments and plans for internationalization at Texas State. Rosario Davis presented information on the current operations and direction of the office of International Affairs and how the council is an important part of this process. Senators asked about any concerns with support from the administration for the International Affairs office. Although the number of staff supporting the office are less than at comparable peer institutions, our university serves approximately 537 students versus the thousands at other universities, which makes the work manageable at this time. However, recruiting is a priority for the office.

Formed last year, the International Advisory Council membership is a diverse representation of all colleges on campus with extensive international experience. The council is working with the International Affairs office to increase the numbers of international students at the university. The council currently has four sub-committees working on various tasks.

Senators discussed the different issues the sub-committees are working on and their accomplishments so far. Senators had several suggestions which will be considered by the council.

**VPSA Search Committee**

Senators discussed possible questions for the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) Search Committee in preparation for a listening session on April 22. Possible questions include:

* Desired candidate qualifications, qualities, and experiences:
  + Is the candidate a diverse leader and a diverse hirer?
  + Does the candidate have experience with diversity, inclusion, and equity?
  + Does the candidate have experience teaching in student affairs?
  + Does the candidate have some experience in academics to promote dialogue?
  + Should a Ph.D. be a requirement?
  + Does the candidate have a commitment to environmental and sustainability issues?
  + Does the candidate have the ability to look backward at what worked and didn’t work with student affairs at Texas State?
  + Does the candidate have a good understanding of our university?
  + Is the candidate an advocate for students and other groups?
  + Does the candidate have experience with student safety, security, and physical/mental health?
  + Is the candidate an excellent administrator?
* Opportunities and challenges facing VPSA:
  + Can the candidate build trust with Student Government, students, and the administration, and become a bridge between students and the administration?
  + However, having a candidate with solid administrative experience may be more important than someone who is empathetic.

The Faculty Senate will speak with the search firm next week on these issues.

**Around the table and updates from recent meetings**

* Senators were given an update on the request to lengthen Research Enhancement Program (REP) dates. The request was to actually lengthen the requirements from the end of May 2021 to the end of August 2021, not for this year as was previously discussed. Dates do not need to be lengthened this academic year. The senate approved the requested change.
* The Faculty Grievance policy was discussed. The standard used to evaluate faculty grievances was considered too high a bar to reach. After discussion of the standard with the university counsel the counsel now agrees with a lower standard for faculty grievances. A draft policy was sent to Associate Provost Thorne and she requested further clarification and has a suggestion to add the new language in paragraph 04.06a. Senator Luizzi will make changes and forward to Dr. Thorne as necessary.
* The Office of Equity and Inclusion requested a faculty member to serve on the selection committee for the Excellence in Diversity Award. Senator Ledbetter volunteered to serve on the committee.

**Policy Review**

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

* UPPS 07.11.06 Responding to Student Deaths (new policy). Due April 20, 2020. Senator Ledbetter
* [UPPS 05.03.01 Operating Guidelines for University Food Service](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/05-03-01.html). Due April 29, 2020. Senator Wesley
* UPPS 04.05.XX Hazardous Waste Materials and Hazardous Waste Management (new policy). Due April 29, 2020. Senator Martin
* [UPPS 05.01.20 Abandoned and Unclaimed Property](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/05-01-20.html). Due April 29, 2020. Senator Jensen

**Approval of Minutes**

The April 8, 2020 minutes were approved by senators.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan