

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Michel Conroy, Dana Garcia, Ting Liu, Vincent Luizzi, Shirley Ogletree, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vivek Shah, Shane Smith, Vedaraman Sriraman, Alex White

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Katie Burrell (University Star); Tafari Robertson (KTSW)

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

Concerns/requests from faculty members

- Request for support for an NY Times site subscription (Luizzi) – encouraged by the associate provost, who suggested that Senator Luizzi request an endorsement from the Senate. The package deal comes with additional perks like career information, research tools for referencing NYT articles pertinent to one's area of interest. Alkek currently subscribes to a database that has the NYT up to 1980 full image. Ms. Hinojosa said we have access to the NYT through a couple of databases up to present, but not to images, etc. Site license costs \$45K/yr. Changes to budget model would be required to make purchase possible. Senator Luizzi will meet with sales rep next week.
 - Motion to support request. Vote unanimously in favor.
- Request for statement to "Faculty Watchlist"
 - American Association of University of Professors have a similar campaign in objection to the list, which 19 Texas State University professors have signed
 - It was suggested that the senate publicize the AAUP petition, but the petition has already been submitted.
 - Motion to not make a statement to Turning Point. Motion withdrawn.
 - Motion to make a statement on Professor Watchlist. Motion failed.
- Request for FS Academic Freedom Committee
 - Timely with respect to putting it on upcoming committee preference survey.
 - What would/could a committee like this do?
 - Prepare letters (representing institutional response) to censure actions in violation of academic freedom
 - Deliberate joining Scholars at Risk Network (\$1000/yr)
 - Vet requests for support and recommend response/action
 - Educate public on the meaning and importance of academic freedom
 - Could have both an inward and outward focus
 - Motion to establish an Academic Freedom Committee. Motion carried.
 - Volunteers for a work group on figuring out the structure, mission and purpose by first week in February:
 - Bishop, Bowman, Luizzi (Chair), Bell-Metereau

Call for applications for Senate Fellow for 2017-2018

- Presentation of draft of Faculty Senate Description and information on the call for applications
- Question about including criteria for selection
- Question about previous fellow's project.
 - Would it be useful to include statement that the project would be determined in consultation with the Senate? Should it require department chair's approval?
- Work group to work on description and bring product back to Senate by February 10th.
 - Ogletree, White, Bishop

Revision of Senate Standing Rules

- Reviewed every three years.
- Three items cited for attention:
 - Add Senate Fellow process to the standing rules.
 - Update FDL review process WRT how we did it this past cycle.
 - Consider renaming Faculty Senate Liaisons as “Faculty Senate Representatives” or something else.
- Volunteers: White, Bezner, and Ledbetter

Information Items

- *Starving the Beast* film and dialogue Thurs., Jan. 26, 2pm and 5pm, Comal 116
 - Luizzi – Poster is currently posted on the Faculty Senate web page
 - Senators enjoined to notify colleagues.
- Distribution lists for “Perceptions of Administrators” surveys should be verified **as soon as possible**.
- Action items to support diversity and inclusiveness can be suggested using survey tool at <http://www.president.txstate.edu/send-a-suggestion>
- FDL Supplemental awards by department shared.

Agenda items for Jan. 25 Senate meeting

- Faculty concerns
 - Safety concerns for 8 PM – 10:30 PM finals period
 - Teaching technologies restrictions (remote mic, laser pointer, video camera)
- Digital Measures
 - Concerns about how course evaluations (conducted via Tk20) can be accessed /combined with DM
- Action items from full senate liaison minutes

Request for review of policy

- UPPS 08.01.02 Scheduling of Health & Human Performance, Athletics and Campus Recreation Facilities, Jan. 25
 - TBD by Liu

Approval of December 11, 2016 minutes

Motion to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Dana García