

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Alkek 105/106, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Michel Conroy, Dana Garcia, Lynn Ledbetter, Ting Liu, Vince Luizzi, Shirley Ogletree, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vivek Shah, Shane Smith, Alex White

Liaisons: Taylor Acee (Curriculum and Instruction), Carrie Boden-McGill (Occupational, Workforce & Leadership Studies), Ann Burnette (Communication Studies), Hunter Close (Physics), David Falleur (Clinical Laboratory Science), Catherine Hawkins (Social Work), Ted Hindson (Political Science), Selene Hinojosa (Library), Todd Hudnall (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Farzan Irani (Communication Disorders), Debarun Majumdar (Sociology), Carole Martin (Modern Languages), Robert Rutledge (Accounting)

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

Spring semester full senate meeting, Senators and Senate Liaisons

- Information and follow-up items
 - COSE interim senator appointment, Dr. Bahram Asiabanpour
 - FS Academic Freedom Committee
 - *“Academic freedom is freedom from duress or sanction aimed at suppressing the intellectual independence, free investigation, and unfettered communication by the academic community – faculty, librarians, students, and guests.”* (Statement on Academic Freedom, UCLA)
 - Scholars at Risk institutional membership recommendation
 - <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>
 - The senate has recommended to President Trauth the acceptance of Scholars at Risk’s invitation for TxState to join.
 - There are no obligations except endorsement of Scholars at Risk objectives and affirmation of goals of the organization.
 - Approximately 444 institutions are members
 - List of Scholars at Risk available for residencies in length up to a year
 - Ombudsman search
 - Dr. Pattison retiring at end of August
 - Search committee will include three senators (Bell-Metereau, Shah, and Smith)
 - Course release possible
 - Not a requirement to be an attorney
 - McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program (DOE TRIO program)
 - <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html>
 - To increase attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society (5-year grant period, institutional application due in June)
 - Jonnie Wilson, Cheryl Denise-Harper, and Russ Hodges are working on proposal for coming five years.
 - Starving the Beast* streaming is available in the Alkek Library catalog
 - [http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~\\$la](http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~$la)
 - A film about “the battle to disrupt and reform America’s public universities”; written and directed by Steve Mims; produced by Bill Banowsky
 - NY Times site license recommendation
 - Senate recommending TxState acquire site license
 - Any additional departmental statements of support should be sent to Senator Luizzi
 - Contact hours outside of class departmental policies

- Reminder that departments and schools are required to develop policies
- Reports on concerns from faculty (Senators and Senate Liaisons)
 - Discussion of Academic Freedom (Science and Engineering)
 - Need for better computer mediated news platforms (Education)
 - Concerns about IRB approval timeframe taking longer due to fewer exemptions (several departments)
 - Graduate course online evaluations not required; response rate low
 - Suggestion to eliminate service vehicle parking spaces in Pleasant Street Garage due to low usage (Applied Arts; Liberal Arts)
 - App for reporting facilities issues (Liberal Arts)
 - Need for small classrooms (20-25 seats); +/- grading system; crosslisting of courses (Modern Languages)
 - Understaffing of Counseling Center, students waiting 3 weeks for appointments (Psychology)
 - Move to Round Rock campus; difficulties with transition from TK20 to Faculty Qualifications (Health Professions)
 - Panic button for classrooms/offices/phones, Bobcat Guardian was suggested (Fine Arts and Communication)

Follow-up items

- Academic Freedom Committee, updated website text and committee membership
Discussion of committee description and membership eligibility
- Senate Fellow call for applicants update
Discussion of position description
- Review request; UPPS 02.04.01 Student Media Policies and Procedures, Feb. 20
Already reviewed by Journalism liaison in September

Approval of February 8 meeting minutes

Minutes approved

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Lynn Ledbetter