

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Bahram Asiabanpour, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Dana Garcia, Lynn Ledbetter, Ting Liu, Vincent Luizzi, Shirley Ogletree, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vivek Shah, Shane Smith, Alex White

Administrators: President Denise Trauth, Provost Eugene Bourgeois, Associate Provost Debbie Thorne

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Thomas Grimes (Mass Communication), Garry White (Academic Computing Committee), Katie Burrell (*University Star*)

Meeting called to order at 4 p.m. by Senate Vice-Chair White

President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)

Discussion of several topics including Institutional Enhancement, Semiconductor Initiative, Hazlewood Program, ALERT, Texas School Safety Center, Texas Research Incentive Program, and Core Research Funding

- Legislative update
 - House has appointed all committees
 - Senate Bill 18 would eliminate provisions requiring public universities to “set-aside” 15% from designated tuition to use for need-based financial aid
 - If passed, TXST will continue to devote 15% of designated tuition for need-based financial aid.
 - Another bill has been filed to reduce tuition by 15% if Bill 18 is passed.
 - TXST leadership has testified before House and Senate
- Hiring freeze
 - Only appropriations-funded positions
 - Does not affect fee-funded or tuition-funded positions
 - Nobody lost their job because of hiring freeze.
 - Waivers have been requested for some staff positions.
- Travel ban
 - 18 students and one visiting scholar were affected by presidential travel ban.
 - Nobody was turned away.
 - Somewhat helpful that the travel ban was put in place after school had already started in January
- Hispanic Serving Institution renewal
 - First achieved in 2010
 - Annual application for HSI status
 - Based on percentage of Hispanic students who are PELL eligible
 - 60% of public school students in Texas are poor
 - Because the majority of TxState students come from public schools, our percentage of PELL-eligible Hispanic students will likely increase.
 - No federal funds awarded just for being HSI, but grants have been received from NASA, US Dept. of Agriculture, and NEH due to TXST's status as an HSI
 - University College has been awarded \$12.2 million mostly in Title V grants to support student initiatives.

PAAG follow-up

Further discussion of Legislative Lobby Days

Academic Computing Committee report, Dr. Garry White

Dr. White presented the committee's list of 14 approved proposals.

- Suggestion made for earlier submissions of proposals to Deans
- Request for colleges to send alternate if committee's college representative cannot make the meetings
 - Meetings usually around Sept. 1 to begin process and Feb. 1 to organize, finalize and coordinate priorities for funding

Follow-up items

- Faculty Senate election of officers procedures
 - Discussion of merits of various proposals with request for input via email
- March Bulletin
 - Discussion of proposed March Bulletin items with some revisions suggested

Approval of February 22 meeting minutes

Minutes unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Lynn Ledbetter