

**Faculty Senate**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**  
**4:00 – 6:00, JCK 880**

Minutes from previous meetings are available at  
<http://www.txstate.edu/facultysenate/about/59th-senate-minutes.html>

**Attending senators:** Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Ting Liu, Alex White, Diego Vacaflores

**Liaisons and guests:** President Denise Trauth, Provost Eugene Bourgeois, Associate Provost Debbie Thorne, Dean Andrea Golato, Tom Grimes, Selene Hinojosa (Library), Connor Brown (*University Star*), Skyler Jennings (Journalism student)

Faculty Senate chair called the meeting to order.

**President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG):** President Trauth addressed issues including enrollment, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Scholars at Risk (SAR) and Hurricane Harvey.

Enrollment in undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs:

Texas State University enrolled its largest freshman class in fall of 2017. The master plan is based on projected enrollment, with the university (strategic) plan calling for 1½% undergraduate and 3% graduate growth from now until 2027. This six-year plan looks at program development, new programs at Bachelors, MA and PhD levels, with a goal to enroll 300-350 net new graduate students in the next decade. Master's programs are prioritized over doctoral programs because of the greater expense and support required for PhD programs.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals:

President Trauth discussed the repeal of the DACA program and Texas State University's response, noting that there are currently 124,000 DACA-eligible individuals in Texas. The Cato Institute estimates that it would cause a \$24 billion loss in Texas if all state DACA students were deported. Texas State University is prohibited by law from asking if students are DACA eligible. The university has established [Diversity Connections](#) on the university's website to support the university community, including DACA, veteran, minority, LGBT, and other students. The website contains a comprehensive list of links to university resources and features a directory of individuals available to talk with students about diversity and inclusion issues. Interested faculty are encouraged to include their names in the directory.

Scholars at Risk:

Last January, the [Scholars at Risk Network](#) extended an invitation to President Trauth for Texas State to join the organization and the senate recommended that the university become an institutional member. SAR institutional dues are \$1000 per year, and member institutions pledge commitment to academic freedom. A principle endeavor of the organization is compiling a list of scholars under threat, and members are encouraged to

hire or support these colleagues in other ways, such as sponsoring a speaking engagement. So far, the administration has not replied to the invitation. President Trauth explained that conducting searches is the responsibility of schools and departments, not the administration, and she asked if the SAR list is available to nonmembers.

**Impact of Hurricane Harvey:**

The administration has calculated the overall impact on our students, staff, and faculty in relation to withdrawals that synchronized with Hurricane Harvey, estimating that approximately one hundred withdrawals could have been caused by the hurricane. Texas State University extended deadlines for payments and other student obligations. Our campuses sustained \$110,000 of damage. The relatively low amount of damage was attributed to the planning for possible high winds and flooding in recent and current construction projects.

**University Lectures Committee supplemental call:**

As the University Lecturer Series budget has unspent funds that rolled over from previous years, the senate voted to issue a supplemental call for proposals with a shorter turnaround time (due this fall for lectures Sp18) and smaller dollar amounts per proposal (in line with established procedures).

**University Performing Arts Committee report:**

The senate voted to approve a report from University Arts Committee which included no recommendations for changes to the process. The Dean of Fine Arts and Communication has distributed a request for Encore Series artist suggestions.

**Senate Liaisons:**

Prior senators or liaisons are responsible for having departments and schools conduct elections for liaisons. Senators will remind departments that have not yet reported their 2017-18 liaisons. Chairs and deans have their own councils and are not eligible to serve as senators or liaisons, but assistant and associate chairs are eligible.

RTA: Approval of minutes.

Senate adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Submitted by Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Faculty Senate Secretary