

Faculty Senate
Wednesday, November 1, 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 and liaisons: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Ting Liu, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Diego Vacaflares, Alex White

Guests: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Thorne, Selene Hinojosa, Library; Alyssa Newsome (*University Star*); AVPFSS Nusbaum; Director of Transportation Services, Steve Herrera; Susan Waite, Christine Sellers, Mickey Autrey

PAAG: President Trauth reported that bomb threats are under continued investigation.

PAAG Agenda Items:

Texas State Logo: When the name changed, TXST was grabbed and registered quickly by another party. Texas State has fought to win back the TXST brand, and it needs to be protected and used in a registered way, thus involving athletics. This summer a compromise allowed faculty and staff to access academic logos through a page under university marketing by requesting a logo for non-commercial, routing to Texas State and Round Rock campuses. The most recent rendition was the academic unit's way of protecting and using the logo, and deriving financial benefit in order to maintain it. Texas State had promised Texas Southern University not to use TSU. The issue will be resolved by modifying website access.

New York Times Library Access: This was assigned to subject librarians, who attended a demo for site license \$43,000 for subscription and concluded it would be a useful teaching resource. Senator Luizzi worked with academic units and student government, with one outstanding feature—that we would be getting the equivalent of educational package, which retails for about \$375 per person per year, an elaborate package for career searches, very different from \$20 per month for average buyer. Texas State University was in negotiations with *The New York Times* and had brought the price down from 69 to 67 cents per year. Lone Star College managed to negotiate 33 cents per student. The senate inquired if senators could have standing in the negotiation process or faculty could have some influence. President Trauth inquired what would be eliminated if this item is elevated on the funding list. There was discussion of schools contributing. The expense falls under interdisciplinary journals budget, so there may possible trade-offs. Senate will follow up with Ken Pierce to further explore the issue.

Setting 100% renewable energy goal for Texas State: President Trauth explained that the university is locked into a contract with the City of San Marcos as its biggest customer to purchase energy from LCRA, for a certain amount of money in a public-private cooperation. San Marcos informed the university that there would be an additional charge called a stand-by fee if the university produced a significant portion of its own energy. San Marcos is required to buy from LCRA (small percentage of 4%), \$513 per year for seven megawatts, and the fee offers a margin of flexibility. North Texas University was discussed as an example of a university that uses credits rather than actual renewable energy sources. Georgetown and Southwestern were discussed as models for actual use of renewable wind for 100% of the school and city energy needs. Senate Environment and Sustainability Committee will consult with Vice President Algoe on using Georgetown as a possible model for Texas State.

Hate Speech and Postings: President Trauth reported that a banner hung from the library was removed. Senators asked if any alternative responses are being considered. A link to support resources has been added to the university website. Senate commented that university responses to successive incidents are similar and asked if there is any new information about groups or individuals responsible for bomb threats or hate speech postings. One hundred fifty universities across the nation are receiving similar activity, and a website indicates that the organization is a cohesive group. Hence, it is not believed that those involved are Texas State students. It is known that when University of Florida had Mr. Spencer speak, people from Texas visited Florida. Large diverse public universities are targets and they are in a difficult position because of the legal requirement to allow free speech, regardless of content, unlike private universities. President Trauth advised not to let people outside of Texas State define what the university is; instead the university will reference our core values. Consequences may involve criminal prosecution in cases of vandalism or damage. Content-neutral approval is required for postings. The recent posting of the banner at the library involved trespassing in restricted areas of the library.

Curriculum Committee: Chair Michael Supancic announced approved program proposals:

School of Criminal Justice will delete two of the specialized majors (corrections and law enforcement) and move from three to one Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, in response to employer demand for a broader education. Students will have a six-year teach-out period to complete current majors, with the new consolidated major beginning in Fall 2018 new.

Curriculum and Instruction (C & I) proposed adding a graduate minor in creativity. Susan Field-Waite explained that existing courses offered in C & I currently include creativity as a field of study, and packaging existing courses as a graduate minor will make students more employable and draw more students to graduate studies. Creativity is emphasized for regular classroom teachers and coordinators to nurture innovation and develop adaptability to change—assets in both education and life. Many graduate majors have room for a minor; undergraduates don't currently have that much flexibility in their degree program. Senate rules were suspended and changes were immediately approved by the senate.

Report on Vehicles and Transportation: Stephen Herrera, Director, Transportation Services and Nancy Nusbaum, AVPFSS, reported on new transportation initiatives:

Zip cars offer flexibility to rent for students under 21, for a negotiated rate offered by Ford, but other models are also available. We currently have six zip cars and membership continues to grow as an important resource for international students and others without cars. Kerrville Bus offers weekend shuttles which connects to Houston, Dallas, and Waco for students, Students, faculty and staff can make reservations through online portals. CARTS offers free service paid for by the university (\$8,000-\$10,000 per year) for local transport. New bicycle opportunities and carpooling or “slugging” are available. Our current bus contract expires in 2021, when we will negotiate the next RFP. With no spare buses at this point, we cannot eliminate any services as transportation needs grow.

6:05 Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Bell-Metereau