

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Dana Garcia, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Sandra Sadek (*University Star*)

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair White

Faculty Senate election of secretary

Senator Bell-Metereau is stepping down as Faculty Senate secretary. Senator Nolan volunteered and the Senate unanimously voted to have him finish the current term as secretary.

Discussion concerning openings on committees

The senate discussed recent recommendations to fill open seats on three committees and Chair White will contact faculty members nominated for these appointments.

- Curriculum Committee needs a College of Liberal Arts member
- Presidential Award for Teaching Selection Committee needs a College of Science and Engineering member
- Presidential Award for Scholarly/Creative Committee needs a College of Applied Arts member. Senator Bowman will contact possible replacement faculty and report back to the Senate.

Nontenure Line Faculty Committee Report (Senator Bezner)

There was a follow-up discussion at a recent meeting of the Nontenure Line Faculty Committee concerning how to honor Mr. Andrew Marks, senior clinical lecturer in the School of Social Work and long-time member of the committee, who passed away last year. The committee requested that the senate pursue renaming the Excellence in Part-time Teaching Award in honor of Mr. Marks. Senator Bezner stated that the proposal should come from the senate. The senate unanimously approved a motion to send a proposal to rename the award to the provost. Senator Bezner will draft the proposal.

With the success of the last year's nontenure line faculty mixer, the committee is planning another reception for Thursday, Sept 20, 2018, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Wittliff Gallery in the Alkek Library. There will be a cash bar and refreshments and the reception will be open to all nontenure line faculty. The Faculty Senate is invited to attend. A recommendation was made to invite key administrative officials to the event.

Full senate agenda (Senator White)

There was a discussion concerning the agenda for the meeting of the full senate on February 14, 2017. Possible agenda items to be discussed:

- Promote committee preference survey
- New senate contact form
- IRB: Solicit issues through new online form
- New Learning Management System update
- Salary compression and other pay issues
- Safety issues on campus
- Solicit ideas for faculty goal of "Strengthening Community"
- Jones faculty and staff dining area and update

Safety measures on campus (Senator White)

An e-mail was sent to Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president of Finance and Support Services, concerning a previous inquiry into the status of safety improvements and projects across campus. In a reply, Mr. Algoe stated he was working on the list of safety improvements, but it is not yet finished. Senator White will share the list once it is complete.

Council of Academic Deans (CAD) update (Senator White)

- Texas State hosted the Texas Senate Affairs Committee on Free Speech and the First Amendment on Jan. 31. The Faculty Senate discussed the following issues concerning this event:
 - Concerns about curriculum vitas online and possible problems with targeting by outside groups.
 - Possible PAAG item concerning effect of this event on campus
 - Possible PAAG item concerning budget for security plans during controversial events
 - Concerns from faculty about perceived safety on campus in current climate
 - Possible campus dialogue after this event concerning free speech on campus
- Team leaders for the University family campaign will be assigned in each department.
- Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt is the new assistant vice president for Academic Services.
- Online class development: Starting now, new online classes/programs will be coordinated through the Office of Distance and Extended Learning.
- Moving and relocation expenses. Provost office will now fund up to specific amounts for moving expense reimbursement (<http://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/finance-and-support-services/03-19.html>) in lieu of curriculum development stipends that were paid to new hires.
- Enrollment issue for fall. New master's degree applications are down.
 - The Faculty Senate discussed the possibility of asking the Graduate College to move deadlines for scholarship applications to better align with other College deadlines.

New Learning Management System (LMS) (Senator Bowman)

Issues concerning the process of selecting a new LMS were recently brought up by the Council of Chairs and the College Council. There are concerns about the impact of the change and that the administration is not fully aware of that impact. Some issues discussed were:

- Faculty input. Committee has concerns about being out of the decision loop.
- Large lecture classes. Concerns about the amount of effort put into the current LMS (TRACS) being thrown away and the time needed for rebuilding courses.
- Non-class use of TRACS (reviews, searches, committees, etc.). Will the new LMS serve this same function was a big question.
- Transferring old LMS sites to the new LMS.
- Training for new LMS.

Faculty Senate discussion: Senator White has shared some of these concerns with Dr. Carlos Solis, associate vice president for Instructional Technologies Support (ITS). Senator White asked for concerns from the senate to bring up with Dr. Solis at future meeting:

- Criteria for LMS transition.
- Hour value cost for faculty to transfer material to new system.
- Trend of pushing administrative tasks down to lower level.
- Limited advisory committee input.
- Possibility of mini grants for transferring and rebuilding courses.
- Length of overlap between systems.

Possible PAAG discussion Items

- Limited input by Learning Management System Advisory Committee to ITS and the faculty role in the process.
- Request response to faculty concerns about salary compression.
- Senate Affairs Committee meeting on Campus
- Faculty senate input for new NCAA representative

Policy review

UPPS 04.01.08 Texas State Internet Domain Name Policy due Feb. 8. Senators Ceballos and Smith will review the policy.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan