

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 21, 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, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Alex White.

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*); Pam Wuestenberg (Chair, University Lecturers Committee); Michael Supancic (Chair, University Curriculum Committee); Micky Autrey (Curriculum Services); Madan Dey (Chair, Department of Agriculture); Debbie Thorne (Associate Provost); Gaye Korenek, (Director of Faculty and Academic Resources).

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

University Lecturers Committee Report (Dr. Pam Wuestenberg)

Dr. Wuestenberg, University Lecturers Committee Chair, presented the ranked proposals for the 2018 requests from colleges, schools, departments and campus organizations to bring outstanding guest lecturers or mini-symposia speakers to Texas State during the 2018 – 2019 academic year. Limited student service fee funds are awarded based on the committee's review of proposals and recommendations to the Faculty Senate. To support as many proposals as possible, each award is limited to no more than \$3,000. This year there was \$24,000 available for distribution. One proposal was fully funded. Most proposals were funded to around 70% to even out the award amount. The cutoff score for this year's proposals was 82 points. According to Dr. Wuestenberg collaboration within and without the colleges is important for higher scores on proposals.

The senate discussed the details of the process and asked what the funding levels are for this type of proposal at peer institutions? Dr. Wuestenberg stated that she would check and get back to the senate with more information.

To improve the award process the committee has created a new rubric. Dr. Wuestenberg stated that the rubric gives the committee more consistency and allows them to fine tune the award process. The senate discussed the rubric and suggested minor changes to the document. A decision to approve the new rubric was tabled for further discussion in the senate.

The senate voted to approve the recommendations of the University Lecturers Committee for the 2018 speaker proposals.

University Curriculum Committee Report (Dr. Michael Supancic)

Dr. Supancic, Chair, University Curriculum Committee, presented the most recent committee recommendations, which included:

- Deleting the Master of Science in Applied Math.
- Deleting the Master of Education in History.

- Changing the name of the Ph.D. in Aquatic Resources to Aquatic Resources and Integrative Biology.
- Add a Master of Science in Integrated Agricultural Sciences.
- Recommendations for numerous course additions and deletions.

The senate discussed the reasoning behind the changes with Dr. Supancic and the history as to why certain programs are going away. The name of the Ph.D. in Aquatic Resources is changing because of the diverse nature of the program and to create a broader definition of the type of research taking place. There will be no Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code change and the university has already approved the name change.

Dr. Madan Dey, chair, Department of Agriculture, presented information concerning the addition of a Master of Science in Integrated Agricultural Sciences. The reason for adding the program was a need for an agricultural generalist degree that is not currently offered in Texas and will be the first of its kind in the state. The Senate discussed the particulars of the new program with Dr. Dey.

The last item discussed was the deletion of the Master of Education in History. The degree has had relatively few students in the past number of years and produced very few graduates. The decision was made to delete the program and offer it as a concentration versus a full degree.

The senate moved to suspend the rules and voted to approve all the changes recommended by the committee.

Policy Reviews (Senate Chair White)

Assignment of senators to review specific University and Academic Affairs policies:

- [AA/PPS 02.01.40 Curriculum Committees](#). Due March 26. Senators Bishop and Ceballos
- [AA/PPS 02.01.11 Academic Certificates](#). Due March 26. Senator Bezner
- [UPPS 04.04.11 University Classification and Compensation](#). Due March 29. Senators Martin and Smith
- [AA/PPS 02.01.01 Academic Credit Courses: Additions, Changes, and Deletions](#). Due March 29. Senators Gainer and Conroy
- [AA/PPS 02.02.10 Academic Programs: Additions, Changes, and Deletions](#). Due April 3. Senators Gainer and Conroy
- [AA/PPS No. 02.02.20 \(4.09\) Schedule Changes, Drops, and Withdrawals](#). Due April 13. Senators Liu and Garcia

Response to Academic Computing Committee Report (Senate Chair White)

The senate voted to endorse the Academic Computing Committee proposals for the 2018 – 2019 academic year with an additional proposal, scored below the committee cutoff, added with partial funding.

The senate discussed the Academic Computing Committee request for additional funding for future proposals. Senate Chair White shared data that illustrated how funding has decreased since 2006:

Year	Fee (\$/SCH)	SCH	Total	% for ACC
2017	16	973665	\$15,578,640	3.2
2006	13.07	694952	\$9,083,023	5.5

The senate chair will try and meet with Dr. Carlos Solis, associate vice president, Instructional Technologies Support (ITS), to discuss the issue. The senate also discussed several committee suggestions for changes in the overall academic computing proposal procedure.

Recommendations included:

- Limit proposals to \$35,000.
- Give consideration to the college dean's first choice.
- Giving priority to replacement computer systems versus new systems.
- Consideration to discipline specific equipment/peripherals.
- Setting aside funds for new initiatives.
- Use a formula instead of committee rankings for choosing which proposals to fund.

The senate decided to not recommend giving consideration to a college dean's first choice when considering proposals. The senate discussed the various recommendations and how to scale the funding to the university's growing population. The senate consensus was to invite Mr. Kenneth Pierce, vice president for Information Technology, to a future senate meeting to discuss these issues.

Criminal Background Check Policy

Recently the senate was asked to review the [AA/PPS No. 04.01.10 Faculty Criminal Background Checks](#) policy. Suggested additions written into the policy change (under section 04 Post Employment: Self Reporting) that are incorporated in the draft are:

04.POST EMPLOYMENT: SELF REPORTING

04.01 Current Faculty

Faculty must report to their chair/director (or dean if the faculty member is a direct report to a dean), in writing, within five business days, any arrests, charges, or convictions, excluding misdemeanor offenses punishable only by fine. Failure to report under this section is a violation of this policy and may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, as appropriate.

04.02 Supervisor Obligation

The chair/director receiving a self-report as required by this section must provide the information to the dean and the associate provost. An individual assessment will be conducted by the associate provost in consultation with the chair/director and dean to determine the appropriate employment action for the faculty member.

04.03 Falsification of Omission of Criminal Record Information

Falsification or omission of criminal record information required to be reported is grounds to either discipline or terminate a current employee.

The senate has several concerns about the policy change. Dr. Debbie Thorne, Associate Provost, attended the meeting and answered some of the senate's questions concerning the policy changes. She explained that the changes are coming from the President's cabinet. Ms. Gaye Korenek, director of Faculty and Academic Resources, was asked by the Provost's office to mirror the staff policy for faculty. Dr. Thorne stated that there could be issues that arise from a faculty arrest and that the university would like to have advance warning before it becomes a public relations problem. She stated that there are already some provisions for this issue in the criminal background check process. She also stated that the university is concerned for the safety and security of the students and other stakeholders connected to the campus.

The senate discussed changing the wording of the policy, especially the wording of "arrest" in the new policy and what should be reported. Discussion also centered on the different levels of arrest and charges. There was a concern from senators as to where the reported information is held and the impact on faculty records and potential Freedom of Information Act records requests. The senate recommended removing the words "in writing" and possibly changing "any arrest" to "felony arrest."

The senate suggested listing this issue as a future PAAG agenda item. Dr. Thorne agreed.

Approval of minutes

March 7 minutes approval were tabled to the March 28 senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan