Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 28, 2018
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending
> **Senators**: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Dana Garcia, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Alex White.
> **Guests**: Carlos Solis (associate vice president, Instructional Technologies Support); Brian Shanks (director of Learning Spaces, Instructional Technologies Support); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*).

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

Instructional Technology Update (Dr. Carlos Solis)
Dr. Carlos Solis, associate vice president Instructional Technologies Support, was asked by the senate to present an update concerning the transition from TRACS/Sakai to a new Learning Management System (LMS). The senate had specific questions concerning the transfer of current course content from TRACS to a new LMS:

- How automated will it be? Some faculty felt that the transfer demonstrated in the vendor presentations last week was done on simple mock up courses, and they worry that it will not work with the more complicated courses.
- What kind of help will be available for transferring courses: training, IT support or grants/buy outs for faculty?

Dr. Solis stated that there was good participation in the face-to-face LMS provider presentations and a quite a few viewers of the live streamed sessions and archived videos of the presentations. The onsite technical interview is now finished and the follow-up phone technical interviews are in process. As part of the onsite presentations course migrations are not done in a normal live interview. However, all the providers attempted to show something concerning course migration. Desire 2 Learn was the only vendor to show a live process. The other providers demonstrated the possibilities of what they could do. Each LMS provider supports a different approach and the demonstrations were as close as possible to what each can do. Each provider did preview courses provided by ITS and the examples shown were everything they could accomplish. The next step is the pilot project to "kick the tires" for the chosen LMS systems.

Dr. Solis stated that there are ways to batch process course migration versus one at a time, but ITS will need more information from the chosen vendor once the university gets to that point. One thing ITS does not do is take vendor's statements at face value until it can be proven by ITS.

The senate discussed several issues that were raised concerning the process in moving to a new LMS and the ability of faculty to use the new system. Dr. Solis stated that not everybody is up to change and may need more stability, but there are different levels of tolerance for change. He stated that ITS support will be there when the change is made and it will be made as personal as possible. Another issue raised was the intellectual property rights of faculty with the chosen

LMS provider. Dr. Solis stated that the university rules concerning intellectual property will not change. The LMS provider will not own the property, but will simply store the material.

In addition to discussing LMS issues, Dr. Solis was asked about Office 365 and issues raised by faculty concerning training. How can faculty learn the tools better for the classroom? He was asked if faculty could have workshops and examples to help learn the tools and how they work. He stated that ITS understands there are issues with Office 365 and is working to address them. He reminded the senate that ITS does not run Office 365, they are also customers and understand some of the frustrations with the software. He stressed that faculty need to address any issues that arise by contacting ITS support and doing a ticket so that they can address the issue.

President's Academic Advisory Group Follow Up and Agenda Items (Senate Chair White)
Senate Chair White discussed the recent PAAG & CAD discussions.

A special assistant to the Provost for Inclusion and Diversity position will be announced soon by the Provost. A senator raised several issues concerning the announcement. After discussion the senate agreed that the senator should forward concerns to the Associate Provost's office. The senate agreed that this is an opportunity to address many of the diversity issues and positions on campus.

Discussion of possible PAAG Agenda Items
- Discussed issues related to the recent suggested changes to the AA/PPS No. 04.01.10 Faculty Criminal Background Checks policy.
- Discussion of increased funding for the Academic Computing Committee and University Lecturers.
- Discussion of faculty normal teaching load in different colleges.
- Senator expressed concerns with losing ground instead of gaining ground when it comes to a green campus. Discussion of various changes to STARS data; pack-it up and pass it on; the land for growing produce in cafeteria has been sold; Bobcat blend changes; progress on solar roofs; LEAD certification ending.
- Senators expressed interest in having a state and federal government affairs update from President Trauth.

Process to Judge Senate Fellow Applications
The senate discussed the recent application process and deadline for the Faculty Senate Fellow position that recently closed for submissions. Discussion revolved around the possibility of extending the submission deadline due to receiving only two applications. The consensus was to not extend the deadline.

Senators Ceballos, Bowman, and Vacaflores consented to review the applications and recommend a selection to the full senate.

Possible Bulletin Items Update (Senator White)
Senate Chair White asked for suggestions and approval for the upcoming Faculty Senate Bulletin. Items suggested to include are:

Election Update
A big thank you to faculty voters who participated in the nomination round of the current Faculty Senate election cycle. Candidates for the final round have been elected and candidate bios will be provided on the Faculty Senate webpage for voters to access prior to voting. More information will be provided to voters with the election link.

Green Cat Challenge
The Environment and Sustainability Committee invites faculty, staff, students, and groups to apply for Green Cat Challenge Awards for their work on sustainable practices. To apply, complete the Green Cat Challenge Application Form online. Any of the following supplemental materials may be submitted to mailto:facultysenate@txstate.edu by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018. For more information about the application process, please email facultysenate@txstate.edu or call Rebecca Bell-Metereau (512) 245-2163 or text 512-665-2157.

IRB Goals
Chief Research Officer Dr. Walt Horton met with the Faculty Senate and announced goals for the continuous improvement in the IRB process efficiency. To achieve these goals Dr. Horton listed several action items including a new IRB application portal and increasing staffing support in the near to midterm future. [include link to list of goals and items]

University Lecturer Series
Announce the University Lectures for April (and each month thereafter).

The senate approved all bulletin items.

Nontenure Line Faculty Committee (NLFC) Report (Senator Bezner)
Senator Bezner presented the results of the Part Time Teaching Excellence Award winners review by the NLFC. There were very few nominations and the only three packages submitted came from the College of Fine Arts and Communication. The NLFC recommended one faculty member to be awarded the 2018 Part-Time Excellence in Teaching Award. The senate voted and approved the recommendation.

The NLFC requested that the senate consider a policy for the Honors College to have a representative on the Academic Computing Committee. A recommendation was made that the representative position could rotate within the College of Liberal Arts and include the Honors College. Senate Chair White will investigate the issue and bring information back to the full senate for further discussion.

Other issues the Nontenure line faculty are looking into:

• Having nontenure line faculty recognized at convocation for their promotion similar to newly promoted tenured faculty.

- When some nontenure line faculty are hired and fulfill their service requirements and then temporarily leave the university, when they return their prior service is not counted toward their current position.
- Currently there is phased retirement for tenured faculty, but not for nontenure line faculty. The NLFC is looking into the issue and is discussing this with the Provost.

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.
- [UPPS 04.04.11 University Classification and Compensation](#) Due March 29. Senators Martin and Smith.
- [AA/PPS 03.01.22 Program Income on Sponsored Programs](#) Due April 4. Senators Bezner and Ceballos.
- [AA/PPS 02.02.31 Student-Funded Tutoring](#) Due April 4. Senators White and Bishop.
- [AA/PPS 03.01.23 Participant Support on Sponsored Programs (Including Tuition/Fees and Subsistence)](#) Due April 4. Senators Liu and Bowman.
- [AA/PPS 04.02.01 Development/Evaluation of Tenure-Track Faculty](#) Due April 11. Senators Conroy and Ceballos.
- [AA/PPS 04.02.20 Tenure and Promotion Review](#) Due April 11. Senators Conroy and Ceballos.
- [AA/PPS 04.01.02 Hiring and Employment of Temporary Non-Continuing Faculty](#) Due April 12. Senators Conroy and Nolan.
- [AA/PPS No. 02.02.20 Schedule Changes, Drops, and Withdrawal](#)s Due April 13. Senators Liu and Garcia.

Approval of minutes
March 7 minutes approved

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan