

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 4, 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 García, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White.

Guests: Denise Trauth (President); Gene Bourgeois (Provost); Debbie Thorne (Associate Provost); Michael Supancic (Chair, University Curriculum Committee); Micky Autrey (Curriculum Services); Christine Hailey (Dean, College of Science and Engineering); Stan McClellan (Director, Ingram School of Engineering); John Schemmel (Ingram Chair, Ingram School of Engineering); Vedaraman Sriraman (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs); Selene Hinojosa (Library); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*); Peyton Cordell (journalism student); Kristen Olansen (journalism student).

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

President's Academic Advisory Group

President Trauth discussed several issues concerning a recent academic policy change, funding for three programs overseen by the senate, and a legislative update concerning the university.

- **Revisions to the Criminal Background Check policy AA/PPS No. 04.01.10:** The Faculty Senate has concerns about the new suggested revisions to the policy that require timely reporting of arrests, criminal charges, etc. President Trauth discussed the following details:
 - The policy change was triggered by an incident that happened recently at the University of Texas at Austin concerning a faculty member who was charged with a felony and failed to notify supervisors of the criminal charges.
 - The university wanted to look at policies concerning this type of situation and how a similar situation would be handled at Texas State. It was found that there wasn't a policy in place that addressed this situation and one was drafted.
 - The president agreed with the senate's position concerning the policy change and that the draft statement on arrest was not the point of the policy change. However, if there is a charge after an arrest, that is something the university should know about.
 - Since the original conversation the senate had with the associate provost concerning the policy, the word "arrest" has been removed and the policy will reflect the deletion once it goes through the review process.
 - As far as the second part of the policy concerning the consequences of faculty failing to report an issue covered by the policy to a chair or dean, there are procedures in place that address due process for cases that lead to dismissal.

- **Review of funding to account for University growth:** The Faculty Senate oversees three important programs that provide funding to faculty and students: University Lecturers (UL), Academic Computing (AC) and Research Enhancement (REP). The senate asked about reviewing the funding amounts for the UL and AC programs based on enrollment growth. President Trauth discussed the budget process and how funding decisions are made concerning these programs.
 - The real difficulty in funding these programs is other demands on the university budget including utility costs and benefits for current and retired employees. The university is as strategic as possible with net new funding and any increases must fit within our strategic goals.
 - As far as these specific programs, there are no inflation adjustments. The Academic Computing fee has not been raised in years and probably will not be raised.
 - Provost Bourgeois discussed budget processes—where the funding goes, as well as the funding caps Texas State must deal with as a member of the TSUS. Academic affairs has a set cap and we must live within it.
 - Higher Education Fund (HEF) money funds the ACC. HEF money can be augmented by other funds, but there are many other priorities that have to be funded.
 - The Provost stated that Mr. Ken Pierce, vice president for Information Technology, had said that there have been funds left on the table in past funding rounds of the ACC. However, the senate pointed out that this was due to the fact that in the past the ACC had only funded full proposals, but that has now changed. The Provost stated that it was fair to engage Mr. Pierce on these issues, especially for new computer systems versus replacement systems.
 - A question was asked concerning where the senate fits into the university strategic planning process. The president stated that the senate should use the PAAG and other administrative processes to have input.
 - The Provost stated that he would get back to the senate on funding for the lecturers series.
 - Research Enhancement funds fluctuate based on the budget, but hit a high point in 2017 at \$641,000. Historically, the university has seen this program as extremely valuable and it was internally funded after it was no longer a line item in the state allocation to the university. The baseline funding is derived from indirect costs, which have been added to with Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) funds.
 - The university believes that everyone should have access to research funding, even though some fields have limited access to external funds.
 - Currently, Texas State is number one in the TRIP funding queue waiting for legislative action and funding.

- **State and Federal Government affairs update:** The senate requested an update from the president concerning higher education at the state and federal level.

- President Trauth stated that Texas State expects a difficult legislative session for higher education, mainly due to Hurricane Harvey recovery funding. The university is preparing as much as possible for any shortfalls.
- The picture is better on the federal side. Texas State received a large grant from NASA concerning STEM teaching and its funding was continued in the recently passed budget.
- The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Active Shooter Response program was the biggest allocation, despite there being no federal earmarks.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Health (NIH), and the Department of Defense (DOD), have allocated funding to Texas State. There is potential for more funding in agriculture, especially nutrition research.
- The newest strategy is to figure out how Texas State can be competitive. The administration will position the university as strongly as they can.

University Curriculum Committee report (Dr. Michael Supancic)

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

- Deleting the Master of Science major in Materials Physics
- Adding a Bachelor of Science major in Civil Engineering
 - The department of physics has proposed deleting the Master of Science major in Materials Physics and the UCC approved the proposal.
 - The College of Science and Engineering is adding a B.S. in Civil Engineering. The UCC had a number of edits and changes that have already been incorporated into the proposal.
 - This program will require a large budget, but that is expected in engineering.
 - There are differences in the possible number of credit hours, 132 versus 126 hours depending on whether the general education core can be adjusted for the degree. More faculty will be hired (12 tenure track faculty and professors of practice) to deal with the increased teaching load. The projected estimate is 477 students over the next five years.
 - In the proposal, the college has asked to change two courses in the general education core to courses in the civil engineering program to meet a 126 credit hour total. Allowing the change will drop the required hours from 132 to 126.
 - The senate discussed the proposal to delete some of the general education requirements for certain programs and the possible precedent this sets, especially at the expense of liberal arts courses.
 - The senate suspended the rules and voted to approve the recommendations of the UCC.
- The committee has been working on several policy revisions:
 - AAPPS 02.01.01 Academic Courses: Additions, Changes and Deletions
 - AAPPS 02.01.10 Academic Programs: Additions, Changes and Deletions

- AAPPS 02.01.11 Academic Certificates
- AAPPS 02.01.40 Curriculum Committees
- Reviewers are still working on several of the policies, but only on minor changes.
- In regard to 02.01.40, the senate discussed references to Bloom's taxonomy and copyright issues that prevent posting the Bloom action verbs list on the course proposal site, possibly linking to an external source, creating model examples, and drafting a similar verb list.

Next week's items (Senate Chair White)

- Report on Senate Fellow applications
 - A sub committee will report next week on the results of the senate fellow selection.
- Parliamentary procedure
 - A request for reconsideration of parliamentary procedure will be discussed.

Policy reviews (Senate Chair White)

Several policy revisions are coming due and senators were assigned specific policies. Senate Chair White will look at pushing back several short suspense policy revision requests.

- AA/PPS 02.02.20 Schedule Changes, Drops, and Withdrawals. Due April 13. (Senators Liu and Garcia)
- AA/PPS 01.01.01 Academic Affairs Policy and Procedure Statement System Due April 13. (Senators White and Conroy)
- AA/PPS 04.01.02 Hiring and Employment of Temporary Non-Continuing Faculty. Due April 12. (Senators Conroy and Nolan)
- UPPS 07.07.07 Academic Progress for Students Seeking to Continue State Waivers and Exemption Awards. Due April 12. (Senator White)
- 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 04.01.03 Unpaid Faculty. Due April 10. (Senator White)
- UPPS 02.02.06 Research Cash Advances. Due April 6: Extension requested. (Senator Bezner)
- AAPPS 08.01.01 Classroom and Teaching Theater Scheduling. Due April 6. (Senator Martin)

Approval of minutes

The March 21 and March 28, 2018, minutes were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan