

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
JCK Regents' Room, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Dana García, Ted Hindson, Ting Liu, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White.

Guests: Denise Trauth (President); Gene Bourgeois (Provost); Debbie Thorne (Associate Provost); Eric Algoe (vice president, for Finance and Support Services); Michael Supancic (chair, University Curriculum Committee); Micky Autrey (Curriculum Services); Ray Fisk (Department of Marketing); Bill Chittenden (McCoy College of Business); Ju Long (Department of Computer Information Systems & Quantitative Methods); Jaymeen Shah (Department of Computer Information Systems & Quantitative Methods); Francis Mendez (Department of Computer Information Systems & Quantitative Methods); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*).

Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Senate Chair White

President's Academic Advisory Group

President Trauth discussed several issues concerning the current tenure and promotion cycle, the administration's response to the recent student sit-in, and current environmental standards practices at the university.

- **Tenure and promotion cycle report.**
 - This year's tenure and promotion files were a great pleasure to read. The files were very strong and demonstrated the incredible strength of our faculty.
 - Letters from chairs and deans were also strong and allowed a deep understanding of each candidate.
 - External reviewers gave candidates glowing reviews overall and the narratives are better than ever.
 - In the past it was difficult to review Fine Arts faculty and show the outstanding work they are doing. What helped was to reframe creative work as scholarly activity.
 - Do not encourage faculty to go up early for tenure and promotion. The bar is extremely high.
 - Used to be no one received tenure when first hired, even if they had tenure before coming to Texas State. That is no longer the case. Departments make those determinations.
 - Currently looking at the language in [AA/PPS No. 04.02.20 Tenure and Promotion Review](#) to see if the wording is vague enough. Want the language in the policy to be intentionally vague so that departmental personnel committees can decide promotion and tenure issues for themselves.

- **Response to student sit-in.**
 - A number of student issues started in January, but they were also a reaction to the opinion article in the University Star last fall.
 - There has been a lot of student discontent, especially concerning the impeachment of former student government president Connor Clegg. Students called on the President to remove him from office. She articulated to students that the student government constitution has rules in place for such a situation and that she did not have the authority to remove him from office.
 - There was a forum discussion with students concerning diversity and inclusion initiatives. All of the items discussed, except for one, were already in process, including minors in Latino and African American studies.
 - Eighteen months ago the university created a climate survey study of students. The instrument was created very carefully and took about one year to create. Last fall the survey was released and a report will be released as soon as possible.
 - Students wanted a required core course on diversity and inclusion for everyone. The administration had numerous conversations with students that curriculum was the purview of faculty and not the administration. Any changes must be faculty driven and must go through the general education curriculum. Informed students that much of what they were asking for is already being accomplished through the Multicultural Curriculum Transformation & Research Institute. However, students were not content with that answer.
 - The Dean of Students was asked to take a holistic review of the student government constitution.
 - President sees this as an opportunity for the university to become a leader in learning how to have a diverse student body, not just in ethnicity, and to bring students from disparate backgrounds together.
 - The senate asked about the university diversity awards and the removal of the team category. The president stated that the team award was removed due to low nomination numbers. There was always a question of who would be a part of a team and how to evaluate them as a team.
 - The senate asked about the Scholarly Travel and Research Grant (S.T.A.R.) awards and the responsibility for funding the program. President stated that this was a student government initiative. (Funding comes from a Student Service Fee funding request each year through student government. [Chapter 103 The Scholarly Travel And Research \(S.T.A.R.\) Grant Act, Article IV, Section 2](#)).
 - The senate asked about the student climate survey and any preliminary results. The president stated that the administration has not seen any results and will wait for the final analysis and recommendations to be released. A research team will be formed this summer to evaluate the results and prepare a report. The survey had quantitative and qualitative aspects and was created at Texas State and first piloted in the Department of Psychology.
 - The senate asked about the possibility of a faculty climate survey. The president stated that the administration wants to complete the student survey first before addressing faculty and staff.
 - The president discussed having some type of activity concerning the First Amendment in the future. Many of the recent campus discussions revolved

around the First Amendment and many students, as well as some faculty, do not fully understand all of the implications concerning free speech and the campus environment. As a public entity we cannot restrain public speech.

- **Environmental standards.**

- The president stated that the university's financial situation needs to be addressed when discussing environmental standards. Cuts from the state and continued flat enrollment creates a budget deficit situation. We cannot be naïve about how we spend our limited funds, even when it comes to environmental issues.
- Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president, for Finance and Support Service, discussed the university's approach to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. LEED is one of the most popular green building certification programs used worldwide.
- The university requires major projects to have a LEED certified architect and the design must move the university to the upper levels of certification. However, LEED is a point in time measure and does not look at the life cycle of a building. This can have a detrimental impact on the long-term costs of building operations. The university has different revenue streams for running and maintaining buildings and LEED buildings can cost more than buildings without LEED certification. Maintaining the high-end systems required by LEED can become an issue.
- The university is working on the [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System \(STARS\) report under the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#). STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. Mr. Algoe stated that the university will complete the STARS report, but it has an immense workload associated with it and it may take some time to complete. The first year is voluntary, next year the university will evaluate and discuss how to move forward.
- Concerning solar panels on buildings across campus, Mr. Algoe stated that solar subsidies, which the university relied on, have dried up. The university will still evaluate companies who offer solar power, but the financial feasibility of the system is currently not where it should be. However, the university is supportive of solar research across campus.
- One of the unique challenges facing the university concerning solar is that it is not in an open market for electricity. The university is required to buy electricity from the San Marcos Electric Utility. Even if the university wanted to move to other forms of alternative energy, the city would charge a standby fee for what the university would not use. The university is continuing to work with the city on this issue.

- **Update concerning AA/PPS No. 04.01.10 Faculty Criminal Background Checks**

- President Trauth updated the senate concerning the Faculty Criminal Background Checks policy.

- Language concerning reporting of arrests in the AA/PPS has been changed and specifies criminal charges, not arrests, should be reported. The policy also excludes misdemeanors punishable by only a fine. The updated policy is still under review.

University Curriculum Committee report (Dr. Michael Supancic)

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

- Add a Master of Science major in Marketing Research and Analysis.
- Add a Master of Science major in Data Analytics and Information Systems.
- The Curriculum Committee approved both proposals.
- The senate discussed the requirements and details of the new programs.
- The senate voted to suspend the rules and voted unanimously to endorse the recommendations of the committee.

Committee appointments (Senate Chair White)

The senate discussed the remaining open committee appointments.

- Dr. Ting Liu, Department of Health and Human Performance, will replace Dr. Jo An Zimmermann, Department of Health and Human Performance, on the curriculum committee for the fall 2018 semester. Dr. Zimmermann is going on Faculty Development Leave (FDL).
- The senate voted to unanimously approve all recommendations and changes.

Additional Faculty Senate meeting

- Due to a late vote in the College of Fine Arts and Communication Faculty Senate runoff, an additional senate meeting will be held on May 9 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in JCK880 to vote on officers for the 60th Faculty Senate.
- The senate will also discuss any pressing issues before the spring semester ends.

Recognition of departing senators (Senate Chair White)

Senate Chair White recognized and thanked outgoing Senators Scott Bowman, Dana Garcia, and Shane Smith for their service. He also thanked Senator Ted Hindson for filling in for Senator Vince Luizzi while he was away in an administrative role this past semester.

Approval of minutes

The April 25, 2018, minutes were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan