

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, Sept 26, 2018

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending Senators: Augustine Agwuele, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Lynn Ledbetter, Ting Liu, Vince Luizzi, Ben Martin, Dave Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflares, Alex White

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Karen Sigler (Library), Peter Dedek (Department of History)

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

Faculty Concerns

Alex presented a number of faculty concerns that were submitted through the Faculty Senate website or emailed to him directly. He noted any actions that had been taken thus far. Faculty senators discussed each issue and made recommendations for further actions; these are described below.

1. Academic Freedom and Discussion of Controversial Topics. The concern focused on the possibility that the Texas State policies might be too restrictive, particularly with regard to the discussion of controversial topics not related to one's area of expertise. Senators voted to refer the issue to the Academic Freedom Committee and to have Alex bring up this issue at the upcoming meeting of the Texas State University System (TSUS) Faculty Senate.
2. Parking. This concern focused on the lack of parking in some areas of campus and the price for parking at the Edward Gary Street Garage. Alex has talked with Parking Services about both issues, and a parking update will be included in the Faculty Senate Bulletin.
3. Salary. There were two concerns about salary. One involved the unsustainable strategy that links pay raises to enrollment growth and the other focused on the gap between pay raises for administrators and faculty at Texas State relative to comparable universities. Alex asked the budget committee to look at the relative increase in salary and tuition over the last 10 years. For further action, senators suggested that future PAAG items could include the prioritization of faculty salary and any administrative plans for addressing this issue during times of flat enrollment growth.
4. Texas State Branding Study. This concern focused on protection of intellectual property during the branding study process. Alex spoke with University Marketing and learned that there is a clause in the contract, which protects Texas State. Alex will share this information with the concerned party.

5. Renaming the Faculty Liaisons. Alex received a suggestion to change the title of the Faculty Senate Liaisons to “Faculty Representatives” and to change the title of the Full Senate to the “Faculty Congress”. The senators discussed this suggestion.
6. Custodial Staff. This concern focused on the university’s shift to third party providers of custodial services. Alex contacted VPFSS Algoe about this issue and emailed Mr. Algoe’s response to the concerned parties. The senators discussed possible further actions and decided to return to the issue after the Staff Council weighs in. Janet suggested that change management and shared governance could be appropriate PAAG items related to this issue and others.

The 60th Faculty Senate was commemorated with a group photo.

Council on Inclusive Excellence Update

- Alex discussed the recent meeting of the Council of Inclusive Excellence. He reviewed the differences between diversity (recruiting and hiring a diverse group of people) and inclusion (including the diverse group of people in the activities of the university community).

Full Senate Agenda Items

- The meeting will focus on inclusive excellence. Activities will include presentations by invited speakers, group conversations, and discussion of possible action plans.

The minutes of the September 19th meeting were approved.

Representatives for the College Research Enhancement Committees

- Alex will send an email to the Chair of each department for which a Research Enhancement Committee representative is needed. Relevant senators will be copied on the email.

Policies

- Alex will review AA/PPS No. 01.02.32, Budget Committee – Division of Academic Affairs

6:06 p.m. Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes Submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary.