

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, October 3, 2018

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Araceli Ortiz (Senate Fellow), Tristan Martinez (University Star)

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

CAD summary

- Senator White provided a summary, and senators discussed the topics that were addressed at the CAD meeting. These included the following.
 - Study Abroad. The discussion focused on the need for new and existing study abroad programs to have a solid plan in place for dealing with unexpected events.
 - Faculty Salaries. Senator White reported on Provost Bourgeois' comments regarding the various funding mechanisms for faculty merit raises, equity adjustments, and administrative raises. Senators agreed to discuss these issues further at the next PAAG meeting.

Update on Chief of Police Search

- Texas State has hired Spelman Johnson, a search firm, to assist the University with the hiring of the Chief of Police. Mr. Scott Derrick, a representative from Spelman Johnson, was on campus on Monday meeting with different stakeholders. The goal is to have a new Chief of Police on campus by the start of the spring semester. Senators had several questions about the use of search firms to fill campus positions. Senator White agreed to seek answers to these questions and to keep the senate updated on the status of the search.

Update on Faculty Developmental Leave (FDL)

- There are currently 48 proposals for FDL. The Chairs and Deans will review the proposals by October 8th and 15th, respectively. Following those reviews, the proposals will be available on TRACS and divided into two groups for senate review. Group A (24 proposals) will be composed of applications from the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education. Group B (24 proposals) will be composed of applications from the College of Applied Arts, the College of Business Administration, the College of Fine Arts and Communication, the College of Health Professions, and the College of Science and Engineering.
- Senators should complete their assigned reviews and send their draft scores (in an excel spreadsheet) to Senator White by October 23rd. Proposals will be discussed at the October 24th senate meeting.
- Senator White confirmed that, for purposes of FDL eligibility, the year (or semester) that a faculty member is on leave counts as time spent working for the university.
- Senators discussed various strategies that might encourage faculty to apply for FDL.

Proposal for Renaming Liaisons and Full Senate

- Senators considered the suggestion to change the title of the Liaisons to Representatives and the name of the Full Senate to Congress. Senator Bezner confirmed that the terms "Liaison" and

“Full Senate” come from the Senate’s Standing Rules, rather than from the Faculty Constitution. Senators debated whether a name change is necessary, and several alternative titles were suggested.

- Senators also discussed the frequency of Full Senate meetings, proposed activities at those meetings, and the types of decisions that might be appropriate for a Full Senate vote. These issues may be revisited during the upcoming meeting of the Full Senate.

Plan for Full Senate Meeting

- The main topic of the meeting will be inclusion, and the length of the meeting will be 1.5 hours. Dr. Scott Bowman (Special Assistant to the Provost for Inclusion and Diversity) and Dr. Araceli Ortiz (Senate Fellow) will give presentations. Senators and Liaisons will identify existing activities and programs that foster diversity and inclusion on our campus and will work toward the creation of an action plan to achieve the senate goal of building community.

Around the Table

- Senator Luizzi reported on the activities of the Academic Freedom Committee. The committee recommends that the faculty senate endorse and encourage the establishment of a Texas State chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Regarding the Chicago Statement, Senator Luizzi will send additional information to Senator White, and both issues (AAUP and Chicago Statement) will appear on the agenda of the next senate meeting.
- Senator Agwuele cited several concerns about the process through which faculty are appointed to (and retained on) faculty senate committees. Senator White described various strategies for attracting new committee members and mentioned that he will be discussing this issue with the Full Senate.
- Senator Vacaflares relayed a number of concerns from students and faculty with disabilities regarding the speed with which the university updates campus maps to reflect construction-related detours and potential hazards. Senator White indicated that this issue came up in the recent review of Transportation Services and Parking Services. The current recommendation is that concerned individuals should contact Texas State’s Office of Disability Services to create a tailored accommodation plan. Senator Bezner noted that this case-by-case approach may not be entirely consistent with the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and urged Dr. White to follow up on this issue.

Selection of PAAG Items

- The first item will focus on faculty salaries. Given the current fiscal situation and lack of enrollment growth, what is the administration’s plan to address issues such as merit raises, salary compression, and new faculty lines (for new and existing programs)?
- Change management is another issue of concern. How does the university plan for change and support those who are affected by change? What significant changes, if any, does the administration anticipate for the coming year?

Minutes from the September 26th senate meeting were approved.

6 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary