

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, October 31, 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, Vince Luizzi, Ben Martin, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflones, Alex White

Guests: Evelin Garcia, Selene Hinojosa, Keeley Kubal, Malarie Ohrabka, Araceli Ortiz, Lauren Rexroad, Alex Urbanczyk

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

Piper Professor Nomination Process Revision

- Senators voted to approve changes to the process for nomination of faculty for the Piper Professor award. Effective next year, any application for the Piper Nomination from an active faculty member made in the past two years will be considered for the current year, provided that candidate was not selected as the university's nominee. Further, except in the case where a faculty member receives a Swinney award one year and the Piper Nomination the next year (thereby automatically obtaining a second successive Swinney award), faculty may not receive Swinney awards in consecutive years. The aim of these revisions is to increase the pool of faculty members considered for the nomination each year and to more broadly distribute the Swinney awards.

Update on Council on Inclusive Excellence

- Due to a scheduling conflict, Senator Martin has assumed Senator White's position on the Council on Inclusive Excellence.
- Senator Martin reported on the last meeting of the Council, in which they discussed their proposal for the implementation of a bias response reporting system that would allow members of the campus community to submit information about bias-related incidents at Texas State. They also discussed various models for support systems to deal with such incidents in a more effective and consistent manner while remaining cognizant of free speech issues.

Faculty Concerns

- Senator White reported a number of concerns, which faculty had submitted through the senate website or via email.
 - Branding Study. A faculty member reported several potential problems with the construction of a survey that is being distributed to Texas State employees as part of the university branding study. Senator White will follow up on this issue.
 - AAUP Report on St. Edward's University. A faculty member alerted the senate to the American Association of University Professors' recent report on the firing of three faculty members at St. Edward's University in Austin. The AAUP report was also discussed at the recent Texas State University System meeting. In response to this report, the faculty senate (led by Senator Nolan) will work with Senator Luizzi and the Academic Freedom Committee to create a generalized statement about faculty rights, due process, and policies related to these issues at Texas State.
 - Recruiting of older students. The senate received a recommendation that Texas State should have a plan for the recruitment of students aged 55 and older. Senator White will forward this item to Enrollment Management and Marketing, as well as Distance and Extended Learning.

- Nontenure Line faculty Input in the Selection of Department Chairs. Senator White received a concern about the level of NLF input that is allowed in the selection of department chairs. Senators reviewed the relevant university policy (AA/PPS 04.01.04, 02.01c: <https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-04.html#section.02.01>). Senator White asked Senator Bezner and the NLF Committee to draft a revised policy for presentation to the senate.

CAD summary

- Senator White reported on the recent meeting of the Council of Academic Deans, at which they discussed forthcoming initiatives from the University Advancement office.

Report from Texas Council of Faculty Senates / Texas State System Meeting of Senates

- Senators White and Martin recently attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates / Texas State System Meeting of Senates. Senator Martin gave a report of the topics discussed at this meeting. These included projections related to the State budget and the Hazelwood Act, information concerning the new Texas State University System Political Action Committee (TSUSPAC.com), a presentation about UnKochMyCampus.org, a panel discussion on Nontenure Line Faculty, a description of how the University of Houston has tackled salary compression, and healthcare.
- Senator Bezner is the Chair of the Group Benefit Advisory Committee for the Texas State University System. Faculty with concerns related to healthcare in general, or the transition to Blue Cross / Blue Shield in particular, may reach the committee via their contact form at [<https://ers.texas.gov/About-ERS/ERS-Board-of-Trustees/Group-Benefits-Advisory-Committee>].

PAAG Items

- Senators proposed potential PAAG items, including 1) suggestions for improvement of existing procedures for policy revision and review, and 2) a discussion of university plans for building infrastructure (including policies) to support a transition to R1 status.

Policies

- Senator White will review UPPS 04.04.08 Determining Contract Labor (due November 9th).
- Senator Davenport will review UPPS 05.01.01 Texas State University Property and Equipment (due November 9th).
- Senator Ceballos will review AA/PPS 04.01.21 Research Faculty Appointments (due November 12th).

Senators will discuss the remaining agenda items next week.

6:07 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary