

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, November 28, 2018

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending Senators: Augustine Agwuele, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Lynn Ledbetter, Ben Martin, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacafloros, Alex White

Guests: Mickey Autrey, Matt Brooks, Dana Garcia, Selene Hinojosa, Malarie Ohrabka

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

University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Report

- **B.S. Major in Health Sciences.** Senator Supancic and Dr. Matt Brooks (Director, School of Health Administration) presented information and answered question about the new B.S. in Health Sciences. The major will be based on the San Marcos campus, and will provide a marketable option for students who are interested in pursuing an entry-level career in the healthcare field or continuing to graduate or professional school. It was noted that the B.S. in Health Sciences would not be recommended for students who intend to apply for medical, dental, or veterinary school. The senate voted to approve the new B.S. in Health Sciences.
- **Changes to Policy and Procedure Statements.** Senator Supancic and Ms. Autrey (Director of Curriculum Services) presented the UCC's changes to the policy and procedures statements entitled Academic Credit Courses: Additions, Changes, and Deletions (PPS 02.01.01 and 02.01.10). Senator Bezner suggested additional wording changes pertaining to clinical doctoral programs. Otherwise, Senators approved the UCC's changes to the PPS.

Nontenure Line Faculty (NLF) Report. Senator Bezner presented the results of the review of applications for the NLF Workload Release Program. Eleven proposals were submitted, and Senator Bezner recommended that they all be approved. The faculty senate concurred.

Report on Meeting with Mr. Ken Pierce, Vice President for Information Technology. Senator White reported on his meeting with Mr. Pierce, in which they discussed strategies for improving video conferencing particularly between the San Marcos and Round Rock campuses. Currently, the number of Zoom licenses is limited and priority is given for instructional purposes. Possible alternatives include Skype for Business or MS Teams, but both have limitations. The University is investigating the purchase of a Zoom enterprise license, which would allow Texas State to use Zoom in a more unlimited fashion. The University is creating more Zoom rooms across campus, which may be less expensive than ITV rooms and more cost effective than lecture rooms with the standard media cabinet set-up. Senators suggested converting the senate meeting room to a Zoom room so that senate-related meetings can occur via distance, facilitating interaction with the Round Rock campus. Senator White and Mr. Pierce also discussed upgrades to the digital signage board system to improve communication of urgent messages.

Faculty Concerns. Senator White presented several faculty concerns, which were received via the senate portal or via email. Senators also relayed concerns that were received directly from faculty in their Colleges.

- **AA/PPS 04.01.32, Management of Funding of Faculty Fellowships.** This policy provides guidelines for salary and benefit arrangements for faculty who receive fellowships or prestigious awards (including Fulbright Fellowships) that require leave from Texas State (<https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-32.html>). This policy is up for review. The concerned faculty member notes that there are plans to modify the policy to require the synchronization of faculty fellowships

with Faculty Developmental Leave or NLF Workload Release. The Senate believes that this restriction to the policy would increase eligibility restrictions and could discourage faculty from pursuing prestigious fellowships or awards. Senators agreed to review the policy and discuss the significant, negative impact of these revisions at the next meeting of the President's Academic Advisory Group.

- **Access to Software.** Senator Bezner reported that faculty are concerned about TX State's inefficient processes for gaining access to specialized software that is needed for graduate theses and dissertations. In some cases, the time frame for completion of the access process is longer than the total time allotted for students to complete their projects. Senator Bezner will work with Senator White to follow up on this issue.
- **Salary Compression.** Senator Ceballos relayed faculty concerns about the gap between current College and University Professional Association (CUPA) medians and the salaries of some faculty at Texas State, particularly Associate and full Professors compared to new hires. Senators will research strategies that other comparable universities in Texas have recently used to provide equity adjustments to faculty salaries. These strategies may be included as an agenda item for a PAAG meeting in the spring semester.

Chief of Police Search Update. Senator White will be among those who have dinner with each of the candidates. Candidates' public presentations will occur from 2:30 to 3:30 on the 11th floor of JCK on December 11, 13, 17 and 18.

Council on Inclusive Excellence. Senator Martin reported on the most recent meeting, which was held on the Round Rock campus. The Council discussed two issues: the results of the campus climate survey and plans for the new bias reporting system. The Council approved the proposal for the new bias reporting system, and this proposal will be discussed at the next President's Cabinet meeting.

Senate Bulletin. Items for the next senate bulletin will include the announcement of upcoming workshops facilitated by Senate Fellow Dr. Araceli Ortiz, a highlight of Dr. Ortiz's research, and updates on Faculty Developmental Leave and the Police Chief Search.

Agenda Items for the next President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) Meeting. President Truth will provide a legislative update. The potentially negative impact of revision to AA/PPS 04.01.32 (Management of Funding of Faculty Fellowships) will be included on the agenda. Senators also recommended a follow-up to the PAAG's discussions on the inclusion of key stakeholders in the early stages of AA/PPS revisions.

Policy Reviews

- Senators Agwuele and Conroy will review PPS 02.04.20, Presidential Awards, due Dec. 3.
- All Senators will review PPS 04.01.32, Faculty Fellowships, due Dec. 7.
- Senator White will review PPS 01.01.01, AAPPS System, due Dec. 3.
- Senator White will review UPPS 01.01.01, UPPS System, due Dec. 3.
- Senator Nolan will review PPS 02.01041, Reporting Changes to SACS-COC, due Dec. 11.

Remaining agenda items will be discussed at subsequent senate meetings.

6:06 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary