

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, February 13, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending Senators: Augustine Agwuele, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Jesse Gainer, Vince Luizzi, Ben Martin, Dave Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflones, Alex White

Guests: Gene Bourgeois, Tom Grimes, Selene Hinojosa, Malarie Ohrabka, Araceli Ortiz, Debbie Thorne, Denise Trauth

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

President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG): President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, and Associate Provost Thorne provided a legislative update and discussed enrollment and strategic planning.

- Legislative Update: *The senate would like to continue the conversation that we started last time. The other items did not leave much room to discuss this. How do we see the upcoming session affecting our bottom line? What bills that affect Texas State are on the docket?*
 - Senators and guests were provided with a copy of President Trauth's leave-behind handout for legislative visits. The handout contains the University's points of pride on one side and our top funding priorities on the other. President Trauth noted several priorities unique to our University, including the Texas School Safety Center, the Advanced Law Enforcement and Rapid Response Training Center, the Translational Health Center, and the need for two new buildings (one on the main campus and one in Round Rock). President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois elaborated on statewide legislative funding priorities and fielded questions from senators. It was noted that state funding priorities won't be finalized until late May.
- Enrollment and Strategic Planning: *Enrollment is a centerpiece priority. Given current trends, in particular the recent 'flat' pattern, can you outline and talk about what specific proactive steps and initiatives we are undertaking now to address the current state of 'no-growth' in enrollment and the prospects that any expected turnaround in enrollment is going to take time to produce? How crucial is the success of the new Civil Engineering and Health Science degrees to our enrollment targets? On a related topic, how is our current enrollment pattern impacting our university strategic planning decisions, especially decisions that target and identify the marketability and development of new degree programs and the (re)allocation of resources to existing programs/initiatives at the department, school, and college levels? As we near the mid-point of the current strategic plan, what sort of 'corrective' measures and movement in our planning efforts and priorities are we looking to introduce that might prepare us for another one or two years of little to no increase in enrollment. In other words, are we considering a Plan B?*
 - President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois discussed various issues that influence our enrollment, including the state economy, availability and size of scholarships, convenience of college application procedures (i.e., Apply Texas versus national coalition apps), and graduation rates. Next, they shared strategies to enhance enrollment numbers. These included adding new academic programs that comport with workforce needs, adding new endowed scholarships (particularly for freshmen and first year graduate students), optimizing scholarship distribution, and increasing student retention, particularly through the use of academic support services.

Fellowship Support Policy. Following up from the last senate meeting, Senator White reported on his latest conversation with Associate Provost Thorne concerning the revision of the fellowship support policy. This topic could be returned to the senate agenda in mid-March and may be discussed at the next PAAG meeting.

60th Senate Celebration. Senators discussed plans to celebrate the 60th year of the Texas State University Faculty Senate. A planning committee was formed, consisting of Senators Conroy, Agwuele, Ledbetter, and White.

Around the Table.

- Senators and guests were encouraged to attend the upcoming Social Justice and Film Speaker Series presentation of *Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland* on February 18th in the Performing Arts Center. The event will begin at 5pm with a reception, and the film will be followed by a panel discussion.
- The Nontenure Line Faculty Committee will host a number of faculty development events this semester. Topics will include diversity and inclusion, as well as strategies for teaching effectively in a large classroom. Faculty development webinars are also planned.
- A senator suggested revising the use of bonus points in the scoring of Research Enhancement Program (REP) grant proposals. The suggestion will be forwarded to the University Research Enhancement Committee for discussion at its upcoming spring meeting.
- Concerns were raised about the inappropriate ticketing of students and law enforcement who attended the recent crisis negotiation function at Bobcat Stadium. Similar concerns were noted regarding inappropriate ticketing of patients on the Round Rock campus. These issues may be addressed in a future senate meeting.

Minutes from February 6 were approved.

6:02 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary