

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, January 23, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Selene Hinojosa, Araceli Ortiz

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

Council of Academic Deans Update.

- There was a discussion about adding representatives from the Honors College and University College to the General Education Council.
- At the state level, there have been conversations about altering/reducing the number of Core Curriculum hours again.
- Associate Provost Thorne has asked departments to discuss the role of Nontenure Line Faculty (NLF) in personnel decisions that affect NLF.
- Applicants for the Texas State University System Chancellor's Fellow Program should submit their materials to their Dean by January 30th.
- Fall enrollment predictions are uncertain because UT and A&M have adopted another application portal (in addition to ApplyTexas), however, early indications are that enrollment may be down. In particular, the number of male students applying and returning may be lower than in previous years.
- Mr. Dan Owen (Chief Information Security Officer) reported on IT security and cloud-based solutions. The move to cloud-based services has increased security threats. Because state law requires the university to assess security threats before purchasing software, the increased threat associated with cloud-based services may delay or prohibit the purchase of some software.
- Dr. Shannon Weigum (Presidential Fellow) presented one of the Big Idea proposals on the topic of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. A brainstorming session is being planned.

Report from Meetings with Associate Provost Thorne. Senator White recently had several meetings with Dr. Thorne about PPS 04.01.32 (Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships) and the policy review process. He reported the following.

- The second revision of PPS 04.01.32 (Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships) will go through the comment process again.
- For future reviews, the Chair of the senate will be included as a reviewer on the key policies that are most relevant to faculty.
- Going forward, a justification for proposed changes will be included in revised policies, and Dr. Thorne will indicate if the policy has been benchmarked with similar policies at peer and aspirant universities.

Upcoming Meetings. On February 15, Senator Bell-Metereau will accompany Senator White to the meetings of the Texas State University System faculty senators, as well as the state-wide meeting of faculty senators.

Senators suggested replacements for a member of the Presidential Award for Teaching Committee who is unable to serve.

Part-time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. The NLF Committee has streamlined the process for award application and review. Senators voted to approve the documents pending revisions.

Curriculum Committee Membership. Senators approved a replacement for a member who is leaving the Curriculum Committee. In addition, senators approved the addition of the AVP for Institutional Effectiveness as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Curriculum Committee, a change suggested by SACS-COC.

Council on Inclusive Excellence Update. The Council will meet on Friday at 9:00 a.m. One agenda item will be the transition of the bias incident report from proposal to procedure. The Council will allow a couple of weeks to receive feedback on the proposal. After feedback is considered, the Council will create a draft website and procedure. Focus groups of students will test it and provide further feedback.

Faculty Concerns

- **Bias Incident Reporting.** A faculty member was concerned about the extent to which ratings by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) may be influencing the development of university policies. The Academic Freedom Committee was informed of this concern.
- **Lines of Communication.** Another colleague was concerned about situations in which Chairs/Directors might limit faculty members' opportunities to communicate directly with their Deans. The following policies were referenced: UPPS No. 04.04.41 and AA/PPS No. 04.02.32 (8.08).
- **UPPS 02.01.02 International Inter-Institutional Agreement Policy and Procedures.** A faculty member asked that the policy be revised to include a role for the Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC). This concern will be routed to the new Associate Vice President for International Studies.

Senate Fellow Update. Dr. Ortiz reported that the upcoming Diversity Workshop is planned for Friday February 22nd from 1 to 3pm in the Jones Dining Hall. In addition, applications for the Scholarly Writing Retreat for Faculty Women of Color are under review. Ten to 12 women will be accepted with notification in February. Dr. Ortiz has also received a prestigious Teaching Fellowship for Women in Engineering at the University of New South Wales.

Policy Review Assignments

- Senators Vacaflares and Supancic will review AA/PPS 01.02.33 General Education Council, due 1/28.
- Senator Gainer will review AA/PPS 04.01.01 Faculty Hiring, due 2/4.
- Senator Bell-Metereau will review AA/PPS Clear English Requirement, due 1/28.
- Senator Davenport will review AA/PPS 04.02.11 Performance Evaluation of Non-continuing NLF, due 2/4.
- Senators Liu and Ceballos will review AA/PPS 04.02.10 Performance Evaluation of Continuing Faculty and Post-Tenure Review, due 2/12.
- Senator Nolan will review UPPS/05.05.02 Driver Selection.
- Senator White will review UPPS/07.03.01 operating guidelines for student housing.

6:00 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary