

## Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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, Lynn Ledbetter, Vince Luizzi, Ben Martin, Dave Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflares, Alex White **Guests:** Selene Hinojosa

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

**Videoconferencing Update:** Senator White reported on his efforts to have JCK 880 outfitted as a Zoom Room.

**University Research Enhancement Committee (REC) Report:** Senator Conroy reported on the recent meeting of the University REC. Topics included the following.

- Changes to the formatting rules for tables included in REP proposals: The senate voted to approve this recommendation, which will allow applicants to single space tables. The policy will be changed accordingly.
- Changes to the eligibility rules for faculty members who simultaneously serve both as investigators, and as paid consultants on separate proposals within the same review cycle. The senate voted to reject this recommendation. The policy will remain as-is.
- Discussion of the five bonus points assigned to first time REP applicants: Senator Conroy will update the senate on this issue at the next senate meeting, after the committee reviews data from OSP, and there may be a vote at that time.
- Discussion of concerns forwarded by the Council on Funded Research: no actions were taken.

**Nontenure Line Faculty Committee (NLFC) Report:** Senator Bezner reported on the winners of the Part Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. The senate voted to approve the NLFCs recommendations.

**Council of Academic Deans (CAD) Report:** Senator White described several issues, which were discussed at the recent CAD meeting, including the following.

- **Nontenure Line Faculty inclusion in the internal search process for Department Chairs.** Balloting options were discussed. The policy (AA/PPS No. 04.01.04, **Dean and Chair Hiring**) is scheduled for review and possible revision in May 2020. The senate and Nontenure Line Faculty Committee will work together to put forth suggested revisions.
- **Texas Academic Leadership Academy.** Nominations from Deans to the Associate Provost are due on May 20.
- **Fallout from the student government's vote to ban Turning Point USA.** University administrators are working with the University Police Department to establish ground rules to ensure civil discourse at public meetings on campus.

**Academic Governance Committee Report:** Senator White and Senator Agwuele discussed the AGCs charge and scope of potential projects for the coming year.

**Senate Election Update:** Senator White gave an update on the senate elections. Runoffs are ongoing in the College of Science and Engineering, the College of Health Professions, and the College of Liberal Arts. The senate is seeking candidates from the College of Fine Arts and Communications, and additional materials are needed from the College of Education.

**60th Senate Celebration Update:** Senator Agwuele and Administrative Assistant Valerie Anderson are spearheading this effort. Senator White has sent out email invitations to current and former senators and liaisons, as well as key administrators and staff. In addition, senators will reach out to invitees from their colleges/departments to encourage them to attend; a list was circulated, and assignments were made.

### Around the Table

- Senators discussed the review of the policy on **Years of Service Awards and Retired Faculty and Staff Events (UPPS No. 04.04.54)** and provided suggestions for the revision of the methods used to calculate years of service.
- A senator reported on the recent theft of an instrument from the music building and described the investigative process from the faculty perspective.
- A senator mentioned concerns about the textbook ordering process and communications with the campus bookstore. The bookstore representative may be invited to a future senate meeting to discuss these issues.

**Minutes:** Senators will vote on the April 10th minutes at the next senate meeting.

**Policies:** Senator Supancic will review AA/PPS 02.02.12, MOU and Transfer Guides, which is due on April 27.

6:06 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White