

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, April 24, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Araceli Ortiz, Whitten Smart, University Star Reporter

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

Learning Management System Update. Whitten Smart (Special Assistant to the Vice President for Information Technology) shared information about the process for choosing the new Learning Management System (LMS), which will replace TRACS. Details and a timeline are available at (<https://www.tr.txstate.edu/lmsreview.html>). The new LMS will be announced during the week of May 20th and should be available for use with our classes in the spring of 2020. TRACS will run simultaneously with the new LMS until TRACS is decommissioned on January 1, 2023. There will be a variety of training options on the San Marcos and Round Rock campuses for faculty who want to learn how to use the new LMS.

Tenure Track Review Process. Senator White reported that the review of current tenure and promotion files has passed the President/Provost stage. All files were approved at that level. The Provost was very impressed with the quality of the files, the work of the faculty, the specificity of the Personnel Committee and College Review Group write ups, and the pedigrees of the external reviewers. Whitten Smart noted that the McCoy College of Business will be conducting a pilot test using the Digital Measures / Faculty Qualifications system for the tenure and promotion review process. Reappointment may be done this way in the future as well. Several other new features will be integrated into the Digital Measures / Faculty Qualifications system soon. Revisions to AA/PPS No. 04.02.01 Development/Evaluation of Tenure Track Faculty were also discussed, and senators voted to recommend a reduction in the number of reviews.

Possible May 1st Protest. Senators discussed a recent university notification about a possible protest on campus this week, which was ultimately cancelled. This protest may be rescheduled for May 1st. The Academic Freedom Committee received some messages of concern about this issue, as well as the university's plans for addressing criminal activity and maintaining safety on campus.

Committee Update. The report from the Committee on Committees is pending. This may be discussed at the May 8th faculty senate meeting.

Senate Fellow. The Senate Fellow Review Committee (Senators Davenport, Ledbetter, and Agwuele) will report their results at a future faculty senate meeting.

Election Update. Run-offs are in progress for some Colleges.

Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) proposal to Equity and Inclusion. The AFC is interested in applying for an Equity and Access mini-grant to bring in one or more speakers to address the relationship between academic freedom and the promotion of diversity on campus. Senators voted to approve a senate pledge of support for the AFC's idea.

Policies. Senator Bezner will review AA/PPS 04.02.03 Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release, which is due on May 8th.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 10th and April 17th meetings were approved.

Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary