

## Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, May 1, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending Senators:** Augustine Agwuele, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Ting Liu, Vince Luizzi, Dave Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflares, Alex White

**Guests:** Julie Gonzales, Susan Holtz

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

**Announcements.** At next week's meeting, new senators will be seated, and there will be an election of new senate officers for 2019-2020. Senators also discussed today's incident on the quad, as well as the latest update from the University Police Department.

**Senate Election Update.** Several new (and returning) senators have been elected for 2019-2020, including Joellen Coryell (College of Education), Janet Bezner (College of Health Professions), and Rebecca Bell-Metereau (College of Liberal Arts). The elections of senators from the College of Science and Engineering, as well as the College of Fine Arts and Communication, are pending. Senator Elizabeth Bishop has extended her Fulbright Fellowship for another year, and per the rules of the senate constitution, has given up her seat on the senate. Senators discussed possible replacements for Dr. Bishop.

**Final Senate Bulletin for 2018-2019.** Senators discussed items for the final senate bulletin of the year. Senator Bezner will select five significant senate accomplishments for inclusion in the bulletin.

**Update from the Committee on Committees.** Dr. Bill Stone (Chair of the Committee on Committees) emailed a draft of the committee's recommendations, and senators were asked to view the draft with special attention to colleagues serving from their own colleges. Senator White should be notified of potential glitches, such as one faculty member serving on several different senate committees, so that corrections can be made to the final list of committee assignments. Senators also discussed potential improvements to the processes for selecting committee members and documenting their service, as well as the assignment of leadership positions within committees. At the May 8th senate meeting, Dr. Stone will give the final report from the Committee on Committees.

**Policy List.** Senator White provided a two-tiered list of university policies. Tier one included policies for which it might be prudent to include the faculty senate chair as a reviewer. Tier two included policies for which the Associate Provost might be asked to contact the senate if major changes are being considered. Senator White will send a follow-up email with instructions for senators to provide feedback on the policy list and strategies for approaching this issue. Following discussion at the May 8th senate meeting, senators will vote on a formal recommendation.

- **Faculty Grievance Policy.** Senator Luizzi asked for senate input on this policy (AA/PPS 04.02.32), particularly with regard to the standard of review that is used for faculty grievances. Discussion ensued.

**Senate Fellow.** Senator Davenport revealed the review committee's choice for Senate Fellow.

**College of Academic Deans (CAD) Update.** Senator White reported on topics discussed at the recent CAD meeting, including the following.

- Legislative updates included news about Senate Bill 25, which could affect General Education requirements with the goal of producing a “mega field of study” and improving transferability. A free speech bill for college campuses was also mentioned. Current free speech bills include rules that would align well with existing Texas State Policies, but would add compliance mechanisms. Issues related to financing are still under discussion, and nothing will be certain until the last day of the legislative session.
- Texas State, along with 109 other institutions, is participating in a study of university leaders, which is co-sponsored by the Gates Foundation and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. On May 3, senators and others will receive an email from the Provost with a link to a survey about our role in the Student Success Community. The due date for the survey is May 22nd.
- The graduate college announced that several graduate students have received external awards, giving Texas State a total of approximately 2 million dollars in such awards over the last three years.
- Deans will meet with the Provost to discuss summer budgets and justification for reauthorization of temporary faculty lines.
- Texas State will implement a new and improved system for justifying faculty workload. This system will allow review by Deans and administrators prior to the beginning of the academic year.

**Policy Revisions.** Senator Gainer will review UPPS 04.04.26 Prohibition of Discrimination, due on May 10th.

**Around the Table.** Senator White reported that funding is now available to turn the senate meeting room into a Zoom Room.

**Minutes.** The minutes from the April 24th meeting were approved.

5:38 pm Adjournment by Chair Alex White

Minutes submitted by Natalie Ceballos, Secretary