

Minutes, Faculty Senate, Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Members present: Melzer, Conroy, Ash, Blunk, Hindson, Wilson, Feakes, Sanders, Furney

Announcements:

1. From CAD 5/22/2012
 - a. To graduate with honors students must now have completed 54 hours at TX State (previously 60 hours); this change aligns Texas State with other Emerging Research Universities.
 - b. PPS 8.10 Promotion and Tenure has been finalized. Changes include #21, sustained service; #34, the process for voting on full professor; #38, comment statements; #46, external letter requirements for tenure and promotion; and #47, composition of the college review group.
 - c. The Probation/Suspension Policy for undergraduate students has been changed so that undergraduate students have to be on probation for two semesters before being either removed from probation or suspended. The policy for graduate students remains unchanged.
 - d. For alignment with NCAA requirements, NCAA Certification at Texas State will be done by the Registrar's Office and the Athletic Academic Center will be led by Dr. Dann Brown.

2. From CAD 6/12/12
 - a. The limit on the number of Extension and Correspondence courses students may take has been increased to 30 hours maximum (with a limit of 18 via Correspondence). Financial aid can now be used for Extension Courses (but not Correspondence), so we may see an increase in this type of course credit.
 - b. Requirements for walking at commencement have been changed from students who have 12 or fewer hours left to complete their degrees; to students needing 9 or fewer hours, or no more than 3 courses (if a course were 4 hours for example). This requirement will be in effect beginning Fall 2012.
 - c. The deadline for Workload Reports covering Fall 2011, Spring 2012, and Summer has been extended because of the transition to Banner. The Fall 2011 report will be delivered to Chairs by the end of June.

3. A Texas State University--Round Rock Speaker Series has been established in order to increase the presence of the University in the community. The audience for the series will be faculty, students, staff, and community members. It will occur three times a semester, and faculty are encouraged to apply to be a speaker (there will be a \$500 honorarium for speakers). The Associate Provost will be developing a call for proposals, and a committee will be created to review them.

4. Presidential Cabinet Retreat
 - a. There will be increased enforcement of the Tobacco-free Campus restrictions, led by Joanne Smith. Citations will be issued by Residence Life and the University Police, and citations will be noted on a student's or faculty member's record. The Tobacco-free Campus policy will also be highlighted on all University programs and marketing.
 - b. The Strategic Plan for Research will be amended because we are now an Emerging Research University. An annual report is required. To do so, the university will create an Executive Committee (from all areas) to develop and manage the Plan. Current groups will report to this Committee.
 - c. The administration is planning a 5% reduction in University funding for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, but the College of Health Professions has 2 received years of grant funding (>1.6 million) from the tobacco fund (created by required monies from tobacco companies to the state as a result of litigation), so the deficit will be delayed until 2013.
 - i. The University will be requesting tuition revenue bonds for (in order of requests) 1) Engineering Building, 2) Health Professions Building 1, 3) Music Building, 4) Health Professions Building 2.
 - ii. A tuition increase was approved by the Regents. It will be approximately 2.6% over the next 3 years (with increases in years 1 and 3, and no increase in year 2).
5. Enrollment is on track for the fall; we are expecting between 34,500-35,000 students.
6. The University must develop a Business Continuity Plan in response to a legislative mandate on preparing for emergencies
7. The revised definition for faculty voters is now in effect, and it needs to be stressed to Senate liaisons, Chairs/Directors, and Deans. The Senate is working with IT to develop future election processes (Richard Batey is helping).
8. At their meeting, The Regents approved the latest Promotion and Tenure recommendations, and the Senate will send a congratulatory missive to those promoted and those tenured.
9. Increased health plan premiums were announced by ERS, and are available on their website (<http://www.ers.state.tx.us/Rates/>).
10. Faculty are reminded that HB 2504 requires the posting of vitae and syllabi for all undergraduate courses, by the 7th class day.
11. The Award for Excellence in Online Teaching has been announced (<http://www.distancelearning.txstate.edu/faculty/Award-for-Excellence-in-Online-Teaching.html>).
12. On Wednesday, June 20th, Senator Judith Zaffirini, who represents Senate District 21 (which now includes parts of Hays, Guadalupe, and Travis counties), will visit campus at 4pm in the Sac-N-Pac Room, in the End Zone Complex at Bobcat Stadium.

Faculty Senate Future Meeting Dates:

1. The next meeting will be July 2, 2012 (3-5pm).
2. The Senate is now looking for August Commencement Mace Bearers, Friday August 10th.
 - a. Friday, Aug 10th: 10AM (CLA/CoSE/Uc)
 - b. Friday, Aug 10th: 2PM (CAA/McCoy)
 - c. Friday, Aug 10th: 6PM (CoE/CFAC/CHP)
3. August 21st is the date of the Faculty Senate Luncheon for new faculty.
4. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates will have its fall meeting on October 26th and 27th, at the Crowne Plaza in Austin (at 290/I35).

Faculty Appointments to University Committees: The Faculty Senate reviewed appointments to various University and Senate Committees.

Presidential Excellence Evaluation Instrument Task Force Update: The Task Force has developed a set of criteria and suggested submission requirements for the Awards. All Awards will be evaluated in the categories of Sustained Commitment/Activity, Internal/External Recognition of Activity, and Impact or Significance of Activity. All Awards will include the required submission of a curriculum vita, a five-page narrative, and testimonial letters (a minimum of 3, a maximum of 5). Additionally, nominees may submit up to 10 items of documentary evidence to support their claims of excellence in the three categories above. The Task Force will be meeting with the Associate Provost to discuss their implementation. It has been suggested that a separate award category for adjunct faculty be created.

Break

Service Task Force Update: The document created by the Task Force was sent out to the faculty today. The overall emphasis was on the central role of faculty service, and how it is essential for a successful academic career. The Task Force made suggestions for revisions to several PPS documents (including the tenure and promotion PPS) that will make more explicit the expectation for service throughout a faculty member's career.

PPS/Upps reviews: The Senate discussed their preference for how to review submitted changes to the Upps and PPS.

Faculty Senate Course Releases: The Senate decided to use one of its course releases to off-set the work of Vice Chair Michel Conroy, who serves as Chair of the Adjunct Faculty Committee.

New Business:

1. Faculty Senate members are sought to be a part of the focus group for the Safety Committee; the focus group will meet on July 2nd. May be able to add to the agenda on July 2nd.
2. A faculty member shared concerns about how Reserved Parking is assigned.
3. Regarding the Provost's suggestions that non-science colleges use the Liberal Arts policy for external review as a model to create college policies, faculty shared concerns about change between this year's expectations and next year's expectations on both the college and university levels. It was clarified that new expectations should not be in place until the following years. Concerns were also shared about how external letters are to evaluate a faculty member's strengths/weakness in all areas, versus just in the scholarly/creative area.
4. Faculty wondered about the teaching loads of faculty at other Emerging Research Universities. It was noted that the university is currently looking at multiple sources to evaluate teaching loads at ERUs.
5. The Adjunct Faculty Committee members have considered writing a newsletter to advertise their accomplishments university-wide. A possible link for adjunct faculty under "Faculty & Staff" on the Texas State front webpage was discussed.
6. Faculty shared concerns about AYP and Financial Aid and suspension appeal, and their needs to understand the process better as faculty. Concerns were also shared about academic advisors having to make appeal decisions.

The Minutes from 5/2/2012 were approved.

Adjournment.