

Faculty Senate

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Senators Present: Melzer, Czyzewska, Cavitt, McClellan, Wilson, Furney, Payne, Feakes, Blunk, Hindson, Ash

Guests: Seigler, Supancic, Blanda

1. Call to Order and Announcements
 - a. Council of Academic Deans
 - i. Fiscal Year Computer Refresh Program: there will be fewer choices of units in 2012-2013 (3 choices) in an attempt to control costs.
 - ii. People are only put on the refresh list if they are hired through a regular search (or they are reported to Faculty Records). All faculty who have been hired through other procedures should be reported to Faculty Records to make sure that monies are allocated.
 - iii. CAD discussed the development of guidelines and best practices for the hiring and evaluating of Assistant and Associate Deans and Chairs. They do not wish to create a formalized process through a PPS. It is presumed by CAD that the Personnel Committees would be involved in all such decisions.
 - iv. CAD agreed that there should be a formal evaluation process for Assistant and Associate Deans and Chairs.
 - b. Other
 - i. The Academic Computing Survey, which is polling faculty about ways to broaden the use of ACC funds, has been distributed.
 - ii. A Staff Council Representative will begin attending Faculty Senate Meetings.
2. University Curriculum Committee Report: Dr. Michael Supancic
 - a. There were more than 200 Additions and Deletions of courses for 2013.
 - b. Dr. Supancic, chair of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), shared the actions of the UCC on undergraduate and graduate course additions and deletions in the following colleges.
 - i. College of Science and Engineering
 - ii. College of Liberal Arts
 - iii. College of Health Professions
 - iv. Graduate College
 - v. College of Fine Arts and Communication
 - vi. College of Education
 - vii. McCoy College of Business Administration
 - viii. College of Applied Arts
 - c. Dr. Supancic noted that most deletions were of courses no longer taught or of special topics courses being converted to permanent record courses.
 - d. Some concerns were expressed by the UCC about the lack of clear evaluative criteria for undergraduate and graduate students in stacked courses.
 - e. The UCC will begin the process to revise PPS 2.01 (Courses: Additions, Changes and Deletions) to avoid some difficulties that were encountered in this cycle, including duplication of information and missing information in the required forms.
 - f. A motion was made and seconded to vote on the proposals reviewed. The proposals will be discussed and the vote held at the next meeting.
 - g. The Senate thanked Dr. Supancic and the UCC for their hard work.
3. Faculty Research Profile: Dr. Mike Blanda, Assistant Vice President for Research and Federal Relations

- a. Based on work done at the University of Texas at Arlington, Dr. Blanda initiated the development of a database containing Faculty Research Profiles that would serve to enhance collaboration among faculty across campus, as well as promote faculty specializations to interested parties outside the University.
 - b. Dr. Blanda is going to ask the faculty to opt in, with his office updating and maintaining profiles.
 - c. For those faculty participating, one advantage will be to have the opportunity to create variously formatted vitae automatically, appropriate for different federal agencies (NIH, NSF, OESI, etc.)
4. ASG Update, Cody DeSalvo, Special Assistant to the ASG President.
- a. The Rising S.T.A.R. (Scholarly Travel Activity and Research) Grant program has been established for graduate and undergraduate students. The criteria are being refined, but there will be several application dates. Specific monies will be allotted to each college, with analysis of use by the colleges at different points in the semester. The Senate suggested that ASG use the term “scholarly/creative activities” rather than “research” to reflect the broad range of research activities undertaken at the University.
 - b. There were concerns about the ASG Tailgate events for the Texas Tech v. Texas State University football game. These concerns have been addressed by ASG; at future events, they will increase the presence of security and garbage/recycling cans. Additionally, two student organizations, ECO (the Environmental Conservation Organization) and H.E.A.T. (unknown), will aid with the clean up. The Senate also expressed concern about the safe disposal of charcoal following Tailgate events.
 - c. The Student Body President and Vice President for Students met with Dr. Joanne Smith (Vice President) regarding plans for enforcement of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy, and they reported that they were informed that a required class would not likely be the repercussion for violations of the policy. They also reported that they were told faculty would be expected to report names and id numbers of student, staff, and faculty violators to the University Police Department, a position which the Senate rejects.
 - d. ASG successfully lobbied for Dr. Pepper to return to campus outlets through Chartwells.
5. Old Business
- a. The Senate discussed items for the PAAG meeting on October 3, 2012
 - i. Tobacco-Free Campus Policy Enforcement
 - 1. The Senate would like to note that they do not support a faculty role in the Tobacco-Free Campus enforcement.
 - ii. Clarification of Early Application for Tenure and Promotion Policy
 - 1. The Senate would like a better understanding of the implications of the new guidelines for early application, particularly in the cases of new hires at the Associate and Full Professor level.
 - iii. Unfunded Legislative Mandates
 - 1. The Senate would like to hear the President’s perspective on how the University will deal with unfunded mandates coming from the legislature.
 - b. Presidential Excellence Committee Appointments will be conducted via email.
 - c. There has not yet been a job description created for the new Director of Faculty Development, but appointees for that Screening Committee are needed.
6. New Business and Approval of Minutes
- a. A discussion of funding for summer sessions was continued to the next meeting.
 - b. The Joint Meeting of the Senate, CAD and CoC was set for December 6th, 3:30-5:30pm.
 - c. The naming of members for the College Review Committee for Research Enhancement Grants was continued to the next meeting.
 - d. Concerns regarding health issues in the Alkek Garage have been referred to the Safety Committee.
 - e. The minutes of September 19 2012 were approved.
7. Adjournment