

Faculty Senate

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

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

Guests: Sigler, Wuest, Batey, Grayson, Wagner, Supancic, Autrey, Mandziuk

1. Call to Order & Announcements
 - a. Council of Academic Deans
 - i. The pilot project for using electronic textbooks in classes is moving forward, with Debbie Thorne supervising. Using the E-text platform, the pilot program will evaluate the use of digital texts through TRACS.
 - ii. The Friday/Saturday Class Task Force suggests further examination of enrollment in and creation of classes in the less-used 8am, 5pm, 8:30pm class times, as well as an analysis of actual student numbers in first-call classrooms. They also suggested holding only graduate courses on Saturdays.
 - iii. There was a report on Governor Perry's goals for higher education, which he will promote in the next legislative session. They consist of exploring the assigning of competency-based course credit, guaranteed tuition, and a \$10,000 degree (which has been revealed to include college credit earned in high school and at the community college level, as well as subsidization of tuition costs).
 - iv. Texas State's application to create a local chapter of Phi Beta Kappa has been submitted, but it is likely that we will not be accepted since the number of doctoral faculty in Liberal Arts is too low, and the ratio of faculty to students is too high.
 - b. Council of Chairs
 - i. The administration announced that it will outsource the University custodial services. The transition from University employees to outsourced employees will be done through attrition (when staff retire, they will be replaced by outsourced staff). The COC raised concerns and suggested that the Faculty Senate become involved. The Senate concurred that this should be a future PAAG item.
2. SACS 5th year Report – Dr. Beth Wuest
 - a. Texas State finished the 10-year SACS report in 2010, and now must compose an interim report, due in 2016. The 2016 report will be two-fold: a short version of the full SACS reports (assessing fewer standards), and a QEP Impact Report (which must address all of the objectives and outcomes we have identified). It will report on three years of data from the PACE project, with the first year for data collection to be 2012-2013.
 - b. The Interim Report will assess identified Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements. For more information, see <http://www.sacscoc.org/FifthYear.asp>
 - c. The Fifth-year Report is almost entirely academics-driven to show we are meeting U.S. Department of Education requirements.
 - d. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) seem to be problematic for most institutions, with almost 40% under review having to revise their plans, although Texas State was successful in the 2010 report. SACS requires that institutions show improvement in responding to data collected for assessment. For this reason, if programs already are meeting all SLOs, they might need to consider revising their SLOs to allow for ways to improve particular areas not covered in their current assessment tools.

- e. The percentage of full-time faculty teaching at Texas State will also be reported; SACS requires that at least 25% of courses must be taught by full-time faculty. The focus report of this particular assessment will be Spring of 2015 and Fall of 2015.
3. Faculty Senate Online Election Process - Richard Batey, Willard Grayson, Denise Wagner
 - a. Ms. Wagner and Mr. Grayson have developed an online program to conduct the Faculty Senate Elections online. They presented the program, the site for which will be administrated by the Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant.
 - b. The Senate thanked them for their hard work and the excellent program.
 4. University Curriculum Committee Report (Sept 28th) – Dr. Michael Supancic
 - a. Dr. Supancic reviewed the proposals considered at the September 28, 2012 meeting of the University Curriculum Committee from University College, College of Fine Arts and Communication, College of Health Professions, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and Engineering, and College of Applied Arts.
 - b. Major Program proposals reviewed include:
 - i. The College of Health Professions proposed a Master of Science in Nursing major in Family Nurse Practitioner.
 - ii. The College of Liberal Arts proposed the deletion of the Master of Arts in Applied Geography major in Geography Land Management, the deletion of the Master of Arts major in Health Psychology, and the addition of a Master of Arts major in Psychological Research.
 - iii. The College of Applied Arts requested changing the Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences major in Family and Consumer Sciences to a major in Consumer Affairs, and changing the minor in Consumer Science to one in Consumer Affairs.
 - c. The Committee is working to update PPS 2.01 Courses: Additions, Changes, and Deletions through combining the course request form, supplementary form, and writing intensive form, as well as including relevant BANNER terminology in the course form. The Committee is also developing PPS 2.22 Academic Certificates. These documents will be reviewed at the next meeting.
 - d. A vote was scheduled on all UCC recommendations except the proposal for the University College. University College Dean Dann Brown will be invited to meet with the Senate to discuss the proposed course, GNST 3150.
 5. Work Life Committee – Dr. Roseann Mandziuk
 - a. Dr. Mandziuk came to solicit the Senate’s input on and support for the various programs offered by the Work Life Balance program. There will be a new Work/Life Balance survey coming in the future (to faculty, staff, and graduate students).
 - i. Senators shared concerns that there are limited options for healthy food choices available for faculty. The lack of a faculty dining room has also created difficulties with scheduling faculty interviews and has reduced the potential for interactions among faculty from across the University.
 - ii. Faculty commented that they would also appreciate having a place to work out/exercise without doing so alongside the students.
 - iii. A question was also raised regarding whether the program offering monetary support for new faculty purchasing housing in San Marcos is still available.
 - b. Dr. Mandziuk also noted that the Bobcat Balance Program was funded by the Administration for only 2 years, and that funding ends in August of 2013. The budget is approximately \$53,000 annually, and it makes the program available for all benefits eligible employees. The current usage rate for the counseling services in the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) is 3.5%. She asked the Senate to voice their support for the Administration renewing its funding of the program.
 - c. Dr. Mandziuk and Rose Trevino would be able willing to present on these support services in departments and colleges.
 6. Old Business

- a. The nominations for Committee memberships were continued to the next meeting.
- 7. New Business and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Development of an agenda for the Meeting of Departmental Liaisons.
 - i. Introductions
 - ii. Workload Policy Discussions
 - iii. Safety Presentation
 - iv. Work/Life Balance
 - v. Faculty Research Profile
 - vi. Parking Issues/Parking Garage Issues
 - vii. Election Process
 - b. Following the meeting with Liaisons, the Senate will meet in Executive Session to hear the report from the Piper Professor Committee.
 - c. Adjournment