

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Senators present: Czyzewska, Cavitt, Wilson, Furney, Payne, Kimmel, Feakes, Blunk, Hindson, Ash, Conroy

Guests: Sigler, Thompkins, Snodgrass

1. Information and Follow-Up Items
 - a. The CAD meeting scheduled for February 5, 2013 was cancelled.
 - b. Delegates need to be determined for the Texas Council of Faculty Senates/Texas State University System meeting on March 1-2, 2013.
 - c. The Committee Preference Poll and Adjunct Faculty Committee survey have been sent to the faculty.
 - d. The *Faculty Handbook* is not yet fully formatted, but it has been edited. It will be available for review by the Faculty Senate soon.
 - e. A College of Health Professions representative for the University Curriculum Committee is still needed.
2. Old Business
 - a. Joint CAD/Senate meeting agenda items
 - i. Representation of all Colleges on the Calendaring Committee
 - ii. College-level Part-time Faculty Teaching Awards
 - iii. Inquiry regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
 - iv. Inquiry regarding Faculty Course Evaluation response rates
 - b. The College of Education representative for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Service Committee has been selected.
 - c. An interim Senator from the College of Health Professions is still needed.
 - d. The staggering of terms for representatives on the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Committee was returned to the agenda.
 - e. The Senate would like to invite Cynthia Opheim to discuss the criteria for the Developmental Leave Supplemental Grants, as well as the possibility of publishing them for the faculty.
 - f. Mace Bearers were confirmed for May 2013 graduation ceremonies.
 - g. There have been only 7 responses so far in the Senate's mock election being conducted in the College of Applied Arts.
 - h. Senators attending the luncheons for meeting the candidates for the Dean of the Graduate College were confirmed.
 - i. The Alumni Association would like the Chair of the Faculty Senate to serve on its Board of Directors. Duties of that role include membership on four different committees. A Senator volunteered to serve.
3. Student Counseling Services discussion with Dr. Snodgrass
 - a. There are about 140 crisis intervention appointments each year.
 - b. There are also regular workshops on stress and mood management, and outreach communications to students and faculty.
 - c. In the Fall of 2012, there were 447 new students making appointments at the Counseling Center. There were also 1137 "turn-aways": students who called but were unable to secure appointments on that day. Some of those students may have called more than once, and some may have been eventually seen at a later date.

- d. A ratio of permanent staff to students required for accreditation is 1:1500. Currently, our ratio is 1:3400. The greatest problems with increasing permanent staffing are money and space.
- e. There have not been fee increases to Student Service Fees, the funding source for the Counseling Center, in over 5 years. There are many programs across the university supported by Student Service Fees and the demand on them is very high.
- f. There has been a great increase in students seeking help from the Counseling Center. There has also been an increase in the number of students with significant mental health challenges, as well as an increase in the number of faculty and staff referrals of students.
- g. The Counseling Center has added a full-time psychologist, a full-time case manager, and an administrative assistant in the last 5 years. The recent retirement of a counselor has allowed the hiring of two post-doctoral counselors.

Faculty shared concerns about how to get immediate support for students in active crisis, and also asked that Dr. Snodgrass let the Senate know how it could support his efforts.

- 4. Policy and Procedure Statement Review. The Senate established a procedure for reviewing Policy and Procedure Statements. The Senate will share concerns about language and grammar with Cynthia Opheim, but the primary Senate review will be focused on content and clarity.
 - a. PPS 7.11 Disability Services (1/30)
 - b. PPS 4.02 Conduct of Classes (1/31, extended to 2/15) suggested to retitled it "Conduct and Management of Classes."
 - c. PPS 8.06 Faculty Access to Academic Personnel Files (1/31) was returned to the agenda.
- 5. New Business
 - a. The Chair distributed additional information from the Provost regarding merit raises.

"President Trauth asked members of the Cabinet to consider the feasibility of a 1% contribution from their respective divisions to fund a FY 2014 merit raise that potentially would be 2%. Cabinet members were asked to identify three funding solutions to cover the 1% contribution. Provost Bourgeois discussed the projected amount of the division's contribution, current available funds and sources (including department M&O budgets, adjunct salary funds, and reserved funds for new faculty positions), and budget priorities endorsed by CAD during the last two years. CAD identified and discussed three funding mechanisms. Although it supports increasing faculty and staff salaries and providing net new faculty and staff positions that map to strategic plan priorities, CAD recommended that the President's Cabinet defer a decision about funding and awarding 2% merit raises for faculty and staff for FY 2014 until the legislature completes its work and the university's budget situation is clarified."
 - b. A faculty member suggested that the *Faculty Handbook* be eliminated.
 - c. Senators and faculty expressed concerns regarding the elimination of the BTI tram that serves the San Marcos - Austin and San Marcos - San Antonio routes, as well as the elimination of a number of the 24-hour restricted, reserved faculty spaces designated only a year ago. Both decisions directly contradict promises made to the Senate by Transportation Services Director Joe Richmond in the fall.
 - d. As preparation for a future PAAG meeting, there will be additional discussion regarding the Counseling Center and its budget.
 - e. The January 30, 2013 minutes were approved.