

**Minutes Council of Academic Deans/Faculty Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

**Senate Members Present:** Conroy, Czyzewska, Cavitt, Feakes, Kimmel, McClellan, Furney, Sriraman, Hindson, Blunk, Payne, Covington, Wilson, Ash

**Academic Deans Present:** Carpenter, Brown, Chahin, Smart, Brown, Mottet, Welborn, Hennessy, Seidman

**Administrators Present:** Bourgeois, Opheim, Covington, Wuest, Rebhein, Brown, Heintze, Thorne

**Guests:** Sigler, Tompkins, Rodriguez, Korn

1. Discussion Items

- a. Request for representation of all Academic Colleges on the Registration and Academic Calendar Coordinating Committee
  - i. The committee will be revised in April, the date when the committee is normally reconstituted, and all 8 colleges will be represented among 2 Deans (selected by CAD), 3 Chairs (selected by the CoC), and 3 Faculty members (selected by the Faculty Senate).
- b. Adjunct Faculty Committee proposals
  - i. Part-time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards
    1. The Senate and the Adjunct Faculty Committee propose an award for excellence in teaching for part-time faculty (75% FTE or less), to be awarded within the Colleges.
    2. Some initial concerns were shared regarding the eligibility of staff who teach classes part-time.
    3. The CAD will review the document and send all comments to Michel Conroy, Faculty Senate Chair and Chair of the Adjunct Faculty Committee.
  - ii. Adjunct Faculty Development Release (To become a PPS)
    1. The Senate and the Adjunct Faculty Committee propose awarding up to 6 hours of workload credit for full-time adjunct faculty who have at least 8 long semesters experience at the university, or 8 long semesters have elapsed since their last developmental release time.
    2. Concerns were shared regarding the number of adjunct faculty who might take advantage of such a release. The limit across the university was proposed by the Senate/AFC as 42 workload credits per long semester.
    3. Deans shared their concerns about losing good teachers from the classroom, but others noted that the proposed program would serve to help incorporate the full-time adjunct faculty into the faculty as a whole, as well further retention of quality adjunct faculty.
    4. Some were concerned about asking for commitments from adjunct faculty to teach post-release at the university, and there was consensus that it would be inappropriate to make this a requirement of the program because adjunct employment is based on the needs of the University.

5. It was suggested by the Associate Provost that if approved this document become a PPS.
  6. The CAD will review the document and send all comments to Michel Conroy, Faculty Senate Chair and Chair of the Adjunct Faculty Committee.
- c. Inquiry regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- i. Debbie Thorne presented Texas State University's philosophy regarding distance education, which asserts that all efforts toward developing and exploring distance education are generated by the faculty rather than the administration.
  - ii. Although we have courses employing distance learning (including online and hybrid courses), Texas State University has no plans to use MOOCs as primary instructional approaches. Currently, some faculty are using them to supplement instruction in formal courses (the example was given of using a MOOC to supplement a foreign language class).
  - iii. Concerns were shared about the need to create a policy related to accepting course credits earned elsewhere through MOOCs.
  - iv. It was noted San Jose State University (CA) is beginning to accept MOOCs for course credits.
  - v. Provost Bourgeois stated that, if MOOCs were to be used at Texas State University, their use would have to come from initiatives originating in the faculty.
- d. Online Teaching Evaluation Inquiry
- i. The Faculty Senate reiterated its position regarding the online administering of SPIs:
    1. In response to the House Bill 2504 requirement to provide public access to the results of a common teaching evaluation for organized undergraduate courses, a Texas State committee of Faculty Senators and Chairs representing each of the Colleges, and the Director of the TREC created a set of five questions. The questions, the methods of their delivery, and the use of the results, were thoroughly discussed in the committee deliberations, and also at two open forums. The resulting questions eventually formed the common evaluation, known as the Student Perceptions of Instruction (SPI). The committee was adamant that the SPI never be used for faculty evaluation towards merit and promotion, and was equally opposed to the distribution of the surveys in an online format. It was the committee's firm conviction that the value of the SPI to the students and to the public was directly related to the participation rate for each course, and that this rate would be adversely affected should the surveys be conducted online. Since the inception of the SPI, a variety of groups, most recently the Associated Student Government, have advocated for the conversion of the SPI to an online format.

The Faculty Senate's position regarding conducting HB2504 SPI surveys online is to continue to respect the recommendation of the HB2504 committee.

2. Concerns were shared about the continuing cost and sustainability of paper and pencil evaluations.
  3. Most research indicates that online evaluations result in lower participation rates. Some suggested that response content is similar, but there were concerns that smaller samples might be appropriate in larger classes, but could be extremely problematic in classes of 25-30. The loss of instructional time for the use of evaluations also was raised, as well as the concern that if the SPIs were moved online, there would eventually be pressure to move the regular department teaching evaluations online.
  4. Provost Bourgeois explicitly stated that any policy changes regarding the SPI process would need to come from the Faculty Senate.
- e. Multicultural Curriculum and Transformation Research Institute announcement
    - i. Dr. Mayo asked Dr. Opheim to announce to the Deans that the applications for the MCTRI will be released soon, and will be due March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Institute will be held May 20-24, 2013.
  - f. Legislative Testimony
    - i. Representatives from each of the universities in the Texas State System recently presented to the State Legislature's Education Committees, and then each System President gave his/her presentation. Texas State's presentation focused on tuition revenue bonds for the Science and Engineering Building and the Health Administration Building. The administration argued that the TRBs for these two buildings should be seen by the Legislature as working toward one common effort, rather than as two separate requests.
    - ii. Provost Bourgeois testified about Hazelwood funding, along with Talent from TAMU-Kingsville. Texas State is now the number one university in Texas for Hazelwood tuition exemption costs.
2. Old Business
    - a. Commencement macebearer from McCoy College of Business was returned to the agenda.
    - b. SPSS replacement
      - i. Milt Neilson will visit the Faculty Senate next week to discuss concerns about the growing costs of SPSS and the search for a replacement.
  3. New Business
    - a. Barbara Melzer's Passing
      - i. The Faculty Senate deeply feels the loss of its Chair, Dr. Barbara Melzer, who passed away on February 17. She gave so much of herself to her students and to the university – in service, teaching, and scholarship. The Senate was privileged to have worked with her, and mourns her passing as a friend and a colleague.
      - ii. There will be two celebrations of her life in April: one in San Antonio and one here in San Marcos.
    - b. A College of Health Professions representative is being sought for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity Committee.

- c. Curriculum proposals and the UCC report will be made on March 6, 2013, following the PAAG meeting.
  - d. The Faculty Senate representative to the Parking and Transportation Advisory Council has resigned, as he no longer believes that he has an active role since the committee's former role as developer of policy was suspended. Creating a Faculty Senate Committee or Task Force for Parking was discussed as a possible way to reassert a faculty role in the Council. The issue of administrative changes effectively silencing faculty (and student) input into decision-making, as well as the recent termination of the BTI – an action that illustrated this new administrative model, will be added to the PAAG agenda.
  - e. PAAG Agenda Creation for March 7, 2013
    - i. Mental Health Services for Students
    - ii. Parking and Transportation Services administration
  - f. The rules were suspended to allow a vote to re-affirm the Senate's stance against moving SPIs online. The Senate re-affirmed its stance as stated in 1.d.i.1. above.
  - g. The Chairs have requested that their evaluations be posted alphabetically.
  - h. PPS reviews will continue.
  - i. The ASG has asked for time on the Senate agenda to discuss transportation issues.
4. Approval of the February 13 minutes was returned to the agenda for the next meeting.