

November 30, 2011 Minutes

Members present: Kimmel, Feakes, Hindson, Stone, Wilson, Sanders, Morey, Walker (for Furney), Cavitt, Winek, Melzer, Czyzewska, Conroy

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcement: The Chair distributed salary data for 2011-2012, noting that the table lists only those faculty who were merit-eligible in this cycle. She will request a complete list of salaries from the Provost.

University Research Committee Recommendations: The Senate voted to approve the Committee's recommendations.

Review of Joints Faculty Senate / Council of Academic Deans / Council of Chairs

Meeting: The following items of interest to faculty were discussed at the 11/29 meeting:

1. *Academic Program Review* – The Coordinating Board now requires that all graduate programs be reviewed on a seven-year cycle, and so the Administration has developed a schedule for the next seven years outlining academic program review for all undergraduate and graduate programs.
2. *Faculty Development Leave* – Several chairs complained that it seemed their opinions on proposals for leave have been ignored at times, since proposals they did not find of merit were approved nevertheless. The Chair of the Senate explained that the final decision for approving the proposals rests with CAD, and that there have been a few proposals the Senate rejected that were approved by CAD. Some chairs and deans would like to explore a system whereby their rejection of a proposal would mean that it did not reach the Senate for review. The Senate Chair will share with those parties that the governing PPS requires that review of Leave proposals be undertaken by an elected body such as the Senate.
3. *Campus Safety* – All in attendance expressed the need for the University to develop a more effective system for responding to campus emergencies, particularly procedures for disseminating information and training faculty and staff.
4. *Summer Advising* – Polled by the Chair of the Senate, only a few departments noted that they have faculty advisors in the summer, awarding them workload credit for that role.
5. *Pets on campus* – The University is developing a policy statement that would prohibit pets on campus.

Reasons for Dropping a Class: PPS 4.14 lists approved reasons a student may choose when explaining the need for dropping a course. These options are offered to students by the Banner system when they drop a course online. Of particular concern to the Senate is the option currently listed first: “incompatibility with faculty.” The Senate suggested that this option become one of the choices covered by the final listed option of “Other,” and that it be deleted from the PPS as well.

PAAG Agenda Development: The final PAAG meeting of the fall semester takes place

on December 8 from 4-5 PM. The Senate will suggest the following topics:

1. The Senate's concerns about the growing emphasis on research, defined narrowly, rather than the broader pursuits that are covered under the term "scholarly / creative activity," which better describes the scholarship of faculty across the University.
2. A discussion of the University's efforts to become an emerging research institution and how those efforts can be shared inclusively among all faculty.

BREAK

Update from Faculty Handbook Committee: Chair of the Committee Dr. Pattison reported that the Committee is meeting monthly as they work on revising the *Handbook* and reshaping it as an online resource that can be updated more frequently and easily. Each Committee member is working on a particular section of the *Handbook*, and sharing suggested revisions with the other members via the TRACS site created for the project. They hope to have a complete first draft by the end of the fall semester. For them, the primary audience of the *Handbook* is new and prospective Texas State faculty members. Returning from a recent AAUP meeting at which faculty handbooks were discussed, some Committee members feel that the Texas State iteration too often merely reflects current policies rather than serving as a document advocating for faculty.

A Senator asked that the Senate consider naming a dedicatee for the new edition.

New Business:

1. The Chair was contacted by the Honors College regarding whether the College could elect representatives for the new Adjunct Faculty Committee. The Senate feels there are too few faculty in the Honors College to warrant a seat on the Committee.
2. The Chair reported that the proposal for an Award for Excellence in Online Teaching was developed by the Distance Education Steering Committee to promote efforts to increase the number of Texas State courses offered through distance education. Moreover, the Committee is seeking Senate representatives for the Award Selection Committee. The Chair of the Senate will share with the Committee and those developing a PPS on the new Award that Senators believe outstanding teaching is already recognized effectively by the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. While the Committee is free to award efforts toward distance education, the Senate does not support a new award that rises to the level of an Academic Affairs Policy and Procedure Statement.
3. The Chair reiterated that student evaluations created to fulfill the requirements of HB2504 should not be used for any other purpose and should not be conducted online – views stated forcefully by the sub-committee that developed the evaluation.

Minutes of 9/16/11 were approved.

Adjournment.