

February 22, 2012 Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Morey, Hindson, Sanders, Feakes, Furney, Sriraman, Cavitt, Stone, Meyer, Czyzewska, Conroy, Ash

Guests: Clark (*Star*), Opheim, Batura

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcement:

The Chair discussed the new Behavioral Assessment Team, created to standardize and disseminate policy on disruptive students.

Faculty Conduct: Associate Provost Opheim asked for the Senate's assistance in responding to some recent instances of "faculty misconduct," most often seen in the falsification of information on CVs for annual review. Although the Administration suggested the Senate consider composing a statement on the issue for the *Faculty Handbook*, Senators argued that a better course of action would be for the Administration to revise those PPS documents that govern faculty conduct. In addition, there are already state and federal laws that prohibit submitting fraudulent documents.

University Curriculum Committee: The Senate voted to approve the following recommendations from the UCC:

1. Change the Department of Criminal Justice to a School of Criminal Justice
2. Add Master of Science major in Exercise Science and phase out the Master of Education major in Physical Education specialization in Exercise Science
3. Add an undergraduate certificate in Location Analysis

TCFS Meeting Report: Senator Ash offered highlights of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting, which took place February 17 and 18. Topics presented included talks on faculty legal rights, the General Education core requirements, the importance of the Liberal Arts, online evaluation of faculty, and the nature of student perceptions of teaching surveys. Senator Ash noted that one impression she took from the meeting was that faculty at Texas State have a better work environment than those at many other institutions.

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Liaisons to the Adjunct Faculty Committee: At the urging of the Committee members, the Senate discussed the creation of a liaison system to insure that adjunct faculty have an effective means of sharing concerns with their representatives as well as with the Senate. Senators concluded that there should be liaisons from those departments / schools employing at least ten adjunct faculty. The Senate will select liaisons from those who, on the recent survey of adjunct faculty, expressed an interest in serving on the Committee. The Senate also decided to maintain the current membership of the Committee through 2013.

Chair Evaluation History: Senators responded to several questions sent by Joe Meyer as he develops a method for posting the historical record of Chair evaluations.

CUPA Salaries: The Chair shared current CUPA salary data on Texas State's peer institutions, as well as the salaries at our fellow Emerging Research Institutions. Compared with those in the latter list, Texas State faculty salaries are from 13 to 21% lower. The Administration will revise the list of Texas State peer institutions to reflect our new status as an Emerging Research Institution.

New Business:

1. A Senator inquired about the recent news about instabilities in the Western Athletic Conference, which Texas State plans to join in 2012.
2. The Chair reminded Senators to think about topics for the upcoming joint meeting with CAD.
3. The Chair noted that the Texas State University System maintains a site for anonymous reporting of ethics violations.
4. The Committee on Committees faculty preference survey is now underway. As well, the Chair of the Senate will soon send Senators lists of faculty eligible to serve on the Senate, asking that they check the lists for accuracy in anticipation of the spring election.
5. A Senator shared a concern about the costs for office supplies advertised by the University's supplier, Staples.

Minutes of 2/15/12 approved.

Adjournment.