

February 29, 2012 Minutes

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

Guests: Clark (*Star*)

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcement:

At the most recent CAD meeting, undergraduate admission numbers were discussed. 19,000 applications have been received so far, with a total of 21,000 expected. If the University reaches 12,000 acceptances, it will close admissions in May.

Mace Bearer Selections: The Chair compiled a list of volunteers and nominees to serve as mace bearers at the spring commencement ceremonies.

University Budget Report from CAD: The Chair distributed a recent memo from CAD outlining the University current list of proposed budget priorities developed in light of the ongoing economic downturn in state funding and increases in unfunded legislative mandates:

1. Do not terminate full-time Academic Affairs employees for budget reasons.
2. Replace current empty faculty and staff positions.
3. Add adjunct and/or tenure-track faculty to meet enrollment growth and in response to strategic needs.
4. Provide funds for limited equity salary adjustments.
5. Establish a 3% merit pay pool.
6. Add net new staff positions to address enrollment growth and strategic needs.
7. Add support for graduate fellowships for carefully targeted programs.

These recommendations will be forwarded to the President's Cabinet on March 5, so Senators should share any concerns with the Chair as soon as possible.

Budget Information Request: The Chair noted that Gorden Thyberg and the Provost have requested clarification on the Senate's charge to the Budget Committee that it investigate the University's 2010-11 budget allocations, and have asked that the Chair of the Senate meet with them to discuss the Senate's goals for the charge. After discussion, the Senate decided that its first priority is to research how much money the Provost's Office actually disbursed to departments / schools, and how that disbursement compared to the original budget allocations.

Chair History Clarification: Returning to questions from Joe Meyer as he prepares electronic posting of the history of Faculty Perception of Chairs surveys, the Senate decided that they support making no change to authentication guidelines for access to the surveys. Also noted was that the Provost does not wish the histories of former Chairs to remain posted. However, the Senate prefers a full history rather than an incomplete record.

PAAG Agenda Development: The following topics were discussed as possible agenda items for the upcoming PAAG meeting:

1. An update on the stability of the WAC as Texas State moves toward becoming a member.
2. A discussion of University budget priorities.
3. A discussion of recent mandates advocated by the Coordinating Board.
4. A discussion of the ways Chairs at other Emerging Research Institutions are compensated, as well as the sort of contracts they offer to Chairs.

New Business:

1. Senators discussed faculty concerns about the procedures for processing applications from international students and potential international faculty hires.
2. A Senator noted questions about the instructions provided to Presidential Excellence Award nominees as they upload their nomination materials. In particular, the Senator wonders what sort of materials nominees should include in the folder labeled “Commitment to Service.”
3. Faculty members requested a more efficient and seamless method for posting grades from the Testing Center on TRACS.
4. A faculty member asked how rules for the number of required office hours are established. Regents Rules state that all full-time faculty must maintain five office hours per week. More clarification, however, is needed from the Regents on the role of and attitude toward online contact with students.
5. A Senator reported that the University will change to a new health insurance provider beginning September 2012.

Minutes of 2/8/12 and 2/22/12 were approved.

Adjournment.