

Faculty Senate / PAAG Meeting Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Senators: Bell-Metereau, Blunk, Cavitt, Conroy, Covington, Czyzewska, Feakes, Furney, Hindson, Menninger, Morris, Payne, Sriraman, Weill, White

President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim

President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) discussed the impact on Texas State admissions of House Bill 5, changing curriculum at the high school level. Associate Vice President Heintze reported on anticipated changes. Admissions standards are not changing because Texas State hasn't changed. High schools have more flexibility as a result of HB5. Texas State may change the way it communicates requirements. For the next two years, students will be under 4 x 4 system, although they may opt out.

Board of Regents meeting

- Approved masters in engineering
- With no Tuition Revenue Bonds, there are fewer construction projects.
- Texas State's guaranteed tuition plan was approved, mandated in last state legislative session. This plan is more expensive on front end (12% more) probably the same in middle, but cheaper in the end; students pay a premium for predictability. Students who dropout cannot resume guaranteed rate. This is a good option for some students.

Perception of increased crime on campus

- Clery Act requires the issuing of crime alerts in a timely manner. Texas State is comparably a very safe place.
- Currently, alerts don't state where incidents are happening (SM or RR campus).

Facilitating participation of Round Rock faculty in academic affairs

- Distance technologies to facilitate interaction rather than policy
- Some interactions are better face to face; some can work via technology
- Disciplinary hearings or judicial proceedings need to be face to face
- People involved need to decide the appropriate method
- Skype needs technology and depends on the number of people involved
- Telephone conference call can be as productive and it's easier to employ
- Faculty need a list of Skype enabled and conference call enabled rooms
- The university needs to see both campuses supported by the administration
- The culture of having two campuses needs to be internalized and recognized

Planning for facility renovation projects by academic units:

- Some departments have submitted renovation requests. Central point for receiving and facilitating requests is the university facilities committee, which makes recommendations across several funding sources.
- Facilities makes recommendations to the provost, who makes decisions and presents to the president. Labs and faculty offices usually are top priorities for academic projects. If funding is available, a hybrid model, combining university employees, contractors, and larger projects that get subcontracted out through a proposal process may be employed.

PAAG Review

Senators questioned whether admission standards might be lowered with changes in high school curriculum requirements.

Action item: Dual campus culture shift in relation to committees and service requires faculty senate to do more outreach to Round Rock faculty in making committee appointments. New committee chairs could emphasize using technology to include all faculty. Senator Weill volunteered to explore an IT proficiency professional development workshop.

Old Business:

University Research Committee

Research Enhancement Program recommendations accepted.

- Ranking changed slightly with correction of bonus points, but awardees didn't.

Presidential Award process revisions feedback

- Primary problem is types of evidentiary materials, which are not all parallel. Senator Menninger offered to draft some pen and ink revisions.
- Criteria listed are not equally applicable to all disciplines and are unclear

Comments on tobacco policy: everyone satisfied with the outcome.

Transportation services advisory representative: Senator Menninger has agreed to be a representative if approved.

New Business:

Retirement and Benefit Programs Committee: Bill Stone will report in January.

CAD 11/26/13 report on budget goals:

- Not terminating full-time academic affairs people for budget reasons;
- Replacing current empty faculty and staff positions;
- Adding adjunct or tenure track faculty to meet strategic needs
- Providing funds for limited equity and salary adjustments.

Faculty concerns forwarded to senate:

- When will university do something about grade inflation?
- Honor code: pattern of dishonesty not clearly defined.
- Curriculum release needs to be monitored by chair and dean.
- Faculty salaries should be posted once chair receives data.

11/20/13 minutes approved as amended. Adjournment at 6:05