

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, June 11, 2014
JCK 880, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Present

Senators: Augustine Agwuele, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Elizabeth Blunk, (Audrey McKinney standing in for Brock Brown), Michel Conroy, (Chris Russian standing in for Barbara Covington), Debra Feakes, Ju Long, (Shane Smith standing in for Lynn Ledbetter), Shirley Ogletree, Emily Payne, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

Administrators: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim, University College Dean Dann Brown

Guests: Oren Renick, Gaye Korenek, Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. by Senate Chair Conroy

Regents rules changes

President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois and Associate Provost Opheim addressed two changes to the Texas State University System Rules and Regulations enacted by the Board of Regents at their May meeting.

- **Faculty grievance procedures**

A Board of Regents decision to eliminate faculty grievance committees in the faculty grievance process system-wide resulted in a letter of concern from the Texas State Faculty Senate to Perry Moore, the TSUS vice chancellor for academic affairs. No response has been received to the letter, which was sent on May 21.

President Trauth said she was sympathetic with the Senate's stance to retain the faculty grievance committee, but that the regents had decided a hearing officer was sufficient for future cases. She did not consider the decision to be negotiable.

Senators reiterated their support for the shared governance that the faculty grievance committees provided and their disagreement with the Board of Regents decision to end the committees. Oren Renick expressed concern that the decision also changed the time period allowed for filing a grievance from 90 to 10 days, a timeframe that seems unreasonably short and contradictory to due process. This abbreviated time limit may also preclude the possibilities of informal resolution and mediation. The interpretation of this time constraint will be pursued by the Associate Provost Opheim with Nelly Herrera from the TSUS Office of the General Counsel.

- **Tolling (suspension) of tenure clock**

A policy in effect at Texas State regarding tolling (suspension) of the tenure clock for approved reasons has been codified by the Board of Regents for system-wide use. Provost Bourgeois said Texas State faculty seeking to toll (suspend) their tenure clock must now also get approval on the system level. Examples of reasons that a faculty member might seek to toll their tenure clock are medical issues or renovations of laboratories that interfere with research.

- **Related Board of Regents topic**

Currently, there is no faculty representation on the TSUS Board of Regents. The Senate believes a position of this nature should be discussed and considered.

Reporting of outside employment

Gaye Korenek, director of faculty records, encouraged the senators to remind their constituents about the legal requirement to seek prior approval for outside employment. Faculty with nine-month contracts who work or teach elsewhere in the summers must secure approval for that employment as well. Previous to this point, faculty could use discretion and submit the request for approval form only if they perceived a conflict of interest, but henceforth, all outside work that is compensated must be approved.

US 1100 and PACE Council

Dann Brown, the dean of University College, answered questions about US 1100 and the PACE (Personalized Academic and Career Exploration) Council. University Seminar (US 1100) “is a course designed to help meet transitional needs of new Texas State University students. The course encourages reflection upon the value and nature of a university education, as well as helping students to develop strategies for life-long learning.”

Dean Brown addressed the concern that US 1100 no longer has a director for the course taught to freshmen and transferring undergraduates each semester (275 sections for F14). Brown said he is serving as the interim US 1100 director until a new director is hired, ideally by June 2015. He said a search will begin this fall.

There is also Senate concern that the faculty is not well represented on the council, that the council is largely staff members, and that council meetings are scheduled during class teaching times making it difficult for some designated faculty representatives to attend. It was proposed that adjunct faculty representatives be appointed to the council.

BREAK**Committee appointments**

The recommended Faculty Senate committee appointments were discussed, reviewed, revised and approved. Notices to faculty of these appointments will be forthcoming.

New business

- Representative needed, University Survey Committee for July meeting.
Senator Ogletree offered to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill