

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, August 27, 2014
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Present

Senators: Augustine Agwuele, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Elizabeth Blunk, Brock Brown, Michel Conroy, Barbara Covington, Debra Feakes, Ju Long, Lynn Ledbetter, Shirley Ogletree, Emily Payne, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

Guests: Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison; UPD officer Philip Holden; UPD Capt. Rickey Lattie; Alexa Tavarez, *University Star*

Meeting called to order at 4 p.m. by Senate Chair Conroy

Information and follow-up items

- Council of Academic Dean reports for 8/12, 8/19 and 8/26 from Senators Conroy and Bell-Metereau
Issues from the CAD meetings include: Administrators will need to develop a “five-deep plan” for governance in case of absences, a discussion about the necessity of University Council, and proposed changes to the institutional policy regarding greatly expanded responses required for reports of sexual misconduct.
A proposed change to PPS 8.10 would clarify the process of meeting and/or commenting on candidates denied tenure, promotion or reappointment.
No change will be made this year to the summative review of chairs process. The Faculty Senate has advocated for the addition of an external observer in the summative review procedures.
- UPPS/PPS review system
Senator Feakes requested that when senators review a PPS and the PPS does not include reference to adjunct faculty where they should be included that the issue be brought to the Senate for consideration and revision.
A revised method of UPPS/PPS review by the Faculty Senate will include having one senator with knowledge of the PPS content review it and then bring any concerns to the full Senate for discussion.
- Senator Bell-Metereau reported that the search committee is conducting Skype interviews with candidates for the AVP for International Affairs position. The top candidate(s) selected from these interviews will be invited to campus.

Safety escort program, UPD officer Philip Holden

Officer Holden discussed campus security and the Bobcat Bobbies Escort Service. Based on requests from temporarily physically disabled students, Cats on the Go is now available for students on campus who sign up for it through ODS. Transportation is provided with motorized carts similar to the ones used by Bobcat Bobbies. Holden said that UPD and security officers are addressing the need to be more visible on campus and the escort service is available “dawn to dusk.” He and Capt. Lattie agreed with Senator Covington that Round Rock was lacking in such services, and said funding was the issue. They agreed that with the rapid growth in Round Rock, the university needs to address this safety issue.

Committee assignments follow-up

Faculty Senate appointments to the Adjunct Faculty Committee and Honor Code Council were discussed and approved. Notices will be sent to appointees.

Senate 2014-15 goals discussion

- The Faculty Senate will work to improve communication with faculty liaisons and committees through personal contacts, email and visits to departmental faculty meetings when possible. The idea of a Faculty Senate monthly newsletter was discussed but not approved. Historically, the newsletters have not been widely read by the faculty. Instead, regular emails to the faculty with bulleted information from the Faculty Senate are being considered.
- The Faculty Senate will strive for a working relationship with TSUS system officers and seek the establishment of faculty representation on the TSUS Board of Regents. TSUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Perry Moore will be invited to speak with the Faculty Senate.

Tabled

- Discussion of sustainability and the environment by renaming and revising purpose of the related senate committee
- Subcommittee update on perception of chairs and administrators survey questions
- Counseling Center services and resources across the university
- Research support and incentives

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill