

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, September 3, 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; Benjamin Enriquez, *University Star*

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

**INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- Council of Academic Deans (CAD) report for 9/2 from Senator Sriraman  
The Common Experience theme for 2014-15 is *Exploring Democracy's Promise: From Segregation to Integration*. The theme honors the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the university. The book selected for Common Experience this year is *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, by Anne Moody.  
At last week's Board of Regents meeting, a revision to the faculty grievance process extending the time for filing a grievance from 10 to 30 days was approved. [The Faculty Senate is grateful to the Provost for initiating this change with the TSU System.]  
Limited new M&O funds are available, a portion of which will go to the general fund and a portion to be distributed via requests to the deans. Some senators commented that the recently revised M&O allocation formula does not sufficiently address course needs and requested a report on the formula revision process.  
A need to improve outcomes assessments was discussed, as was the number of master's students, which dropped from 891 in 2013 to 710 this fall.
- Academic Computing Committee (ACC)  
Appointment of Chad Smith as the Liberal Arts representative member was approved and the Senate endorsed non-voting ACC participation for Milt Nielsen and Jose Rodriguez.
- PPS 8.10 revisions  
A proposed change to PPS 8.10 clarifies the process of meeting with and/or commenting on candidates denied tenure, promotion or reappointment.

**PERCEPTION OF CHAIRS AND ADMINISTRATORS SURVEY QUESTIONS**

Senator Agwuele reported that the committee is working on revisions to the survey and will bring proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate for discussion.

**PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAAG) DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Discussion items proposed for the 9/3 PAAG meeting include: A report from the most recent TSUS Regents meeting; Undergraduate enrollment management and a proposed cap; the Senate objective of a faculty representative on the TSUS Board of Regents; steps needed to develop a working relationship between the Faculty Senate and the TSUS Board of Regents; and, the newly revised M&O formula.

**SENATE 2014-15 GOALS DISCUSSION**

**Improve communication with faculty, liaisons and senate committees**

- Monthly Faculty Senate bullet points  
Senator Long, in collaboration with all senators, will begin developing this monthly e-mail communication to the Texas State faculty. The goal is to keep the faculty updated on significant Senate activity and other important information, with links provided for access to more details about each topic. The target date for first release is Oct. 1.
- Senator visits to department/school meetings  
Senators will work with their college liaisons to develop stronger relationships and to decide how to best communicate Senate information and concerns to their faculty and administrators. One suggestion was a monthly meeting with the dean, senator(s) and liaisons, similar to the College of Fine Arts & Communication model.
- Senator college council membership  
Some colleges already have faculty representation though a senator on their college council. Senators from colleges that do not will discuss this further.

**Improve (or create) working relationship with TSU System**

This will be initiated by inviting TSUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and former Texas State University Provost Perry Moore to speak with the Senate.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A clarification was provided on the six years of full-time employment required prior to receive Faculty Development Leave (FDL). The tenured faculty member must have taught at Texas State for six years, so an FDL proposal may be submitted in the sixth year.
- The Retirements and Benefits committee asked the Senate to correct PPS 6.01 in relation to eligibility for associate professor emeritus status. PPS 6.01 states 10 years, but Regents Rule 4.94(2) states 15 years. There is also concern that the PPS process starts with the dean of a college and no input from faculty.
- Parking availability in some garages on campus continues to be an issue. A recommendation to reduce the number of handicapped spots because they are often empty was addressed as an ADA decision based on a formula that cannot be altered.
- Concern was raised related to Texas State health insurance and coverage, including 1) changes to the prescription policy requiring employees to use generics for a month even if their physician has specified the non-generic, and 2) cases of no out-of-pocket maximums for coverage. Senators and liaisons are asked to poll the faculty in their departments and to e-mail Senator Ogletree (so01) any reported problems.

**RETURNED TO AGENDA**

## Senate goals

- Sustainability and environment  
This discussion will include: Renaming and revising Facilities and Environment committee's purpose and function, revising the 2012-17 university plan goal #5 to include an objective that better reflects the university's long-term commitment to a sustainable future, and creating a "sustainability czar" faculty service position with course release for an interested and qualified Texas State faculty member.
- Counseling Center services and student resources, including Round Rock

## New Business

- Research support and incentives
- Online SPIs discussion request
- Alma mater wording change

Minutes of 8/27/14 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill