

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2014
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Present

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

Administrators: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim, Graduate Dean Golato

Guests: Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison; Benjamin Enriquez, *University Star*

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

PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAAG)

- Report from the TSUS Board of Regents meeting
The coming legislative agenda was a primary topic at the recent Board of Regents meeting, according to President Trauth, who also noted a positive discussion on the proposed Texas State nursing practice doctorate. She said Texas State has been a leader in the system with Title IX procedures, copyright policies, and the recent inclusion of gender identity and expression in the TXST non-discrimination policy.
Improving Faculty Senate and TSUS interaction
President Trauth said the current Board of Regents is supportive of Texas State and that they consider the provost to be the representative of the Texas State faculty, one with whom they work well. Both President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois thought a suggestion to request faculty representation on the board could be problematic based on the different kinds of schools in the system and a concern that faculty from other institutions might not accurately represent the faculty at Texas State. The president also pointed out that meeting with an individual institution’s faculty senate might not fit within the responsibilities of the vice chancellor position.
- Update on M&O allocation formula revision
Provost Bourgeois said the M&O formula developed in 2006 has worked well and the committee charged this past year with considering revisions did not recommend major changes to it. He said some departments had not historically included certain student wages in their operating expenses, which brought down their reported expenditures and negatively impacted their M&O allocations. Deans can request one-time supplemental funds to address unmet needs in their colleges. He also said that departments have been “held harmless” in regards to M&O allocations, but over the next few years, there will be a series of limited adjustments.
- Undergraduate enrollment management
There is currently no cap on undergraduate enrollment at Texas State, and strategic planning is in process to deal with future growth, according to Provost Bourgeois. One issue the president hopes to address regarding freshman cohorts is the need for Texas State to offer national merit scholarships and other significant financial incentives to freshman on the scale of UT and Texas A&M. Administrators also emphasized the importance of continuing to increase graduate student numbers and programs.

PAAG FOLLOW-UP

Reaction to the PAAG discussion was generally positive. The Senate will continue to explore possibilities for interaction with the system.

One concern with uncapped undergraduate growth is that it can create demands on available resources, facilities and classrooms unforeseen in strategic planning. In engineering, the number of majors is four times what was projected, a situation that strains not only engineering faculty, resources, facilities and classrooms, but also those in the sciences and mathematics.

INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- Council of Academic Deans (CAD) report for 9/9 from Senator Conroy
The deans heard a proposal to streamline travel requests by eliminating approval of out of state travel and lodging costs that exceed the lodging per diem set by the state.
Dean Dann Brown described a proposal for block scheduling of freshman classes as a means to improve retention. The TK20 eportfolio Faculty Qualifications project is in stage 2. The five most recent years of faculty CV entries are being entered by paid graduate students on a staggered department schedule, with a target of completion in

2018. Once this data is entered, a faculty member will then be responsible for maintaining his/her e-portfolio CV. The provost has asked for discussion to take place across the university about whether the University Council should be continued. The original purpose of the council was to provide a forum for divisions across the university, but a more developed network and digital communication have greatly reduced this need. Also, because of demands on staff and faculty time, attendance at UC meeting tends to be low.

- Adjunct Faculty Committee report, Senator Sriraman, AFC Chair
The Adjunct Faculty Committee has elected a new slate of officers, including a web master. The committee has also established three goals for 2014-15: the investigation of an adjunct faculty career ladder; the development of a separate merit evaluation policy for adjunct faculty; and the development of a document of best practices for non-tenure-track faculty.
- Mace bearer assignments
There are 15 graduation ceremonies during the 2014-15 school year. Each senator is asked to serve as the mace bearer for one ceremony.
- Perception of administrators, written comments on deans posted until 12/5
The deadline to access written comments on deans from the perception of administrators' survey has been extended to 12/5.

SENATE GOALS, CONTINUED

- Counseling Center services and student resources, including Round Rock
The new counseling director at Texas State will be invited to speak with the Senate regarding the Counseling Center, services and student resources, including those at Round Rock. Other related administrators may also be asked to discuss student resources with the Senate.
- Research support and incentives
As Texas State works toward national research university status, this is an important issue to consider. Suggestions to accomplish this goal included course release for faculty members working on complex grant proposals and that the writing and submission of grant proposals be considered in merit evaluations. Most colleges have a grant specialist who can assist faculty with locating funding sources and writing proposals.

RETURNED TO AGENDA

- Online SPIs discussion request
- Continued discussion of Counseling Center services and student resources, including Round Rock

Minutes of 9/3/14 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill