

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, September 17, 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

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

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

**INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- A joint meeting of the Faculty Senate with the deans and chairs is tentatively scheduled for 11/19.
- Mace bearer assignments for commencements during the 2014-15 school year are being set. Retiring faculty may be invited to bear the mace as a tribute to their service.
- The University Arts Committee will select two student members. No Faculty Senate endorsement is necessary.
- The Lower-Division Academic Course Guide manual was distributed via email. Senators will review revisions in their subject areas.
- Nominations for the Piper Professor Award are due 10/1. Professionally qualified faculty are eligible.
- Applications for the Adjunct Faculty Work Release Program for the 2015-16 school year are due 10/10.
- Faculty salary information for the 2014-15 school year will be posted in late November.
- *Trends in Scholarship and Research* faculty events at Alkek Library
  - Oct. 1, Wittliff Gallery, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: *Making an Impact with your Research*
  - Nov. 14, Alkek 105/106, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., *Making an Impact, Technology and Trends*

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON PERCEPTION OF CHAIRS SURVEY QUESTIONS**

Proposed revisions to the chairs perception survey were distributed to the Faculty Senate. Further revision and discussion are necessary.

**SENATE 2014-15 GOALS SUMMARY AND PRIORITIZATION**

**#1: Improved communication with faculty, Senate liaisons, Senate committees and TSUS**

A monthly email to faculty is planned with bullet points of significant Senate activities, links to detailed information and a request for faculty comments and concerns. The target date for first release is 10/1. Senators will visit school and department faculty meetings when possible and work with liaisons to develop stronger relationships.

Colleges without Senate representation on their college councils will be asked to explore the possibility.

To develop a closer working relationship with the TSU System, increased involvement with the TSUS Council of Faculty Senates will be pursued.

**#2: Counseling Center service and student resources, including Round Rock**

Counseling Center and student resources administrators will be asked to visit the Senate.

**#3: Sustainability and environment**

The Facilities and Environment Committee will be renamed with a revised charge and function, including more proactive engagement with sustainability issues across the university. University plan goal #5 will be revised to include an objective that better reflects the university's long-term commitment to a sustainable future.

**#4: Research support and incentives**

Senators will discuss current research support possibilities with chairs and deans, and related administrators will be invited to talk with the Senate.

**NEW BUSINESS; CONCERNS SUBMITTED BY FACULTY MEMBERS**

- PPS 8.10 concern
  - Recent changes to PPS 8.10 that eliminate the ability of a faculty member denied tenure to be given reasons for the decision were questioned, based on the PPS wording "are not entitled" not being the same as "may not be given." There is concern that the terminology is demoralizing and that perhaps exit counseling might be offered to someone denied tenure. This will be explored by the Senate and possibly included as a PAAG item.

- Perception of chairs survey written comments  
Only the chairs, deans, provost and president have access to the comments submitted by faculty regarding chairs.  
After discussion, the senators declined to pursue faculty access to these written comments at this time.
- Faculty Development Leave years of academic service  
The question related to years of academic service on the FDL online application has been reworded: How many years of full-time tenure-track and/or tenured academic service have you had at Texas State?

**RETURNED TO AGENDA**

- Proposed revisions to chairs perception survey questions
- Proposed revision of Alma Mater wording
- PPS 8.10 concern

Minutes of 9/10/14 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill