

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 24, 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; 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 set for November 19 at 3:30 p.m. in McCoy Hall 233.
- The University Survey Committee is scheduled to meet on November 20 and the faculty representative has asked for issues that should be brought to the members. The senate discussed the archiving of collected survey data in a central repository for convenient utilization of the findings.
- The senate endorsed the appointment of a program chair to serve as Health Professions representative to the University Research Committee. Normally chairs are not members of senate committees, but an exception was made in this case due to the small number of tenured and tenure-track faculty in the program.
- The inaugural edition of the monthly Faculty Senate bullet points will be distributed by email to faculty in early October.
- Minutes of 9/17/14 approved as amended.

COMMITTEE CHARGES

- The name of the Facilities and Environment Committee may be changed to the Environment and Sustainability Committee with an expanded role and title for the chair. The committee, with Senate assistance, will craft a revised purpose and function to better reflect the university's long-term commitment to a sustainable future, in part by revising the university's plan goal #5 to include an objective that better reflects that commitment. The committee will be asked to assess where the university is now and establish a timeline for recommendations.
- Retirement and Benefit Programs Committee will examine health insurance programs, particularly those that are self-insured, at Texas universities for comparison to Texas State health insurance. The committee will also consider drafting a customer satisfaction survey related to Texas State health insurance for distribution to Texas State faculty by the Faculty Senate.
- Handbook Committee will be asked to update the grievance procedures section and the Title IX misconduct reporting section. The Handbook posted for faculty is dated 2006 and needs to be replaced with the revised edition.
- Budget Committee will be charged to summarize and provide major trends from the last ten years of the Texas State budget.
- Academic Standards Committee will be asked to compile a report on academic standards changes necessary as Texas State moves toward national research university status.

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN FACULTY SENATORS AND LIAISONS

The joint meeting of the Faculty Senate and liaisons for the fall semester is October 1, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Alkek 105. Concerns from department and school faculty will be discussed, as well as concerns related to promotion and tenure. Another discussion will focus on the Faculty Senate's proposal for standardizing and formalizing the three-year evaluations of tenure-track faculty across the university.

RETURNED TO AGENDA

- The proposed alma mater wording revision discussion will continue after the family of Jessie Sayers, the author of "Alma Mater," and the Texas State Alumni Association are contacted about changing "cheering the oppressed" to "freeing the oppressed." Possible copyright issues will also be explored.
- PPS 8.10 concerns related to promotion and tenure will be discussed at the joint Faculty Senate and liaisons meeting on October 1.

- Proposal that the deans of Honors College, University College and Graduate School be included in the annual perception of deans survey

HB2504 SPI DISCUSSION

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Debbie Thorne discussed usage patterns of the Student Perceptions of Instruction (SPI) website, where course evaluations, syllabi and faculty vitae are compiled and made available. This is required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as part of Public Access to Course Information legislation passed in 2009.

The peak usage times for the SPI website at Texas State occur shortly after faculty and administrators receive notification that the SPIs for have been posted and when faculty receive notification of the deadline for faculty uploads of syllabi and vitae. There is no method for identifying who is accessing the site, so student usage is not known, although there is increased usage during class registration periods.

The SPI surveys are filled out during classes, except for online courses. There is faculty interest in, and resistance to, having all SPI surveys be completed online. The director of the Texas State Teaching, Research Support and Evaluation Center will be invited to visit the Faculty Senate to discuss the implications of converting SPI student evaluations to online submission.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill