

Faculty Senate/Senate Liaisons Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
4-6 p.m.
Alkek 105/106

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

Senate Liaisons present: Moonis Ali, Computer Science; Brenda Boucher, Physical Therapy; Scott Bowman, Criminal Justice; Ann Burnette, Communication Studies; Celeste Domsch, Communication Disorders; Ted Hindson, Political Science; Jeff Housman, Health and Human Performance; Louis Intersimone, Modern Languages; Jesus Jimenez, Ingram School of Engineering; Margaret Menninger, History; Paivi Rentz, Library; Shane Smith, Theatre & Dance; Greg Spencer, Physics; Stephen Springer, Occupational, Workforce & Leadership Studies; Paula Williamson, Biology

Guests: Benjamin Enriquez, *University Star*

4-5 p.m. Joint Meeting of Faculty Senate and Senate Liaisons

The meeting was called to order by Senate chair Michel Conroy.

Introductions and 2014-2015 Senate functions and goals

Senate functions

- Shared governance
 - PAAG meetings with President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, and other Academic Affairs personnel
 - Appointments of faculty to senate committees
- Peer review and oversight
 - Developmental leave
 - Adjunct faculty committee
 - Research Enhancement Program
 - Academic computing
 - University lecture series
 - Piper professor awards
 - Teaching Excellence awards for part-time faculty
- Policy and procedure reviews
 - Review of new and revised policy and procedure statements
 - Endorse curriculum creation and revisions

Senate goals

- Improve communications with faculty, liaisons, and senate committees
 - Discussed the soon-to-be released bullet points of senate activities
 - Recommended senator visits to department and school faculty
 - Discussed possible senate representatives attending college council meetings
 - Recommended increased involvement of senate with the TSUS
- Counseling center services and student resources, including those services and resources at Round Rock
 - Reinforced the need for equal services for students at the Round Rock campus
- Sustainability and environment
 - Recommended strengthening and refocusing the charge of the committee

- Research support and incentives
 - Recommend increasing support for faculty to conduct research

Discussion of Senate function regarding PPS 8.10 reviews

Chairperson Conroy gave an update on the changes to PP 8.10 regarding the section of the policy on a faculty member who has been denied tenure and/or promotion access to a written statement explaining the action. The PPS language now says that faculty members who are denied T&P are not “entitled” to a written explanation for the decision.

Liaisons and senators met in college groups to discuss senate goals and any issues the liaisons have brought from their faculties. Following the college meetings, the groups reported back to the full senate and liaison group. The primary concerns from each group cluster around lack of classroom space, low salaries, equipment replacement funds, and workload. The college groups’ specific concerns follow:

Applied Arts (Reporters Christine North and Scott Bowman). Applied Arts faculty identified the following issues for senate consideration: workload equity and flexibility, too little office and classroom space, too few staff, low salaries, advocacy for new faculty lines to address increased enrollment, needed improvements in the campus infrastructure, and concerns about faculty who join Texas State with tenure having to wait a full year to vote on personnel committee decisions.

Fine Arts and Communication (Reporter Ann Burdette). Fine Arts and Communication faculty brought forward the following concerns: Classroom space needs, needs to consolidate faculty lines, freeze on staff hiring, need for a Faculty Senator to attend faculty meetings for departments without senators, and the need to have a faculty member on the TSUS Board of Regents or on TSUS committees or subcommittees.

Education and Library (Reporter Jovita Ross-Gordon) Education faculty and Library staff voiced concerns about the lack of a career ladder for librarians, limited space for offices and classrooms, adjuncts teaching heavier loads to accommodate increased enrollment, lecturers and senior lecturers categorized as adjuncts, and PPS 8.10

Science (Reporter Debra Feakes). Science faculty focused on issues related to lack of funding for equipment replacement, enrollment increases in undergraduate service courses, work load issues with adjuncts, lack of career ladder for adjuncts, and summer teaching assignments that are tied to faculty seniority.

Health Professions (Reporter Barbara Covington) Health Professions faculty focused on space needs (especially at Round Rock), issues with buildings that are not ADA accessible, failed faculty searches because HP cannot recruit acceptable candidates, and concerns with the name of undergraduate degree programs such as pre-Physical Therapy hindering their students’ admission into graduate programs.

Liberal Arts and Business (Reporter Rebecca Bell-Metereau) The combined faculties of Liberal Arts and Business expressed concerns about the Office of Disability Services switching to contract workers who work with students with disabilities (contract workers are not university employees and, as such, do not have access to TRACS), low salaries parking and transportation issues related to parking lot locations and lack of electric car recharge stations, the increase in the bat population in parking garages, and an excess of grass and other plantings that require more water than native plants.

5:30 Break

5:35 Information and follow-up items

President’s Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) agenda for October 8, 2014

The agenda items for the upcoming PAAG meeting are:

Deans' Survey. The senate is adding University College, the Graduate College, and the Honors College to the deans' survey.

Faculty Handbook. The senate will inquire about the anticipated release date for the faculty handbook; it is currently being reviewed by Academic Affairs.

Equipment Replacement. Based on a discussion point from the liaison/senate meeting, the senate will ask about creating an equipment replacement fund. Vedaraman Sriraman will draft the request.

Senators agreed to table two topics until a future PAAG

Salary Equity Adjustment. The senate agreed to table an inquiry about the possibility of a salary equity adjustment in the next fiscal year. This topic was based on discussion with the liaisons.

Impact of Delayed Retirement. The senate also tabled a discussion of the impact of faculty who delay retirement on hiring and career advancement of less senior faculty members.

University Research Committee representatives

Senators approved the appointments of Dr. Barbara Boucher from Health Professions and Dr. Dhiraj Vattam from Applied Arts to the University Research Committee.

5:55 Approval of 09/24/2014 minutes

6 p.m. Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Senator Payne