

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 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

Administrators: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim

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)

- Additions to the perceptions of administrators survey
To provide faculty input for the evaluation of the Honors, Graduate and University College deans, the Faculty Senate plans to add these deans to its perception of administrators surveys. The working relationship that faculty have with these deans differs from that with other academic deans, so customized sets of questions will be developed. This addresses a concern raised by the provost. For the Honors College, the faculty surveyed will be those teaching honors courses. For the Graduate College, faculty surveyed will be those actively teaching graduate courses. For University College, those surveyed will be faculty and staff teaching US1100 and General Studies courses. The target date to release these surveys is spring 2015.
- Approval and reporting of outside employment changes
Regents Rules require that all faculty, including adjuncts, gain prior approval for all outside compensation including honorariums of any amount and outside compensation earned during the summer by faculty on nine-month contracts. A travel stipend or payment to cover other expenses incurred for invited lectures and presentations does not need to be pre-approved. Royalties earned from published textbooks and certain other products of scholarly/creative output are exempt from the approval requirement.
The president and provost agreed to pursue revisions via the TSUS Rules and Regulations Committee to make \$500 the bottom threshold for pre-approval and reporting, and also that this requirement apply only to faculty members employed at least half-time by the university.
- Funding for growing equipment costs, including instrumentation updating costs
One of the issues that confront units, especially those with equipment intensive programs, is the replacement of obsolete and non-repairable equipment and instrumentation. Funding for equipment requires yearly requests that departments make for one-time funding, a process the president and provost said is necessary at this time, even though some departments must apply every year and are funded on a continuing basis. They said more funding for equipment may be available this school year with the first draw-down from the Hazelwood Trust Fund. Matching funds are also expected from TRIP, the Texas Research Incentive Program for emerging research institutions.
- Presentation of Swinney Teaching Awards
President Trauth presented Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Teaching Award plaques to Steve Wilson, professor of English, and Vedaraman Sriraman, professor of engineering. Distinguished Professor Emeritus Swinney taught history at Texas State for 48 years and served on the Faculty Senate for 18, eight of those as chair. The Faculty Senate Teaching Awards were named in his honor after his retirement in 1997.

PAAG FOLLOW-UP

Reaction to the PAAG discussion was generally positive. Questions for the three additional perceptions of administrators surveys will be compiled by senators and brought to the full Senate for discussion.

INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- Multi-disciplinary Internal Research Grant (MIRG) program pre-proposal December 15
The Office of Research Development at Texas State University deadline for pre-proposals to the 2015 Multi-disciplinary Internal Research Grant (MIRG) program is December 15. Invitations for full proposals will follow in January 2015: “The goal of this competition is to establish or expand multidisciplinary research teams, with the expressed purpose of enabling teams to earn sustained extramural support. Teams should include experts from different colleges, schools, departments, or disciplines. This opportunity is open to all fields of research.”
Senators and liaisons will encourage applications from their faculty colleagues.

- CAD 10/7 meeting report

An issue of concern raised at the CAD meeting was graduate students at Texas State teaching graduate courses, grading graduate student work, and having access to graduate student records, . Another discussion related to the Regents Rule of pre-approval and reporting of outside employment by Texas State faculty. Dwight Watson, an associate professor of history, was introduced as a faculty liaison with the provost office, assisting with the mentoring and retention of minority faculty and students.
- University Survey Committee requests due November 1 or July 1

The expanded survey of perceptions of administrators to include Honors, University College and Graduate School deans will be prepared for the November 1 committee. A healthcare satisfaction survey will not be pursued at this time.
- Piper nomination candidates

There are five Texas State applications this fall for Piper Professor Awards. The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation recognizes faculty members in Texas colleges and universities for outstanding achievement in teaching. Texas State has 20 Piper Professors, the second highest number in the state.
- Faculty representation on Title IX UPPS review committee

Senators Conroy and Weill will serve and committee members from the sciences and health professions faculty are being sought. The UPPS review will focus on policy changes in the reporting of sexual misconduct.
- Work/Life Council faculty representative appointment

The senate endorsed the two-year appointment of Senator Feakes to the council.
- Faculty Development Leave review process

The senate will review and rank 51 FDL applications on October 29. This year, all applications were electronically submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Concerns from faculty
 - Parking changes on campus for football game

There was concern voiced about the lifting of parking restrictions on Green and non-reserved Red spaces at 3:30 p.m., rather than the usual 5 p.m., on Oct. 14 for the televised Texas State football game. The issue relates to students and faculty coming to campus for evening classes that day and not being able to find a place to park.
 - Requests for information and action

Modern Languages faculty who met with Liberal Arts senators voiced concern about issues related to first-call classrooms, possible abuse of handicapped parking spaces, adding plus (+) and minus (-) to Texas State letter grades, and concerns about health insurance. These meetings will continue across the university as the Faculty Senate works to improve communication with faculty and Faculty Senate liaisons.

Minutes of 10/1/14 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill