

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, October 15, 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 Miller Payne, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

Guests: Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison; Gail Ryser, director, Testing, Research Support and Evaluation Center; Eugene Curtin, chair, Piper Professor Selection Committee; John Wilcox, *University Star*

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

INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- Academic Affairs Budget Committee (CAD) 10/14 meeting report
In prioritized order, the Budget Committee recommends (1) not terminating full-time Academic Affairs employees for budget reasons, (2) filling vacant faculty and staff positions, (3) adding tenure-track and/or adjunct faculty to meet enrollment growth and strategic plan needs, (4) giving 3% merit pay increases, (5) providing funds for limited equity salary adjustments, (6) adding new staff positions to address enrollment growth and strategic plan needs, and (7) adding support for graduate students including increased stipends. These recommendations will be submitted to the President's Cabinet.
- Adjunct faculty representative to Work Life Council
The nomination of mathematics senior lecturer Glynda Betros to a two-year term on the Work Life Council was endorsed by the Faculty Senate.
- Title IX UPPS meeting representatives
Senators Conroy and Weill will represent the senate for the Title IX UPPS draft review meeting. Other faculty representatives to the meeting are Bill Stone, professor of criminal justice, and David Wiley, professor of health and human performance.
- Proposal to University Survey Committee
The senate is interested in exploring ways to archive task force reports and data from surveys conducted within the university in a central location for convenient access and utilization of the findings. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) restrictions must be taken into consideration.

HB2504 Student Perceptions of Instruction

Gail Ryser, director of Testing, Research Support and Evaluation Center, discussed the [HB 2504](#) student perceptions of instruction (SPI) surveys. She said Texas State online courses use online SPI surveys and have about a 27% response rate, compared to the scantron SPI responses of between 18% and 85%. She said both delivery systems, online and scantron, skew high for course evaluations and that converting to online surveys would be more cost and time effective. She said Texas State has the SNAP program in place for online student perception surveys. Concern was voiced for how to incentivize student participation and raise response rates. Ryser said some universities hold grades, or release them early, as incentives. She also said online student evaluations are used widely nationwide and that several departments at Texas State have approached her about using online surveys instead of scantrons.

Perception of deans survey questions, University College

A draft of the survey questions for evaluation of the University College dean was presented to senators. They will review the questions and suggest revisions.

Piper Professor Selection Committee recommendations

Eugene Curtin, chair of the Piper Professor Selection Committee, reported that the committee received five applications from Texas State faculty. He submitted the name of the committee's recommendation for this year's Texas State nominee, and the next two highest rated applicants. The senate suspended its rules and voted to endorse the committee's recommendations. All three applicants will receive Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Teaching Awards. The committee did not propose any revisions to the Piper process but wants to encourage more Texas State faculty to apply. It was also recommended that future applicants seek guidance and feedback from Texas State [Piper award recipients](#).

NEW BUSINESS

- Wellness focus group

The Faculty Senate was approached about serving as a focus group for a wellness study being conducted by faculty in the Department of Health and Human Performance. It was decided that the time requested was not available due to regular Senate business.

- Inquiries and concerns from faculty

- UPPS revision input request

- The Council of Chairs has requested that one or more chairs, as well as senators, be included in the discussion of revision to UPPS 07.07.06 as related to graduate students having access to other graduate students' records while serving as TAs and GAs. Senators Ogletree, Payne and Agwuele volunteered to represent the senate.

- Emergency Notification System

- The senate was asked to investigate whether departments will be required to pay for emergency notification devices installed in seminar rooms and recently renovated classrooms.

Minutes of 10/08/14 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill