

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, November 5, 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, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

**Guests:** Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison; John Wilcox, *University Star*

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

**INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

**Council of Academic Deans (CAD) meeting reports**

- 10/28 meeting, Senator Conroy

Title IX policy: (1) Students are more actively reporting incidents of sexual misconduct to the [Office of Equity and Access](#) this fall, in part due to training being conducted with all freshman and federal requirements related to Title IX, and (2) all faculty and staff are required to take the Online EEO and Title IX (Sexual Misconduct) training related to [UPPS 04.04.42 Prohibition of Sexual Harassment](#).

The Faculty Senate is recommending that the term “victim” be replaced where appropriate by “complainant” in the documents related to charges of sexual harassment. The word victim implies that the complaint has been found to be true, not just submitted by a complainant. Also the word victim is not a word preferred by many of those who have survived such experiences.

Texas State Ebola policy: the Texas State Student Health Center has [posted Ebola information](#). President Trauth also [posted an Ebola-related message](#) to the Texas State community.

University Council renamed University Leadership Assembly: discussions to consider disbanding the University Council resulted in the group being renamed University Leadership Assembly. The Faculty Senate is recommending that adjunct faculty representatives be appointed to the group. A governing UPPS is being drafted.

- 11/4 meeting report, Senator Conroy with notes taken by Valerie Anderson

Topics discussed included (1) the annual computer refresh cycle this year will update or replace 443 computers across the university, and (2) the biennial alumni survey is being prepared (3) the [Common Experience](#) Instructor’s Guide was distributed,

**Texas Council of Faculty Senates and TSUS Council of Faculty Senates 10/24 meeting reports**

- Senators Conroy and Weill represented Texas State. At the TSUS Council of Faculty Senates meeting with Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Perry Moore and Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Sean Cunningham, topics included (1) faculty dissatisfaction with the system-wide grievance policy change that removed faculty grievance committees from the process, (2) budget concerns related to the impact of the [Hazlewood Act](#), (3) bachelor degrees being proposed by community colleges, (4) the possible impact on higher education of recent statewide elections, and (5) classroom space issues across the system.
- At the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting, [AAUP](#) executive director Julie Schmid discussed issues in higher education including (1) fewer faculty in governance-eligible positions, (2) the fact that about 70% of all faculty appointments nationwide are now contingent (adjunct), and (3) job security for non-tenure track faculty. Senator Weill participated in a panel discussion of faculty intellectual property rights.

**Student Perceptions of Instruction (SPI) ([HB 2504](#)) online project proposals for fall and spring**

The Faculty Senate approved a pilot project for online administration of SPIs. Students in the School of Journalism & Mass Communication and Clinical Lab Science will comprise the pilot group for this fall. In the spring, several other departments will join the pilot project. Based on the results of the project, online delivery could be recommended for all SPIs beginning fall 2015.

**Faculty Development Leave (FDL) review process**

All 51 of the FDL applicants this fall were recommended by the Faculty Senate, in this first cycle to use online FDL applications. Several suggestions for revision were discussed, including (1) more sections on the application to departmentalize aspects of proposal narratives such as methodology and benefit of the proposed project to the university, and (2) a two-page CV.

**Faculty Development Leave (FDL) Supplemental Award Committee faculty representatives**

Of the 51 FDL applications recommended, 28 applied for the 10 awards available through [supplemental funding](#). Senators Bell-Metereau, Feakes and Ledbetter will serve on the committee. They represent a diversity of disciplines.

**Returned to agenda**

Perception of deans survey questions reports

Senators were given copies of the proposed surveys of perception for the deans of University College, the Honors College and the Graduate School. The target date to begin these surveys is spring 2015.

Inquiries and concerns from faculty include (1) conflict of commitment in outside employment, (2) plus/minus grades, and (3) the possibility of attendance at promotion and tenure meetings via alternate telecommunications methods and how to vote anonymously in that situation.

Minutes of 10/22/14 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill