

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Present

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

Guests: Paivi Rentz, Library Liaison

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

Introduction of Audrey McKinney, who replaces Brock Brown as a senator from the College of Liberal Arts.

INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- Council of Academic Deans (CAD) 12/16/14 and 1/13/15 meeting reports
Topics discussed at the two CAD meetings included (1) the Council on Texas State University's participation in the 2015 Innovation and Economic Prosperity Universities Designation Program, (2) the annual evaluation report process for TK20, (3) the Young Alumni Engagement Survey, (4) approved Title IX language for new contracts, and (5) President's Cabinet approval of \$126,000 in Merrick Funds for graduate fellowships.
- Spring calendar dates for the Faculty Senate
 - Jan. 30 Meeting open to all adjunct faculty with Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim and Senator Feakes. This is the inaugural of monthly Q & A dialog meetings for adjunct faculty. The meeting will be held 2 – 4 p.m. in Alkek 147 and live streamed to Round Rock in Nursing 124.
 - Feb. 18 Senate/Senate Liaisons meeting, 4:00, McCoy 233
 - Feb. 25 President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)
 - Feb. 27 Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting: Senators Conroy and Miller Payne will attend
 - March 11 PAAG
 - March 23 Senate election cycle begins
 - March 25 Joint meeting with CAD, 3:30, JCK 11th floor
 - April 8 PAAG
 - May 6 PAAG
- American Association of University Professors (AAUP) conference, June 11-14
Senators Feakes and Conroy will present a talk related to increased resources for adjunct faculty at Texas State to the AAUP conference. The theme of the conference is the state of higher education in the U.S.
- English Department external observer assignment
Senator Sriraman will serve as the external observer for the English Department chair summative review.
- University Lecturers proposals
To date, six proposals have been received for funding of campus speakers. Additional proposals for speaker funding that is "just in time" or "late breaking" was discussed.
- Annual or biennial publication of online catalogue inquiry
Annual publication of the online catalogue was endorsed by the Faculty Senate, but there is concern about course revisions in nursing that need further discussion. Curriculum Services director Micky Autrey will be asked to address this concern.

PPS review assignment

UPPS 04.04.07 Nepotism and Related Employment: Senators Conroy and Feakes

Senate 2014-15 goals recap and review

A goal of the Faculty Senate is improved communication between senators and faculty. In this regard, the monthly Faculty Senate Bullet Points were initiated last fall. Several senators have also attended departmental faculty meetings. Another goal of the Faculty Senate is improved communication between senators and Faculty Senate Liaisons. Currently, there is a joint meeting with senators and liaisons twice yearly, but other ideas for improving communication will be explored.

Other goals of the Faculty Senate are to continue working with adjunct faculty to improve working conditions and to advocate for sustainable environmental policies and practices.

Environment and Sustainability Committee charge

The Faculty Senate charge to the committee includes: An energy survey and/or audit to determine current state of conservations campus wide, identifying stakeholders on campus, identifying best practices nationwide and building sustainability into the campus vision and plan. One idea is to create a service position of environment czar to coordinate the committee's campus activities.

Inquiries and concerns from faculty

A discussion of plus/minus grades proposed by a faculty member in October was returned to agenda at the 11/5 Faculty Senate meeting but not included on a subsequent agenda. It was suggested that the faculty member who proposed the discussion be asked to attend a Faculty Senate meeting with information related to the plus/minus system.

Tk20 Faculty Qualifications annual report form

Many concerns were raised by faculty involved in the inaugural use of Tk20 Faculty Qualifications for annual reports, primarily serious problems with the design of the program and issues with entering and editing data. The career implications of material entered incorrectly by data entry staff, problems with material that is not captured or allowed to be entered and other deficiencies of the Tk20 program raised many questions. It was suggested that the program not be used for annual evaluations until faculty can review and edit their own materials.

Minutes of 11/12 and 12/3 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill