

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 28, 2015
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Present

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

Guests: Associate Provost Cynthia Opheim, Curriculum Services Director Micky Autrey, Educational Technology Center User Service Consultant Whitten Smart, Graduate College Dean Andrea Golato, Educational Technology Center Director Michael Farris, Michael Supancic, Library Liaison Paivi Rentz, *University Star* reporter Bleah Patterson

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

INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- Council of Academic Deans (CAD) 1/27 meeting report by Senator Conroy
Topics discussed at the CAD meeting included (1) a stricter and more uniform policy for extending “Incomplete” (I) grade for graduate students across the university, (2) a request for an electronic process for change of grades, and (3) the three tracks for high school diplomas related to House Bill 5.
- University Lecturers proposals
Sixteen proposals have been received for funding of speakers. An additional process for speaker funding that is “just in time” or “late breaking” will be discussed by the University Lecturers Committee.

Tk20 Faculty Qualifications annual report process

Associate Provost Opheim addressed concerns raised by faculty involved with the pilot project of the Tk20 Faculty Qualifications annual report process. Problems encountered by faculty include (1) the truncated timeline for completion, (2) the inaccuracy of entered data, (3) the control of data entry, (4) the program limitations, (5) insufficient categories for all faculty information, and (6) the appropriateness of using these pilot reports for annual faculty evaluation this year considering the problems. Dr. Opheim said many problems are being addressed and that the pilot groups have been granted additional time for completion because of the reported issues. She also said that to address concerns, piloting departments have been offered options to use an editable Word document version of the TK-20 report, or alternative formats for annual reports this year. She noted that the primary purpose of having all faculty information in the Tk20 system is to create a searchable database for use by the university and standardized reporting for annual reviews.

Annual publication of online catalogue

Curriculum Services Director Autrey and Graduate Dean Golato presented a case in favor of annual digital online publication of the undergraduate and graduate course catalogs. Currently, the catalogs are published every two years but amended with color coding during the two years of circulation, while the graduate catalog is published digitally, but continuously updated. Reasons to change to annual publication include (1) It helps synchronize programs, (2) Most program revisions are annual, and (3) Annual publication of catalogs is the most widely utilized by universities because of annual program changes. After discussion, an endorsement of converting to annual online publication of the Texas State catalogs was requested of the Senate and it was received. The goal for the first annual catalogs is 2015-16.

Inquiries and concerns from faculty

The math faculty are concerned about chronic problems with the scheduling of classrooms. The registrar will be invited to speak with the Senate about this issue.

Minutes of 1/21 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill