

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 4, 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: Associate Registrar Martha Fraire-Cueller, Counseling Center Director Kathlyn Dailey, Vice President for Student Affairs Joanne Smith, 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

- Faculty Handbook update
The revised Faculty Handbook has been reviewed by the TSUS Office of the General Counsel and will be posted soon.
- Inaugural Monthly Dialog with adjunct faculty, 1/30
Senator Feakes reported that the first Monthly Dialog meeting for [adjunct faculty](#) was a well-attended Q & A session with Provost Bourgeois and Associate Provost Opheim. The meeting was live streamed to the Round Rock campus. Concerns raised by attending faculty included (1) senior lecturer contracts, (2) workload equity, (3) contract language, (4) scholarly requirements, and (5) eligibility as PI for REP.
- Vice President for Finance and Support Services search
Senators are interested in meeting with the candidates. The Office of the Provost will schedule lunch meetings.
- February Bullet Points
The monthly Faculty Senate Bullet Points were approved with a revision.

Classroom scheduling concerns, Associate Registrar Martha Fraire-Cuellar

Classroom scheduling currently involves three programs: SAP, Banner and Astra. Associate Registrar Fraire-Cuellar said training for these programs is available for those experiencing problems with them. In addressing concerns about inadequate classroom space, she said one issue is that departments tend to hold onto 1st call classrooms as “squatters” because student numbers in classes are not known until shortly before semesters. The Faculty Senate will explore whether a task force should be created to re-evaluate [1st Call Classrooms](#).

Status of resources at the Counseling Center, Director Kathlyn Dailey and VPSA Joanne Smith

Director Dailey, who has worked at the [Counseling Center](#) for 29 years, was introduced as the new director by VPSA Smith. Resource updates on the Counseling Center included (1) an increase in the number of support groups, (2) four levels of online appointment forms—emergency, urgent, initial and one-time, and (3) a new staff line for a psychologist. Daily said the center is working to provide regularly scheduled counseling to Round Rock students by fall 2015 and until then, a counselor may go to Round Rock on case-based need. Currently, students at Round Rock must come to San Marcos or be referred to private counselors whose fees are not covered by the university. Dailey said the most pressing concerns for the Counseling Center are space, staffing and serving the needs of students in Round Rock.

TSUS Rules and Regulations revision request: 4.51 Dismissal for "insubordination"

The Faculty Senate will request a definition of “insubordination” as included in the [TSUS Rules and Regulations](#). Currently, insubordination is listed as grounds for termination of tenured and non-tenured faculty members.

Discussion items for TSUS Council of Faculty Senates

Senators Conroy and Miller Payne will represent the Faculty Senate at the TSUS Council of Faculty Senates spring meeting. Topics suggested for discussion at the meeting include (1) a request for minutes to be taken at the TSUS CFS meetings for distribution to member senates, (2) a follow-up with the vice chancellor related to outside employment of faculty, (3) adjunct faculty representation at the TSUS CFS meetings, and (4) adjunct policies across TSUS.

Inquiries and concerns from faculty

- Faculty Senate committee membership
Faculty Senate Liaison Rentz asked for clarification on library department heads serving on Faculty Senate committees as the practice has been mixed in the past. For consistency of rules and eligibility, a motion was made and approved that the Faculty Senate not appoint academic and library chairs and directors to its committees.
- A faculty member's request that the senate endorse a petition in response to a case that is considered a breach of academic freedom at the University of Illinois was introduced: Returned to Agenda

Minutes of 1/28 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill