

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Present

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

Guests: 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) 2/10 meeting report by Senator Conroy
Topics discussed at the CAD meeting included (1) Family Campaign is currently scheduled to begin on March 9, (2) a small increase in restricted research funding, (3) adjunct faculty concerns including reclassification to senior lecturer, annual evaluation and merit and workload, (4) confusion over the new small class reporting process, (5) redesign of the SAT, (6) university tobacco policy now includes e-cigarettes, (7) Freescale Internet of Tomorrow truck will be on campus March 12, (8) the Alkek and LBJSC Teaching Theaters will be renovated, (9) the Texas State University System Academic Affairs Committee has responded favorably to the proposed new Doctorate of Nursing Practitioner and Masters of Health Information Systems, (10) the president and provost will be testifying in both Texas House and Senate committees the next couple of weeks, (11) Alumni Affairs is requesting information from departments and schools related to homecoming events, and (12) events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act are scheduled for October 26 and November 5
- Adjunct Faculty Committee meeting 2/6 report by Senator Sriraman
The committee had three subcommittees looking into tenure, career ladders and best practices for adjunct faculty. Recent administration feedback was not supportive of tenure and a career ladder for adjuncts, so best practices will be pursued with recommendations for revisions to any PPS or UPPS with specific reference to adjunct faculty. Representatives of the Adjunct Faculty Committee will attend the joint Senate/Senate liaisons meeting on 2/18 to describe their accomplishments and works in progress.

Joint Senate/Senate Liaisons meeting

The Faculty Senate and Senate Liaisons joint spring meeting is scheduled for 2/18 at 4 p.m. in McCoy 233. Representatives of the Adjunct Faculty Committee will discuss their work and accomplishments. Other topics to be discussed include the Faculty Qualifications process and classroom assignment issues. Senators and liaisons are asked to poll their constituents on these and other concerns.

President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) discussion items for 2/25

Possible discussion items for the PAAG meeting include (1) the president's legislative testimony (2) SB11, the "campus carry," bill and (3) adjunct faculty issues. Senators and liaisons are asked to poll their constituents for other concerns.

Vice President for Finance and Support Services (VPFSS) candidate lunch meetings

The Faculty Senate will host lunch meetings/interview sessions with candidates for the VPFSS position. The lunches will be held in the Faculty Senate conference room, JCK 880, on April 2, April 8, April 15 and April 29.

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Faculty Senate intends to redirect and expand the committee's mission to involve the entire university community in efforts to increase environmental awareness and to implement best practices for stewardship and sustainability. Possible strategies include conducting a campus energy audit, monitoring and reducing waste and pollution, improving efforts to conserve water and energy, and incorporating concepts of sustainability into the curriculum and strategic planning processes.

Inquiries and concerns from faculty

- Skype use for Personnel Committee votes

A department inquired if the requirement that Personnel Committee members be present to cast votes on personnel decisions can be satisfied via Skype participation. The associate provost's reply was that a PC member may attend a PC meeting via Skype if approved by the department or school, but the member cannot cast a vote without being in physical attendance at the meeting.

- A faculty member's request that the Faculty Senate endorse a petition in response to a situation considered a breach of academic freedom and shared governance at the University of Illinois was discussed and tabled. The senators voiced support for academic freedom and shared governance, but have concerns about the particular case related to the petition.

Minutes of 2/4 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill