

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
McCoy 233, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Attending

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

Senate Liaisons: Paula Williamson, Biology; Dave Falleur, Clinical Laboratory Science; Celeste Domsch, Communication Disorders; Ann Burnette, Communication Studies; Moonis Ali, Computer Science; Scott Bowman, Criminal Justice; Ruth Taylor, Marketing; Louis Intersimone, Modern Languages; Matthew Eichler for Stephen Springer, Occupational, Workforce and Leadership Studies; Brenda Boucher, Physical Therapy; Christine Norton for Catherine Hawkins, Social Work; Chad Smith, Sociology; Shane Smith, Theatre & Dance

Guests: Adjunct Faculty Committee representatives Andrew Marks and Shannon Duffy; Library Liaison Paivi Rentz; Kristen Ploeger, CIS & Quantitative Methods; *University Star* reporter Bleah Patterson

Faculty Senate/Senate Liaisons Joint Meeting (4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

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

Introductions by Senate Chair Conroy followed by a discussion of the possibility of issuing a Faculty Senate proclamation in response to HB 937 and SB 11 that, if passed, allow anyone 21 years and older with a concealed handgun license to carry handguns in state college and university buildings. The topic was added to the agenda for the College breakout discussions.

Adjunct Faculty Committee (AFC) presentation, Senate Vice Chair Sriraman

Senator Sriraman introduced and turned the presentation over to AFC members Andrew Marks and Shannon Duffy. Marks reported that there are more than 900 adjunct faculty at Texas State with 17 different titles. Adjuncts at Texas State include all non-tenure track faculty; per-course and full-time lecturers clinical and research faculty and professors of practice. Other topics discussed included (1) [the AFC website](#), where adjunct accomplishments and service opportunities are posted, (2) the [Adjunct Work Release Program](#), (3) a reduction in campus parking fees for per-course adjuncts, (4) the Part-Time Teaching Excellence Award, (5) orientations for adjunct faculty, and (6) the various [adjunct policies by department/school](#).

Council of Academic Deans (CAD) 2/17 meeting report by Senator Conroy

Topics discussed at the CAD meeting included (1) faculty with certified permanent disabilities may request accommodations by contacting Sherry Benn in Student Affairs, (2) antiquated fire alarms in some buildings and the fire alarm notification process.

College representatives' breakout discussions and summary reports

Classroom assignment concerns:

- Request for better communication from the Registrar's Office about room assignments for classes
- Request for better communication from the Registrar's Office about rooms scheduled by campus groups
- Possible re-evaluation of 1st call classrooms and the addition of 2nd call classrooms
- Concern that some faculty have back-to-back classes scheduled in rooms far apart on campus
- Classroom scheduling involves three computer programs that do not communicate with each other
- Small classes being scheduled into large classrooms
- Double booking of classrooms
- Late add and drop periods for classes are too long, which causes problems for students and faculty
- Graduate student numbers are not counted for stacked classes when classrooms are assigned

Faculty Qualifications (FQ) use for annual reports

- Many problems reported by FQ pilot departments and concern about how the FQ problems will be solved before the next implementation of the program.
- Departments in the FQ pilot group had to use hardcopy CVs for annual reports because of the myriad problems.

Concealed handguns on campus

- Senators and liaisons voiced concerns about concealed carry on campuses. The majority support a Faculty Senate proclamation against it. One argument offered by supporters of concealed carry on campuses relates to the safety of women.

Lack of nominees for Presidential Excellence (PE) Awards

- All departments are not submitting nominees in all categories. Possible reasons include: (1) competitive nominees are lacking or, (2) qualified nominees do not want to be recommended.
- Some departments and colleges require a hard copy portfolio and an electronic submission of the hard copy portfolio which is extremely time intensive and discourages applicants
- The nomination process varies by departments and colleges
- Faculty would like to see samples of PE Awards packets considered exceptional
- Faculty may be uncomfortable asking students for letters of recommendation (although letters from students are not required)

Central receiving and reporting process

- Central receiving has not gone digital so the manual processing and limited staff result in slow deliveries and no digital record

Other concerns

- Perception of Chairs surveys should be conducted after faculty evaluations are returned
- Faculty evaluation processes vary widely across campus.
- Women police officers not being available for women victims of sexual assault
- Multicultural designation for courses not being recorded on student transcripts

Break**Faculty Senate meeting continues with follow-up discussion (5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.)**

The joint meeting with the liaisons was considered highly productive. The Faculty Senate will follow up on concerns raised during the meeting by (1) further discussing a Task Force to evaluate the classroom situation, (2) continuing to monitor the Faculty Qualifications process, (3) drafting a proclamation in opposition to concealed carry on campuses, (4) exploring ways to address the other issues.

Presidents Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) agenda wrap up

Topics for discussion at the next PAAG meeting will include an update by the president and provost related to the current legislative session and concealed carrying of handguns in state higher education campus buildings.

Minutes of 2/11 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill