

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
JCK Regents Room, 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 Payne, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

Administrators: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim

Guests: Library Liaison Paivi Rentz, Tom Grimes, Shannon Duffy, Jacqueline Lege, *University Star* reporter Bleah Patterson

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

PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAAG)

- Legislative update

Issues before the Texas Legislature related to Texas State include:

(1) Two major building projects, an Engineering and Science building in San Marcos and a Health Professions building in Round Rock, which have support to receive at least partial funding from the state. President Trauth said a \$5 million pledge from Texas State supporters Bruce and Gloria Ingram will be eligible to be matched by TRIP funds for the Engineering and Science building.

(2) The [Hazlewood Act](#) mandates higher education benefits for Texas veterans and their dependents but does not provide funding to cover the costs to Texas universities. This school year, Hazlewood has cost Texas State more than \$15 million, of which only a fraction has been reimbursed. A recent federal court ruling that Hazlewood must be made available to all eligible veterans residing in Texas regardless of where they enlisted is causing alarm for Texas universities already absorbing the cost of the program.

(3) Guns will be allowed in university buildings if SB11 and HB937 become law. President Trauth said she supports the TSUS position to delegate authority to each system's Board of Regents, which would likely allow TSUS presidents to make individual cases for their institutions. President Trauth said Texas State University does not want guns on campus.

(4) An increase of \$3 million in HEAF funds is anticipated, raising the amount for Texas State to \$24 million. HEAF funds support campus improvements such as deferred infrastructure maintenance, classroom renovation, lab equipment and library essentials.

See also: [University Leadership Assembly Legislative Update](#)

- Concealed carrying of handguns in state university buildings

President Trauth does not support legislative bills SB11 and HB937 currently under consideration, which would allow concealed carry of handguns in state university buildings. She said the 2007 Texas State University statement continues to reflect her thoughts on the issue: *The priority of Texas State University is, first and foremost, the safety of our students, faculty and staff. The university does not believe that a campus with more guns is necessarily a safer campus.*

The Faculty Senate has drafted a position statement in response to SB11 and HB937 that will be delivered to Vice Chancellor Perry Moore at the 2/27 TSUS Council of Faculty Senates meeting and later that day to ask the Texas Council of Faculty Senates to consider issuing a position on this issue: *The Texas State University Faculty Senate joins with the Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Faculty Council at The University of Texas at Austin, and colleagues across the nation in voicing our position that carrying firearms, including concealed weapons, on university campuses by anyone other than law enforcement officers is detrimental to the safety of the students, faculty and staff.*

- Board of Regents meeting report

The doctorate of Nursing Practice and the master's in Health Information Management proposed by Texas State were approved. Also, funding was approved for addition to Star Park and renovation funds for Strahan Coliseum were requested. President Trauth said Strahan needs additional seating to accommodate the overflow crowds at commencements.

- Adjunct faculty dialog report, Provost Bourgeois and Associate Provost Opheim

Senator Feakes was thanked for her work with and commitment to adjunct faculty issues. The provost and associate provost then addressed issues raised by adjunct faculty at the first adjunct faculty dialog meeting. The

provost said there will not be a career ladder at Texas State for adjunct faculty. The associate provost said that a change of title from lecturer to senior lecturer is a conversion, not a promotion. It was reiterated that adjunct faculty should be treated fairly in the salary review process, that merit policies should not be disadvantageous to adjunct faculty based on their limited responsibilities, that chairs and directors should be conscious of equity in assignment of adjunct workload, and that if there is a research expectation for adjuncts then resources must be made available to them.

PAAG FOLLOW-UP

Reaction to the PAAG discussion was generally positive. It was suggested that concerns raised by the Adjunct Faculty Committee should continue to be heard by the Senate and not considered closed because of the provost's current stand on the issues.

Adjunct Faculty Committee (AFC) request, Senator Sriraman and Shannon Duffy

Senators Feakes and Conroy were thanked for their continued commitment to adjunct faculty at Texas State and for initiating the Adjunct Faculty Committee. Two requests were submitted for consideration: (1) an AFC representative on the Faculty Senate, and (2) shared governance on Personnel Committees that includes adjunct faculty representation. Senator Sriraman, who as vice chair of the Faculty Senate serves as chair of the AFC, expressed his support of the two requests. A discussion followed related to changing the term adjunct to non-tenure track.

Student Perceptions of Instruction (SPI) surveys

- Spring 2015 trial using Tk20 program
Departments that will take part in the SPI online trial this spring include: Family and Consumer Science, Art History, Clinical Lab Science, Art and Design, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Anthropology and Mathematics may join.
- Fall 2014 trial reporting and review
The School of Journalism and Mass Communication was the only department that took part in the SPI online trial in the fall. Participation numbers were similar to the departmental evaluations, which are also conducted online for the school.

Academic Affairs Budget Committee report, Senator Conroy

The Budget Committee agreed on the priorities listed below for the Division of Academic Affairs:

- Do not terminate full time Academic Affairs employees for budget reasons.
- Replace current empty faculty and staff positions.
- Give at least a 3% merit pay increase to faculty and staff. The merit raises would also apply to GA positions.
- Add tenure-track, adjunct faculty, and/or graduate assistants to meet enrollment growth and in response to strategic needs.
- Add net new staff positions to address enrollment growth and strategic needs.
- Provide funds for limited equity salary adjustments.
- Add support for graduate students including increases in stipends and/or tuition fellowships.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Minutes of 2/18/15 approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill