

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
JCK Regents Room, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Attending

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

Administrators: Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Cynthia Opheim

Guests: Faculty Senate liaisons Chad Smith, David Wiley, Louis Intersimone, Ann Burnette and Karen Sigler; *University Star* editors Nicole Barrios and Cameron Cutshaw; *University Star* reporter Jon Wilcox.

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

PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAAG)

- Adjunct faculty concerns and requests

- (1) The definition of adjunct faculty at Texas State

- According to [PPS 7.22](#): “Adjunct faculty are faculty who are not eligible for tenure.” At Texas State, there are 17 titles for adjunct faculty whose positions range from per-course to full-time. The provost and associate provost found that adjunct is the term used most often at universities nationwide, but see no reason to continue to use it at Texas State if another term is more acceptable to faculty. One suggestion proposed was non-tenure line and tenure line. Senator Sriraman will discuss a change with the Adjunct Faculty Committee and report back to the Faculty Senate.

- (2) Faculty Senate Fellow initiative

- The provost and associate provost support the creation of a non-voting Faculty Senate Fellow. The first year-long appointment will be a member of the Adjunct Faculty Committee, chosen by the committee. A formal description of the position will be drafted by the Faculty Senate and the first Fellow will serve during the 2015-16 school year.

- (3) Contracts for full-time adjunct faculty

- The provost and associate provost reiterated that all adjunct faculty will continue to be awarded contracts on a yearly basis grounded on annual reviews, need and funding. The current process is required by the Texas State University System and not negotiable by Texas State University.

- (4) Provost added topic: Merit raises

- The provost reported that funds are available for 3 percent merit raises for faculty. Graduate assistants are included in those eligible. The review process for merit raise recommendations must be completed before the end of the spring semester.

- **University Star editor**

- University Star editor Nicole Barrios addressed concerns related to accuracy in coverage of the Faculty Senate meetings. She said a recent front-page story with several errors was removed from the University Star website after several senators complained. It was suggested that a printed retraction was also appropriate because of problems caused by the misquote of a senator in the story. Barrios said she would require that University Star reporters be oriented to the Faculty Senate and the senators' roles and make recordings of Senate meetings to verify accuracy.

- **Council of Deans/Faculty Senate joint meeting (3/25) discussion topics**

- The Faculty Senate is interested in discussing shared governance with the Council of Academic Deans. Topics suggested are (1) how shared governance is fostered, including with chairs or directors and Personnel Committees related to faculty searches and annual faculty evaluations, (2) how adjunct faculty are engaged in shared governance, and (3) the level of support for College-level Adjunct Faculty Committees.

- **Action on recommendations**

- The recommendations for action presented to the Faculty Senate by the University Lecturers Committee and the Academic Computing Committee were endorsed and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A possible pay scale for per-course faculty whose classes are cancelled for failing to make was presented as a constituent concern. Per-course contracts include, or should include, a clause stating that the contract is contingent on adequate student enrollment.

Approval of minutes of 3/4/15 returned to 3/25 agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill