

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2015  
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**Present**

**Senators:** Augustine Agwuele, Elizabeth Blunk, Michel Conroy, Barbara Covington, Debra Feakes, Ju Long, Lynn Ledbetter, Shirley Ogletree, Emily Miller Payne, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Susan Weill, Alex White

**Guests:** *University Star* reporter Nick Laughlin

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

**INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- New tenure-track faculty orientation luncheon  
The annual luncheon with senators, the provost, other administrators and new tenure-track faculty is scheduled for August 19 in Alkek 105/106, noon-1:30 p.m. Former senators are invited to attend and should RSVP to [facultySenate@txstate.edu](mailto:facultySenate@txstate.edu).
- VPFSS candidate lunch meetings  
Cancellation of the luncheons for the VPFSS candidates and senators will be requested due to prior commitments by senators during the times of the candidates' scheduled visits.
- April bullet points  
The Faculty Senate Bullet Points for April were approved for distribution to all faculty.
- Senate election update  
Voting for faculty senators has begun in the Colleges of Applied Arts, Liberal Arts and Science and Engineering. One senator will be elected in each college and voting in the nomination round continues by [online ballot](#) through April 6. About 25 percent of eligible faculty have already voted. A runoff between the two top candidates in each college will be held April 13 – 20.
- Definition of “insubordination” in Regents Rules  
A definition of “insubordination” in the Regents Rules is being drafted from definitions received from the provost and vice chancellor. Once the Faculty Senate agrees to the definition, the senate will request that the provost submit it to the TSUS Rules and Regulations Committee for inclusion in the Regents Rules.

**University Research Committee report, Michel Conroy, chair**

Several recommendations by the University Research Committee were considered and approved: Changing the name to the University Research Enhancement Committee (UREC); annually collecting and archiving in the OSP office the CREC evaluation score sheets so unsuccessful candidates may be informed on how to improve their applications; UREC members will review applications prior to the evaluation meeting to determine eligibility, such as whether failure to conform to the application guidelines provided an advantage to the applicant; and, extending the project period from January to May of the next fiscal year.

**Summative review of chairs and deans proposals**

The pilot program to include a senator as an outside observer during the five-year summative review of chairs has been completed in the College of Liberal Arts. A review from the dean of liberal arts was generally positive but raised several questions regarding the process. An amendment to the PPS will recommend that Faculty Senate observers have the option to call for meetings of the departmental faculty during the review process. An amendment to the process of dean reviews will recommend that an external chair serve on the review committee.

**PPS/UPPS reviews**

Senators reviewing PPS/UPPS revisions were asked to provide comments and suggestions directly on the documents. This will accelerate the review process.

**Presidential Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) discussion items**

Discussion items proposed for the 4/8 PAAG meeting include (1) variation in the importance of grant writing within different disciplines in the tenure, promotion and merit review processes, (2) creating college-level Diversity Awards and Online Teaching awards to encourage applicants, and (3) a legislative update.

**New business and concerns from faculty**

Senators were encouraged to attend [Bobcat Pause](#) at the LBJ Student Center Ballroom on 4/9 at 6 p.m. Bobcat Pause “honors members of the campus community who have recently passed away” and is sponsored by the Student Foundation and the Dean of Students Office. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> Bobcat Pause. A reception begins in the ballroom at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes of 3/25 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill