

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
JCK 880, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Present

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

Administrators: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim

Guests: Faculty Senate liaisons Celeste Domsch, Paivi Rentz and Shane Smith, *University Star* reporter Nick Laughlin, Tom Grimes

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

PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAAG)

- Legislative update, budget
President Trauth said that although it is not yet completed, this biennial Texas legislative session has been a good one, in many respects, for higher education. Texas State University budget concerns positively taken up by the legislature include (1) major funding for construction of a science and engineering building in San Marcos and a health science building in Round Rock, and (2) increased funding for the Texas Research Incentive Program ([TRIP](#)), the Higher Education Assistance Fund ([HEAF](#)) and [Star Park](#). Other current legislative issues discussed included (1) Funding for the [Hazlewood Act](#) will not increase, (2) the concealed carry law, if passed, will not allow state universities to opt out, and (3) consideration of a cap on tuition increases at the 2014-15 level. Concerns were raised by senators regarding the implementation and monitoring of the campus carry law.
- The role of grants in the evolving research landscape
As Texas State University works toward National Research University Fund ([NRUF](#)) status, faculty research grant awards will play a role in achieving the required level of dedicated research expenditures. However, the significance of successful grant writing in the tenure process is a departmental and school decision and should be made clear in tenure policies.
- Suggestion for increasing submissions for awards
A proposal by the Faculty Senate to confer awards, such as diversity and online teaching, on the college level was discussed. The rationale is to increase faculty applications and to create a larger pool for the university-wide awards. Limited funding for these awards is an issue, but the suggestion will be conveyed to the Equity and Access Committee, which oversees the diversity award competition, and to Debbie Thorne, associate vice president for academic affairs, who oversees the online teaching award.

PAAG Follow up

Reaction to the PAAG discussion was generally positive. The possible creation of a task force to examine all aspects of implementing the concealed carry law at Texas State, if it passes, was discussed.

INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- Council of Deans 4/7 meeting report, Senator Conroy
Topics of discussion at the CAD meeting included (1) the Wellness Program pilot, (2) a \$30 charge for students who take proctored make-up exams at the testing centers in San Marcos and Round Rock, (3) more than 25,000 freshman applications for fall 2015 have been received, (4) graduate students do not have to pay tuition and fees at registration despite a persistent misunderstanding, (5) merit evaluations are due, and (6) the first Regents' Teaching Award is underway. Senator Sriraman is the Texas State University nominee.
- Council of Chairs 4/2 meeting report, Senator Conroy
Topics of discussion at the COC meeting included (1) the creation of a student retention organization for students who are parents, (2) a pilot program through the registrar's office for classroom scheduling using CourseLeaf software instead of worksheets, (3) adjunct faculty concerns, and (4) new student/parent orientation luncheons in the Warren Room at Bobcat Stadium in June and July with tables hosted by Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and parent volunteers.

- Academic Computing Committee awards posted on senate website
The [Academic Computing Committee awards for 2015](#) are posted on the Faculty Senate website. The \$491,928 in available funds went to 17 of 27 proposals and ranged from \$10,050 to \$64,410.
- Senate election update
The nominating round for faculty senators in the Colleges of Applied Arts, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering has closed. One senator will be elected in each college during the runoff between the two top candidates, April 13 – 20.
- Significant Service Commitment assignments due June 1
The Faculty Senate must decide by June 1 who will receive the four course releases for significant work related to Senate committees during the 2015/16 school year. The Faculty Senate Fellow position is under consideration for two of the releases, one each semester.

New Business

A request from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) for the Faculty Senate to support a Presidential Commission to study intercollegiate athletics was returned to agenda. The request relates to H.R. 275 “To establish a commission to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics.”

Minutes of 4/1 approved as amended

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill