

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
JCK 880 Room, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Scott Bowman, Michel Conroy, Barbara Covington, Dana Garcia, Ju Long, Lynn Ledbetter, Audrey McKinney, Shirley Ogletree, Emily Payne, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill, Alex White

Guests: Faculty Senate liaison Selene Hinojosa (Library); *University Star* reporter Darcy Sprague.

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

Information and follow-up items

- Council of Chairs (COC) Sept. 3 meeting report
Topics discussed included (1) enrollment increases, (2) conversion of temporary funding to permanent for Nontenure Line Faculty, (3) increase in HEF funds, (4) date for FDL applications to be forwarded to deans, (5) University Lecture Series payment paperwork to be handled by departments, (6) retention programs, including Early Alert and New Student Orientation dinners, (7) classroom scheduling
- Council of Academic Deans 9/8 meeting report, Senator Conroy
Topics discussed at the CAD meeting included (1) introduction of new VPFSS Eric Algoe, (2) bookstore issues (John Root, Jr., Dir. of Aux. Svcs., to attend COC meeting), (3) staff requests for comp time for assisting with university events, (4) SAT scores (general state trends are lower, but Texas State SAT scores are above state averages), and (5) some departments receiving online course fees running high balances.
- Academic Computing Committee, at-large, non-voting co-chair
-Endorsement of Academic Computing Committee co-chair and other committee member
- Texas Council of Faculty Senates and TSUS meeting, Friday, October 16
-Will be attended by TSU Faculty Senate Chair Conroy and Senator Payne
- Reminder: FDL, NLFWR and Piper application portals are now open
-Discussion of procedures, supportive documents, and mentorship of applicants

Concealed Carry Task Force process report

Subcommittees of this task force are: Data Analysis, Research, Facilities, Faculty, Staff, Students, Drafting, and Communication. Topics covered by the various subcommittees will include, but are not limited to, signage, storage, syllabi inserts, education, and training. The entire task force will meet every other Friday, and the subcommittees will meet on the alternate Fridays when the task force does not meet. The subcommittees will report their findings to the task force.

Staggering senator terms and spring elections

With so many of the terms for senators expiring in 2016, a brief discussion ensued about shortening the terms for two of the open seats to address the turnover timeline. This topic was then tabled for further discussion.

Policy reviews

- PPS 2.22 Academic Certificates, 9/14 (Senators Payne and Ross-Gordon)
- UPPS 05.04.02 Closing the Campuses Because of Weather or Other Emergencies, 9/17 (Senator McKinney)
- UPPS 05.03.03 Alcoholic Beverage Policy and Procedure, 9/16 (Senator Ledbetter)
- UPPS 05.06.03 University Sanctioned Student Travel, 9/16 (Senator Ogletree)
- UPPS 02.06.03 Excused Absence Policy, 9/18 (Senator Covington)

Faculty Inquiries

- ADA compliance and service animals inquiry
-Service animals are not required to be registered with ODS.
-The question may be posed: “Is it a service animal required because of a disability?”
-The question may NOT be posed: “What is the nature of the disability?”
-The question may be posed: “What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?”
-No documentation of training is required to be presented.

-Senator Weill reported that Academic Affairs will discuss this issue and share their findings.
-Recommendation for the present is that unless the animal is disruptive in class, don't make an issue of it.

- Jefferson Davis Highway marker
 - Continued discussion
- United Health Care
 - Brief discussion of referral and out-of-network concerns
 - Continued encouragement of individuals to take concerns to Heather Steed (HR) or to the ERS office
- Salary Spread election's effect on insurance payments at retirement
 - Brief discussion of this issue and that it does not appear to be widespread
- Furniture design in offices
 - Brief discussion of safety issues concerning furniture potentially blocking exit from offices in case of emergency
- Math Department
 - Brief discussion of SPI and departmental online evaluations and separation of the two data pools

Other

There was a discussion of previous senate goals (which included improved communication, encouraged engagement of faculty liaisons, and more faculty involvement with environment and sustainability) with a view toward possible future goals, which might include an attempt to foresee revisions to policy statements necessitated by Campus Carry implementation. Senators were encouraged to review the Faculty Senate mission statement (found on senate website)

Approval of minutes of 9/2/15

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Lynn Ledbetter