**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending Senators:** Gwynne Ellen Ash, Stacey Bender, Janet Bezner, Rachel Davenport, Peter Dedek, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Vincent Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, Roque Mendez, Andrew Ojede, Michael Supancic, Nicole Wesley

Guests: Sherri Benn, Marilyn Espericueta (University Star), Tina Marie Cade (Senate Fellow), Judy Oskam, Scott Pope (Library), Aimee Roundtree , Chris Russian, Joni S J Charles, Christine Sellers, Daniel Weeks (University Star)

**Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner**

**Update from Dr. Sherri Benn – Assistant Vice President for Institutional Inclusive Excellence – Student Initiatives**

Dr. Sherri Benn provided a summary of organization and structural changes that occurred over the summer to bring student and faculty diversity and equity units/initiatives under the umbrella of Institutional Inclusive Excellence and provided an overview of Inclusion and Diversity goals at Texas State, which are available at: <https://inclusion.txstate.edu/goals.html>.

Dr. Benn explained the current focus is on identifying goals and measurable outcomes that will have an institution-wide impact on diversity and inclusion and that they are working on benchmarking by assessing activities at peer and aspirant institutions. Dr. Benn also described several activities borne from student initiatives including the recent day of reflection and solidarity as well as two townhalls focused on transgenerational trauma and reflective storytelling. A townhall focused on restorative practices has been delayed so they can pause and assess how to move forward after they solicit and evaluate feedback from prior townhalls, listening sessions, and meetings with student leaders.

Dr. Benn explained that they are working with outside consultants to evaluate the past and present status of inclusion and diversity outcomes on campus and where the university would like to be in the future. The consultants will help conceptualize and develop a framework for sustainable restorative practices, provide guidance on how to build relationships between different communities and how to respond to wrongdoings and repair harm in the community. Dr. Benn plans to have the consultants meet with the Faculty Senate to hear input regarding how faculty would like to see the university move toward restorative practices. Dr. Benn concluded the update by thanking the senate for being supportive of Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff events, an announcement of the upcoming Equality University, and emphasizing student engagement in civic activities.

**Preparation for October 21 Senate Liaisons meeting**

Senators discussed the upcoming senate liaisons meeting by formalizing the agenda and format for the meeting.

**Assignment of Senators to Chair and Dean Summative Reviews**

Senators were assigned to participate in Chari and Dean Summative Reviews. Assignments included:

Paula Rechner – Management (McCoy College of Business) – Senator Ledbetter

Karen Meaney – Health and Human Performance (Education) – Senator Davenport

Erik Timmerman – Communication Studies (Fine Arts & Communication) – Senator Martin

Rodney Rohde – Clinical Lab Science (Health Professions) - Senator McClellan

Marla Erbin-Roesemann – Nursing (Health Professions) – Senator Bender

Dittmar Hahn – Biology (Science & Engineering) – Senator Jensen

John Fleming – Fine Arts and Communication – Senator Dedek

**Committee Assignments**

Senator Wesley was appointed to serve on the Mariel M. Muir Excellence in Mentoring Award Selection Committee.

**Discussion of political advertisement in University Star**

Senators discussed the appropriateness and legality of allowing political advertisements in the University Star.

**PAAG Debrief**

Senators provided feedback on the most recent PAAG meeting.

**Meeting of Texas Council of Faculty Senates, October 23/24**

Senate Chair Bezner will attend the meeting on Saturday, October 24 on behalf of the senate.

**Policy Review**

Senators agreed to approve the pen and ink changes to the Tenure and Promotion policy (AAPPS 04.02.20)

**Development leave applications**

A reminder that development leave applications are due on October 15, 2020 and senators will have access to begin reviewing the applications by October 16, 2020.

**Approval of minutes**

Senators voted to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Jensen