**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Guests:** Lisa Ancelet, De De Gardner, Shannon Duffy, Valarie Fleming, Lauren Goodley, Leslie Green, Barbara Hewitt, Amy Louise Schwarz, Tina Marie Cade (Senate Fellow), Mary Odum, Judy Oskam, Nihat Polat, Scott Pope (Library), Sean Roche, Kim Rossmo, Aimee Roundtree, Chris Russian, Joni S J Charles, Christine Sellers, Lucia Summers Rodriguez, Stephanie Towery (Library), Ron Williams

Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner

**Introductions:**

Senate Chair Bezner introduced Dr. Tina Cade, the 2020-2021 Senate Fellow. Dr. Cade provided an overview of her focus as fellow, which is to put together a roadmap for sustainability on campus. She worked this summer to research plans at other universities and has contacted people on the Texas State campus familiar with campus sustainability efforts. She is currently working on comparing data between Texas State and other universities to see what can be done to bridge the divides between our campus and peer institutions.

**FY 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Planning**

Senators discussed potential themes to adopt as a senate focus for 2020-2021. Several ideas that focused on justice, transformation, and equity were discussed. Senators adopted the theme, Advocating for Justice and Transformation. Senate Chair Bezner will develop a statement/description of the theme and bring it back to senators for adoption.

**Request from a faculty member to suspend the tenure clock universally**

A senator introduced a request they received from a faculty member for the senate to consider the viability of working with the Provost’s office to suspend the tenure clock universally for all tenure track faculty because of interrupted research and/or creative activities as a result of the global pandemic. Senators discussed the potential advantages and disadvantages of such a policy and agreed to add the item to the PAAG agenda for September 2, 2020.

**Faculty Handbook discussion**

Senators discussed the utility of the Faculty Handbook and whether to keep it in its current form as a PDF, to adopt a different format (e.g., webpage), or to discontinue the Faculty Handbook. Senators discussed the advantages and disadvantages of keeping the traditional faculty handbook vs. a website, portal, or FAQ document but were unable to come to an agreement. Valerie Anderson brought up the Virtual Binder maintained by Faculty and Academic Resources. Senators agreed to charge the Faculty Handbook Committee with comparing the Virtual Binder with the Faculty Handbook to examine the differences and reconcile the differences between the two resources by creating an electronic faculty resource.

**PAAG Agenda**

Senators discussed adding the following items to the PAAG agenda for September 2, 2020:

* Universal tenure clock tolling
* Update on investigation on head basketball coach Danny Kasper and allegations of inappropriate behavior, treatment, and language
* Requesting guidance and/or a policy for recording Personnel Committee meetings
* Update on the university’s mask policy and guidance for out-of-classroom interactions with community members not wearing masks
* Improvements to the COVID-19 Dashboard
* President’s cabinet guidance for course delivery for Spring 2021

**Additional Items**

Senate Chair Bezner discussed the potential for two voting locations on campus for the November election. The Performing Arts Center is currently approved and the Student Recreation Center is being considered as an additional site. Senators discussed whether to encourage faculty colleagues to sign up as election poll workers.

**Policy Review**

UPPS 05.05.03 Fleet Management Plan, due August 19 (Senator Jensen)

UPPS 08.01.01 Scheduling of University Facilities, due August 26 (Senator Davenport)

AAPPS 02.02.20 Schedule Changes, Drops, and Withdrawals, due August 28 (Senator Martin)   
UPPS 04.04.55 Recognition of Faculty and Staff Organizations, due Sept 8 (Senator Luizzi)  
UPPS 04.04.16 Overtime and Compensatory Time, due Sept 9 (Senator Wesley)  
UPPS 04.04.01 General Workplace Policy, due Sept 9 (Senator Mendez)  
UPPS 05.04.03 Emergency Operations, due Sept 11 (Senator Dedek)

**Next Senate Meeting**

September 2, 2020 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Zoom (PAAG)

**Approval of Minutes**

Senators approved the minutes for the August 5, 2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Jensen