**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, October 21, 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:** Aimee Roundtree, Alex Zakhidov, Amy Benton, Ann Burnette, Asha Hegde Niezgoda, Chris Russian, Christine Sellers, Danette Myers, Deborah Harris, Shetay Ashford-Hanserd, Emily Brunson, Geneva Gano, In-Hyouk Song, James Keefe, Jason Reed, Joaquin Palacios, Joni S J Charles, Judy Oskam, Karen Sigler, KeriAnne Moon, Laura Ellis-Lai, Luis Intersimone, Mary Brennan, Megan Trad, Miguel Guajardo, Moonis Ali, Nicole Hengst, Oren Renick, Piyush Shroff, Pratheesh Omana Sudhakaran, Ranjini Mohan, Ricardo Delgado Ahumada (University Star), Robert Rutledge, Ruth Taylor, Sara Shields, Shannon Duffy, Sherri Mora, Scott Pope (Library), Thomas Patterson, Tina Marie Cade (Senate Fellow)

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

**Faculty Senate meeting with liaisons**

Senators and liaisons met in breakout rooms to discuss two topics:

1. Proposal to add an external observer to department Personnel Committee meetings in which tenure and promotion decisions are being made, and
2. Impact of COVID on faculty/teaching in the spring, summer, and fall of 2020.

Senators provided brief verbal reports from participants in breakout rooms and will provide Senate Chair Bezner with written notes that will be compiled and shared with all senators and liaisons.

**Report from NLFC regarding NLF Career Path Policy**

Senator Ledbetter provided an update from the NLFC about proposed revisions to the NLF Career Path Policy suggested by Dr. Thorne related to the requirement for scholarship. Overall, there is a lot of concern that scholarly expectations are going to be imposed on NLF faculty whose primary responsibilities are teaching and that including scholarly expectations as part of their promotion evaluation is beyond the scope of what many NLF faculty were hired for. Most senators did not understand the reasoning behind the revisions to expand job criteria to include scholarly expectations for teaching-focused faculty positions and several senators pointed out that the expectation for scholarly/creative activities is not the same job that was advertised when the NLF applied for and were hired for their position. Senators agreed that the purpose of the career path proposal was to facilitate advancement and that the revised wording proposed by Dr. Thorne may make the career path so difficult that NLF may not achieve advancement.

Senators Bezner, Ledbetter, and Dr. Ceballos will meet with Dr. Thorne to convey feedback from both the senate and the NLFC.

**Update from Faculty Senate Fellow**

Dr. Tina Cade provided an update on her sustainability-focused project as 2020-2021 Senate Fellow. Dr. Cade is working with Emma Parsley, a graduate student in Sustainability Studies and the sustainability coordinator on campus to compile and evaluate sustainability plans from peers and aspirant institutions throughout Texas. They have also compiled data and evaluated information from a master’s thesis titled, The State of Sustainability at Texas State. Dr. Cade is developing a survey so campus community members can rank preferred sustainability efforts so future actions on campus can be prioritized. She also described an additional survey to ask which initiatives people think are important that relate to a particular sustainability issue. Dr. Cade has met with stakeholders across campus including representatives from Facilities Management, the Office of Sustainability, and the Environmental Services Committee as well as City of San Marcos representatives to inform them of her study plans and to solicit feedback.

**Debrief of meeting with liaisons**

Senators briefly discussed additional concerns expressed during the breakout session with senate liaisons.

**TSUS Council of Faculty Senates Meeting**

Senator Bezner announced she will attend the TSUS Faculty Senate Chair Council and the Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meetings on October 23-24. She asked senators for feedback on specific questions for Vice Chancellor Hayek including whether the directive to not cut salaries came from the system level or if it was an institutional decision. Senators agreed that was a good question. A senator suggested asking which budget cuts the system was investigating for the future.

**General budget discussion**

Senators asked questions for inclusion at a future PAAG meeting including whether IT budget cuts are going to be restored in the future considering so many faculty rely on IT services to conduct classes and whether there has been any discussion among PAAG about restructuring/reallocating student services fees given that the university is operating in a different capacity due to the pandemic.

**Reminder to Senators**

Faculty Development Leave Reviews are due on November 4, 2020.

**Policies review**

AA/PPS 02.04.10, Honorary Faculty Titles and Emeritus Faculty, due October 30 (Senator Ledbetter)

**Approval of minutes**

Senators approved the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Jensen