**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

JCK 880 and Zoom, 5:10 pm – 6:00 pm

**Attending Senators:** Stacey Bender, Dale Blasingame, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Ben Martin, Stan McClellan, Roque Mendez, Danette Myers, Andrew Ojede, Michael Supancic, Nicole Wesley

**Guests**: Sarah Angulo (Senate Fellow), Janet Bezner, Timia Cobb (University Star), David Huffman, Jennifer Lamm, Charles Ramey, Leeda Rasoulian, Aimee Roundtree, Karen Sigler (Library), Renee Wendel

**Meeting began at 5:15 pm**

Prior to the meeting, the Faculty Senate met with Dr. John Hayek, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the Texas State University System and members of the Russell Reynolds Search Firm to provide feedback on the ongoing search for our next president. Senators provided feedback regarding opportunities and challenges at Texas State University, and desired qualities in prospective candidates.

**Faculty Senate meeting with Liaisons**

The senate is seeking ideas for the Faculty Senate meeting with Liaisons on October 20. Senators discussed the role of liaisons, and how to involve them at an appropriate level. Senators are encouraged to consider ideas for discussion at the September 29 meeting.

**Nontenure Line Faculty Committee (NLFC) Report (Senator Jensen**)

* The NLF reception was originally being planned for mid-October. The NLFC decided to postpone the reception to the spring to potentially allow for a safer indoor meeting environment.
* Faculty had concerns about the additional workload related to participating in the semi-automated contact tracing process as planned. Liability is a concern. For example, is a faculty member liable if they do not accurately report close contacts, or if they are unable to respond immediately? This issue will be brought to the attention of Dr. Emilio Carranco.
* Several faculty expressed frustration about the accuracy of information presented on the Roadmap Dashboard, since it did not appear to correlate with their observations in their own classrooms. Additional information would be useful, such as the number of vaccines administered.
* The characteristics and qualities desired in the next president were also discussed at the NLFC meeting. These were shared in a document presented to the search firm.

**Other Items**

* Commencement plans were discussed. The Commencement Work Group has not met in months, and it may be inactive. Commencement is being planned in Strahan Auditorium in December. Crowding, especially after the event, was a major concern.
* Senators agreed that Faculty Senate Teams site is useful, but only a few senators are participating in conversations.
* Some students in biology are upset about electronic course fees for courses that changed modalities a few days before the start of the semester. These students had originally registered for a face-to-face course, so they were upset that a new fee was levied on them. These students would have been eligible for Cares Act funding, but the deadline has passed. Senator Davenport will investigate whether there are discretionary funds available to support students affected in this manner.

**Policy Reviews**

The September 15 minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Faculty Senate entered Executive Session at 5:51 pm.**

The Senate voted to recommend that Dr. Thorne revise the FDL policy to clarify what happens when someone does not submit a report in a timely manner.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm**

Minutes submitted by Ben Martin