**Faculty Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2023**

**JCK 880**

**4:00 – 6:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Stacey Bender, Dale Blasingame, William Chittenden, Rachel Davenport, Peter Dedek, Dave Donelly, Farzan Irani, Jennifer Jensen, William Kelemen, Lynn Ledbetter, Jo Beth Oestreich, Adetty Pérez de Miles, Michael Supancic and Alex White.

**Guests:** Isabelle Antes, Amy Benton, Mack Bowlsby, Kimerlee Davis, Shannon Duffy, Laura Ellis-Lai, Lauren Goodley, Scott Kruse, Karina Martin, Russell Moses, Aimee Roundtree, Piyush Shroff, Karen Sigler, Reagan Sims, Anne Winchell and Fereshteh Zihagh.

**Chair Ledbetter opened the meeting at 4:00 pm.**

## The first agenda item discussed by the Senators focused on the early review of [AA/PPS 04.01.32](https://policies.txst.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-32.html), Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships. This agenda item was brought forward to the Faculty Senate this past summer by the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC). In response to the early review request, the Associate Provost invited the Faculty Senate to send forward recommendations to this policy. Four recommendations were identified to be sent to the Associate Provost:

1. Remove any mention of Faculty Development Leave and NLF workload release
2. Reassess the limit on fellowships to once every 6 years
3. Ensure a speedy progression of the Fellowship Planning Tool through the review process
4. Clarify the language related to “approval” to ensure the planning tool facilitates collaboration between faculty and chairs/directors rather than acting as a gatekeeping mechanism

**MOTION** to forward the four recommendations to the Associate Provost regarding AA/PPS 04.01.32. **PASSED**.

The next item on the agenda was to consider reactivating the Environment and Sustainability Committee. Chair Ledbetter will invite Emma Parsley, Sustainability Coordinator and Colleen Myles, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies to speak at the September 27, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting to provide additional information regarding this sunsetted committee and the role of the Faculty Senate regarding this request.

The next agenda item asked Senators to consider volunteering for five upcoming summative department chair reviews in accordance with [AA/PPS 01.02.11](https://policies.txst.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/01-02-11.html) Role, Evaluation, and Step-Down Salaries of Department Chairs and School Directors, Procedures for Summative Review, section 05.01.c. Five Senators volunteered to participate in the summative reviews for department chairs in the following departments: Agriculture, Engineering, History, Journalism & Mass Communication, Theatre and Dance and Respiratory Care.

Senators were reminded of the upcoming candidate presentations for the Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (VPIT/CIO) to be held next Monday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 20 in Flowers room 230.

Chair Ledbetter stated there is no new information regarding the provost's search. Recommendations from the search committee should be received in early November.

The Chair shared that the next meeting of the Joint Meeting of Faculty Senate with Academic Affairs Council and Council of Chairs Deans and Staff Council will be September 26, 2023, 1:30-3:30 pm in Flowers room 230. The three topics for discussion submitted by the Faculty Senate in consultation with Council of Chairs:

1. Instructional Faculty Title Series
2. BookSmart
3. PCRs/Keys/Onboarding of New Faculty

Chair Ledbetter shared a call from Cynthia Hernandez, Vice President for Student Affairs, for the EAB Navigate leadership team. [Education Advisory Board (EAB) [EAB Navigate](https://eab.com/)]. She is seeking representatives from faculty, deans, department chairs, seminar instructors and Faculty Senators to serve on the leadership team to help implement the student success technology platform. A Senator volunteered to serve on behalf of the Faculty Senate if representation is needed for this leadership team.

**MOTION** to approve the September 6, 2023, Minutes**. PASSED.**

**Faculty Senate moved to Executive Session and discussed the following topics:**

Faculty Senate Liaisons and approval of new NLF Committee members.

**MOTION** to approve NLF Committee Recommendations. **PASSED**.

**Meeting Adjourned by Chair Ledbetter at 5:37 pm.**