**Faculty Meeting Minutes**

**September 20, 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:** Cynthia Hernandez, Shannon Duffy, David Gibbs, Lauren Goodley, Candace Hastings, Scott Kruse, Russell Moses, Chris Russian, Piyush Shroff, Reagan Sims, and Lois Stickley.

**Chair Ledbetter opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.**

The first agenda item focused on the upcoming joint Meeting of the Academic Affairs Council, Council of Chairs, and Faculty Senate scheduled for next Tuesday, September 26, 2023, from 1:30 – 3:30 pm in Flowers room 230. The topics sent forward from the Faculty Senate for this session include Onboarding/PCRs/Keys; BookSmart; and the Instructional Faculty Title Series timeline.

Chair Ledbetter brought up several items off agenda:

A request from Associate Provost Thorne came through asking the Faculty Senate to review a proposed new policy, AA/PPS 04.12.06, Faculty of Instruction Appointments. The proposed new policy will be a future agenda item for Faculty Senate to discuss. *Guidelines for Policy Reviews* are available on the Faculty Senate Canvas site. Faculty Senate comments will be due to Associate Provost Thorne by October 11, 2023.

The Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) meeting is scheduled for September 29-30, 2023. Our Texas State Roundup Report has been submitted to TCFS.

Michael Blanda, Associate Vice President of Operations, has asked the Faculty Senate for assistance in identifying faculty members to serve on the Research and Enhancement Program (REP) committee. The Faculty Senate will discuss this item during executive session.

A request was made to the Faculty Senate by a faculty member to consider changing the UPPS 06.02.10, Elections, Voting, and Civic Engagement On-Campus, to permit faculty members the ability to offer extra credit to students who show proof of voter registration. The faculty was informed by legal counsel this would violate the current policy. During the discussion of this item, Faculty Senators identified privacy concerns, some students’ ineligibility to register, and inequity. A Senator noted a disconnect between the extra credit content versus course content. The university permits voter registration drive efforts on campus through campus organizations as well as community drive efforts. After discussion, a determination was made by the Faculty Senate not to request a change to the policy at this time.

The next agenda item was an overview and update of the Education Advisory Board (EAB) Navigate platform presented by Cynthia Hermandez, Vice President for Student Affairs. EAB is a collaborative tool for faculty, students, and advisors. The platform is designed to document workflow solutions, utilize integrated student success analytics, and provide student empowerment tools. The tool allows users to raise early alerts for students, view student progress, and initiate proactive campaigns to help students be successful in their academic experience. Hernandez is in the process of forming an EAB Leadership team and is seeking someone to represent the Faculty Senate for this team. Additionally, Hernandez is actively identifying faculty members from each college who can participate on the committee. A Senator asked about the contract term commitment for this platform. Hernandez stated it is a total of five years (three years with an option to renew for two more years). A pilot for the platform will take place in spring of 2024. A full launch of the platform is scheduled for fall 2024. A Senator asked if there are plans to identify a particular advisor from each of the college advising centers to be the contact person for that college to participate on this team. Hernandez stated she would be meeting with the Academic Advisory group and would discuss this question. A Senator asked if students have the option to opt out of this platform. Her reply was “No.”

Minutes from the September 13 meeting were approved.

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

* Identify a faculty representative to serve on the EAB Navigate/Student Success Committee
* Approve NLF Committee and Suspension and Appeals Committee appointments

**MOTION** to approve NLFC and Suspension and Appeals Committee appointments. **PASSED**.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.