**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

November 15, 2023

4:00 - 6:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Rebecca Bell-Metereau

**Guests**: Joanna Ellis, Lauren Goodley, Scott Kruse, Gloria Martinez, Russell Moses, Nathan Pino, Arlene Salazar, Gigi Secuban, Piyush Shroff, Lois Stickley, Bob Vásquez, and Margaret Vaverek.

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

The first item on the agenda was to discuss the updates related to SB 17, presented by Gigi Secuban, Senior Advisor to the President. Secuban mentioned that Texas State University System (TSUS) currently has no written guidance regarding SB 17. She further explained that SB 17 will become law on January 1, 2024. It prohibits hiring or assigning employees to perform Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) duties, contracting with a third party to perform such services, requiring or soliciting DEI statements, or providing preferential treatment based on the provision of a DEI statement.

Secuban pointed out that certain activities are exempt from the SB 17 DEI prohibitions. These include academic course instruction, scholarly research/creative works by students/faculty/research personnel, the activity of a registered or recognized student organization, guest speakers or performers on short-term engagements, policy, practice, program, or activity to enhance student academic achievement, postgraduate outcomes that are designed and implemented without regard to race, sex, color, or ethnicity, data collection, or student recruitment.

Secuban's presentation emphasized that all activities at TXST are open to everyone, which has always been the case.

A Senator asked if there is a list of banned words related to SB 17. Secuban stated she is not aware of any list. Secuban informed the Faculty Senate that the UPPS policy language has been refined. One of the Senators asked if displaying signs outside of classrooms, such as "this space is inclusive," is acceptable. Secuban said, “Yes, as long as the area is open to everyone.” Another Senator asked how the bill's provisions will be communicated to students. Secuban stated that they have approached several student groups for this purpose. Additionally, Student Success has been sharing with students regarding this matter.

A Senator asked about the language of SB 17 and how it applies to scholarships intended for underrepresented groups. The question was whether such scholarships would be removed from the scholarship pool. In response, Secuban clarified that University Advancement has been reviewing all scholarships and that scholarships designed to assist underrepresented groups, low socio-economic students, and first-generation students can continue. However, scholarships that aim to support a specific demographic cannot be listed on the university website. All current scholarships can be awarded until January 1, 2024. After this date, any scholarship that is not open to everyone or does not cater to the three groups mentioned above will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The next agenda item was to address concerns related to **AA/PPS 04.01.40 section 03.03:** *At Texas State, a faculty member’s professional responsibilities for each semester are determined by the chair or director, subject to the approval of the dean. Chairs or directors are responsible for appropriately distributing obligations among faculty members within the academic unit.* Following a short discussion about future committee appointments, the Faculty Senate decided that the chair or director of the faculty member will be CC'd in the email that confirms the faculty appointment. The Faculty Senate also recommended that the Council of Chairs be informed about this decision, and that a message should be sent to the president’s cabinet to request that they also notify chairs and directors of committee appointments. Additionally, the Faculty Senate plans to encourage every department to motivate their faculty members to review and consider serving on a committee when the Faculty Survey is circulated.

The next agenda item was an update from Senator White on the Post Tenure Review Task Force.The task force suggested revisions to the **AA/PPS04.02.10 Performance Evaluation** policy. The recommended changes include the addition of peer review and evaluation based on teaching, research, and service, with a separate decision to be made for each component area. A development plan will be implemented if a faculty member fails to meet the expectations in any component area. Furthermore, the Texas Workforce Commission proposed some changes to the language related to equal opportunity/non-discrimination, which should revise the essential criteria language of section 03.01. There are also some necessary changes related to titles in the policy, such as the provost's new title of Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs (EVPAA). The new instructional title series should be identified, and departments should be specified as academic units. Where the language sets only a chair, it should also include the director. The recommendations from the task force will go to Assistant Provost Matt Brooks and receive feedback within 2 ½ weeks.

**MOTION** to approve the November 8, 2023, Minutes. **PASSED**.

The Faculty Senate moved into Executive Session to discuss committee recommendations.

Two Senators were identified to help review the FDL supplemental leave.

**MOTION** to suspend the rules. **PASSED**.

**MOTION** to recommend a faculty member to serve on a Childcare Feasibility Study Committee. **PASSED**.

**MOTION** to recommend a faculty member to serve on the Student Service Fee Committee. **PASSED**.

**Chair Ledbetter adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.**

The next Faculty Senate meeting is November 29, 2023.