**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**November 29, 2023**

**4:00-6:00 p.m.**

**JCK 880**

**Members Present:** Rebecca Bell-Metereau, 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: Stacey Bender

**Guests**: Lauren Goodley, Lauren Ibarra, Scott Kruse, Gloria Martinez, Ariel McField, Russell Moses, Arlene Salazar, Piyush Shroff, Lois Stickley and Margaret Vaverek.

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

The first item on the agenda was to debrief from the presentation of GG Secuban, the President's Senior Advisor, from the November 15, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting regarding compliance and SB 17. One of the Senators expressed confusion about why scholarships are under review under this law, as they have nothing to do with hiring. Another Senator questioned why the university had not been more proactive in meeting with all student groups and helping them understand the bill's impact on them. The university is still awaiting the Texas State University System's response regarding SB 17. One Senator noted that there is limited faculty input regarding SB 17, and there has not been a discussion of creating a task force to address faculty concerns related to SB 17. Lastly, there is concern that students have not been adequately informed of the impact of SB 17, including funding sources for student activities.

The next item on the agenda was for faculty senators to identify questions or topics to send to the President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) for the December 6, 2003, meeting. The Faculty Senate considered the following draft questions or suggestions for discussion for the upcoming PAAG meeting:

1. Will the administration form a task force with a strong faculty presence to help guide the implementation of SB 17, shape the review of policies currently underway, and monitor its many possible impacts?
2. The Faculty Senate is interested in discussing implementing a more comprehensive policy for parental leave.
3. Why wasn't the University Camp (UCamp) sale announced publicly or open to faculty, staff, and community input?
4. The Faculty Senate has suggested that a faculty member be appointed to the Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) budget committee.

Several senators suggested that once the reorganization of the university has been completed, the Faculty Senate would like an updated organizational chart to provide to faculty and staff at the university.

The next agenda item was for Senators to share general concerns**.** A Senator sharedthatrats have invaded Derrick Hall and Evans; this issue must be addressed. The RCM budget sub-committee would like to endorse having a faculty voice in the budgetary process. The President’s cabinet is working on the $22 million from the Texas University Fund (TUF), of which $4 million has already been designated to budget shortfalls. Since the university does not know how many doctoral programs will come online, the TXST Global revenue has not been factored in. A senator reported that classroom utilization dropped from 100% in 2016-2017 to 67% in Fall 2022. The new RCM Model may result in the removal of first-call classrooms. A Senator noted that the increase in our online presence may reveal other implications, such as changing large classrooms to smaller ones or vice versa. The Senator emphasized the need for faculty representation in the RCM Budget Committee's decision-making process. A Senator shared that The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) does not have the staff to review all eleven proposed programs simultaneously. The THECB will review proposed Ph.D. programs, which will take some time. These program proposal reviews will occur in April, July, and October 2024.

The next agenda item was identifying Senators to help review **UPPS 07.07.06 Graduate Student Employment**. Several Senators shared that this section needs clarification related to contracts, full-time course load, and the full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching appointment for graduate students in this policy. Comments are due November 30, 2023. Senators are also needed to help review **AAPPS 02.03.12 Grades and Changes of Grades** with comments due December 11, 2023. A Senator pointed out that the section regarding the assignment of “U” and “F” grades needs clarification.

The next agenda item was a **MOTION** to approve the November 15, 2023, Minutes. **PASSED**.

The Faculty Senate moved into Executive Session to discuss identifying a third Faculty Senator to participate in the Faculty Development Leave (FDL) Supplemental Reviews. The Nontenure Line Faculty (NLF) Committee workload release recommendations were also discussed.

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

**MOTION** to approve the Nontenure Line Faculty Committee's workload release recommendations. **PASSED.**

**Chair Ledbetter adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m**.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate with PAAG is scheduled for December 6, 2023.