Faculty Senate Minutes

March 27, 2024

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

JCK 880

**Members Present**: Vaughn Baltzly, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Stacey Bender, Dale Blasingame, William Chittenden, Dave Donnelly, Farzan Irani, William Kelemen, Lynn Ledbetter, Jo Beth Oestreich, Adetty Pérez de Miles, Michael Supancic, and Alex White.

Member Absent: Peter Dedek.

**Guests**: Bahram Asiabanpour, Yasmine Beale-Rosano-Rivaya, Jeremy Bohonos, Chad Booth, Joellen Coryell, Kevin Fall, Lauren Goodley, Craig Hanks, Jeff Housman, Jennifer Jensen, Hong-Gu Kang, Samantha Krause, Cristian Lieneck, Melissa A. Martinez, Zo Ramamonjiarivelo, Arlene Salazar, Piyush Shroff, Karen Sigler, Shailen Singh, Lois Stickley, Toni Watt and Ron Williams.

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

The agenda for today was a **report from Senator Michael Supancic, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), with Jeff Housman, Vice Provost (VP), Curricular and Academic Programs on Program Inventory Management (PIM) Proposals**. Senator Supancic prefaced his report by stating that the curriculum office and the curriculum process have recently undergone significant changes, just like many other areas have. The programs reviewed today were evaluated when many changes were happening at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the university, the addition of TXST Global, and changes at the Round Rock Campus. All these programs are moving in different directions, and the downside was that the programs the UCC reviewed on March 8th and March 20th, 2024, have not yet been sent to the Faculty Senate Chair. This meant that the typical email notification was not sent out to each of the Senators, so they did not automatically have access to the programs being reviewed at today’s meeting. The Senator stated he would focus on the eight certificates, seven minors, and the three new programs that the UCC reviewed and would answer any questions Senators had about these programs. All other reviews were name changes to existing programs to make those programs more marketable to prospective students. The Senator noted that individuals from the programs reviewed were invited to the meeting to briefly speak about the program and answer any questions asked by the Faculty Senate. The Senator stated at the March 20th UCC meeting that there were two special agenda consent items. One item was programs offered at Round Rock and through TXST Global, with a launch date in the fall of 2024. The other one was a proposal for five programs to participate in delivering curriculum at Collin County Community College in Allen, Texas. The Senator stated that three people staff the curriculum office: Assistant Vice President of Curriculum and Academic Programs Jeff Housman, who was hired this past January; Judy Spurlock, the new Curriculum Coordinator; and Angela Villegas, who was recently hired as the new Curriculum Specialist. The Senator is working with Provost Aswath and President Damphousse to increase the staff in the curriculum office, especially considering the growth in program offerings at the San Marcos and Round Rock campuses and TXST Global Online. He also thanked Housman, Spurlock, faculty who served on the department and college curriculum committees, and the UCC for their work in reviewing more than 500 courses and 500 program proposals. The Senator stated that to strengthen and improve the programs, the UCC requested additional information from most of the programs. He stated that the committee had received documentation from some of those programs' faculty, chairs, and deans.

The following were the new proposed **Certificate programs to begin fall of 2024**:

1. Graduate Certificate in Environmental Leadership, Engagement, and Ethics
2. Graduate Certificate in Ethics and Digital Technologies
3. Undergraduate Certificate in Business Spanish
4. Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Health
5. Graduate Certificate in Professional Spanish

Senator Supancic noted that the Certificate in Intelligence Analysis and the Certificate in Computer Information Systems were deleted due to low enrollment.

The following were **new Minor programs to begin fall of 2024**:

1. Undergraduate Minor in organizational and Workforce Leadership
2. Undergraduate Minor in Spatial Data Science and Health
3. Undergraduate Minor in Pre-Veterinarian Studies
4. Undergraduate Minor in Engineering
5. Undergraduate Minor in Human Resource Development and Training
6. Undergraduate Minor in Adaptive Recreation and Sport
7. Undergraduate Minor in Outdoor Recreation Leadership

An Undergraduate Minor in Technology was renamed to a Minor in Engineering Technology.

The following were the **new Degree programs to begin fall of 2024**:

1. Master of Healthcare Administration (M.H.A.) Major in Healthcare Administration/Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) Major in Business Administration (Dual Degree Option).
2. Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Major in Public Health (Community Health & Behavior Concentration)-via Distance Education
3. Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Major in Public Health (Health Policy & Management Concentration)-via Distance Education

The Senator stated that all other proposals reviewed by UCC were name changes to be more similar and recognizable for students and future employers. There were about 35-40 of these changes.

The Senator also shared from the UCC March 22 Agenda a list of programs that will be offered at the Round Rock campus or through TXST Global. These are part of the pilot program activities. After consulting with Housman and Vice Provost Sriraman, it was determined that the PIM system would not work with these programs, so Housman created a new form for chairs, deans, and directors to submit documentation using Gato. A Senator asked when the title changes would occur, and the response was they would be effective in the fall of 2024; depending on the catalog the student entered, TXST would determine the name of the degree program. Current students could request the program name change through their advising center. Senator Supancic highlighted that the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Major in Human Resource Development and Learning in Organizations via Distance Education was removed from the agenda because the proposal was new and needed to go through the new degree plan and did not flow to the UCC review process. A Senator asked how some existing programs offered at San Marcos were showing as new programs at Round Rock. Housman stated this was due to the new coding system. The new system shows four campuses in the code system, but a new program code would be generated for the program offering in Round Rock. A Senator asked how additional program offerings at Round Rock be supported, i.e., new faculty and space. Senator Supancic noted this would be a question to ask Vice President for Round Rock Campus Julie Lessiter when she comes to the April 17th Faculty Senate meeting. This concern was addressed at the UCC meetings, and questions regarding funding and budgeting for TXST Global. As program offerings expand, there are questions about support services, space, and more.

Housman stated that the consent agenda on these items was changed because the THECB distance education programs no longer require proposals, only notifications. The programs would be entered into the portal as delivered online, as previously required in the PIM system. The THECB does not see the programs offered at one campus as different from those offered at another.

Senator Supancic stated that Lydia Placzek, Director of Strategic Initiatives with TXST Global, TXST, will partner with Collin College in Allen, Texas. The Coordinating Board wants a seamless transition for 2–4-year institutions. The five programs were approved to launch in 2024. UCC requested the feasibility study, the original Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation released by Collin College outlining this proposal and project, TXST's response to the RFP, a Memo of Understanding (MOU) outlining the deliverable between institutions, and the comments or responses from the five participating departments that included a request for additional faculty, support, services, and equipment. UCC would delay acting on these five programs until this information was available. The UCC requested that the documents be posted to a Teams site and that access be provided to the Faculty Senate. The UCC will convene once all documents requested have been posted and reviewed to consider the program proposals. A Senator noted the importance of faculty being involved with curriculum development. A Senator stated some departments had more information than what was known about this partnership. The initial proposal with Collin College was to provide less than 50% of the program that any of the five programs would offer. There was concern about TXST Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) accreditation, i.e., offering the same student services. A Senator noted that other universities have already partnered with Collin College, and perhaps this was why TXST engaged quickly with this opportunity. Housman stated that TXST has no process for these types of partnerships, and these programs do not go into the PIM system. Additionally, Housman stated there had been ongoing conversations about Collin College since last fall, and other similar partnerships were being explored. Housman wants to keep faculty informed and programs aligned with the university's goals.

**MOTION** to approve the March 20, 2024, Minutes. **APPROVED**.

The Faculty Senate moved into Executive Session to approve the third member of the Faculty Ombuds Search Committee and finalize the President’s Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) questions for the April 3 meeting.

**MOTION** to endorse a third faculty member to serve on the Faculty Ombuds Search Committee. **PASSED**.

The Joint meeting of the Council of Chairs and Faculty Senate will be April 2nd, 1:30 – 3:30, in Flowers Hall, Room 230. The April 3rd Faculty Senate meeting will be with PAAG.

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