**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**September 4, 2024**

**4:00-6:00 pm in JCK 880 and via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Stacey Bender, Dale Blasingame, Peter Dedek, Dave Donnelly,
Valentina Glajar, Kevin Jetton, William Kelemen, Lynn Ledbetter,
Minda Lopez, Noland Martin, Adetty Pérez de Miles, Piyush Shroff,
Lois Stickley, Michael Supancic, Steve Wilson

**Guests:** Ryan Anderson, Jeffrey Bumgarner, Lauren Dungan, Lauren Goodley,

Mark Hernandez, Lauren Ibarra, Samantha Krause, Togay Ozbakkaloglu,

Felix Quayson, Dr. Ramanathan, Sean Patrick, Roche Scott Vandenberg,

Julie Weng

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

1. **Chair Ledbetter introduced the newest Faculty Senator:**
* Minda Lopez, College of Education, is replacing the current term for Jo Beth Oestreich who had to resign for personal reasons, on an interim basis.
* An election, within the College of Education, will be initiated to permanently fill this remaining 2-year unexpired term.
1. **Motion to approve August 28th, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting minutes was made and passed.**
2. **Shared Governance Policy Updates from Senator Donnelly**
* A SharePoint site was created and an initial review of a draft version of the policy occurred earlier this summer and the goal is to establish a committee or workgroup for discussion in light of the recent transitions and changes in the Provost’s office.
* The focus will be on the structure of departmental Personnel Committees (PC) between Tenured/Tenure-Track and Nontenure-track faculty (NLF) members and related charges that are appropriate for the two groups separately and combined as a whole.
* Further discussion points made during the meeting included:
	+ Some department PC’s have been very inclusive of nontenure line faculty (NLF) members but not all departments and the goal is more uniformity across campus.
	+ The goal is the inclusion of NLF faculty voices in matters affecting the department as a whole and other NLF members.
	+ Departments will also need to develop guidelines and policies for NLF faculty promotions given the new Professor of Instruction title series (some already have done so)
1. **Nontenure Line Faculty Committee Updates from NFLC chair Senator Donnelly**
* Regarding the recent transition to the new Nontenure line faculty title series, some individuals were not appointed by the Provost’s office to the rank that was applied for and recommended by their chair, Personnel Committees and dean, some of which were appealed and largely denied but some were indeed subsequently approved.
* Among the NLF community, there are concerns about the lack of transparency and following the previously outlined procedures plus additional clarity is needed now that the initial transition has occurred.
* It was suggested that any affected individuals work with their chair and dean to strategize about the best approach going forward for promotion.
* It was suggested to invite Provost Aswath and his staff to the upcoming NLF committee meeting on September 20, 2024, to discuss the rationale, process and decisioning.
* General discussion occurred on the matter including:
	+ Departments may need to more clearly define what is promotion acceptable in teaching, research, service, and scholarly activities and provide feedback.
	+ Any specific questions will be added to the upcoming PAAG meeting with the Faculty Senate on 9/11/2024.
	+ The whole transition process had a very quick turnaround, and some mistakes may have been made and/or some inconsistencies.
	+ Departments may also need to adjust individual faculty member goals as it relates to promotion opportunities going forward.
	+ This initiative began over 10 years ago by the NLF committee with numerous setbacks and changes along the way.
	+ Other policies will require modification with the addition of the new faculty titles if they involve Nontenure Line Faculty
	+ Salary equity will need to be re-examined regarding recent hires vs. longer-term faculty members.
* The Faculty Senate continues to fully support the work and initiatives of the Nontenure line Faculty Committee
1. **Faculty Development Leave (FDL) Application and Review updates from GG:**
* The website: <https://www.txst.edu/facultysenate/resources/developmental-leaves.html>
* The Application can be found as a Faculty Requests link on the FDL website.
* GG highlighted the content on the FDL website with the procedures, dates and said the recent changes made focused on ensuring only error-free applications are received.
* Supplemental awards and Fellowships were also discussed.
* Faculty Senators will review applications on 11/13/2024 as a Zoom only meeting to facilitate smaller work groups with their final recommendations due to the Provost’s office by 11/18/2024.
1. **Additional updates by GG and Senator Ledbetter**
2. GG added a document to the Faculty Senate teams site showcasing ALL the faculty senate meetings and other important dates.
3. Regarding Faculty Senate upcoming meeting agenda items for consideration:
* Chair Ledbetter collects and composes agenda items up through Sunday afternoon or early Monday morning and gets them to GG by 4pm on Monday for the full meeting agenda.
* An “around the Table” segment will be added to future meeting agendas.
1. **PAAG (President’s Academic Advisory Group) “potential” questions or topics for the upcoming 9/11/2024 meeting subject to the senators sending some specifics to Chair Ledbetter:**
2. Bookstore/BookSmart issues and concerns:
	1. Material availability to students
	2. Newly hired faculty members and course material adoptions
	3. The future of the BookSmart committee
3. Faculty of Instruction new contract terms and more
4. General discussion of other potential issues and concerns but were not necessarily PAAG questions at this time.

**VII.** **The Faculty Senate moved into Executive Session to discuss:**

* First week of Fall semester theft incidents in Jowers, JCK and Centennial not being followed-up on
* Approved a motion regarding the University Performing Arts Committee membership.

**X. Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Ledbetter adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

**The next faculty Senate Meeting will be:**

September 11, 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in JCK 880 and via Zoom