**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**October 9, 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,
Noland Martin, Adetty Pérez de Miles, Piyush Shroff, Lois Stickley, Michael Supancic, Steve Wilson

**Members Absent:** Minda Lopez

**PAAG Guests:** Pranesh Aswath, Christine Black, Kelly Damphousse, Brett Last,

Shreek Mandayem, Vedaraman Sriraman

**Guests:** Ryan Anderson, Jeff Bumgarner, Cathy Cherrstrom, Lauren Dungan,

Lauren Goodley, Candace Hastings, Catherine Jaffe, Doug Morrish,

Judy Oskam, Alexandra Perkins, Pradeep Ramanathan,
Sean Patrick Roche, Aimee Roundtree, Chris Russian, Karen Sigler,

Bob E. Vásquez

**Chair Ledbetter opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. with welcoming remarks and comments**

1. **President’s Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) Items of Discussion:**
	1. Plans to bring the faculty and staff numbers up commensurate with enrollment along with faculty lines allocated
		* A new enrollment record was set this Fall and the first increase since 2016
		* Faculty hiring under the modified RCM model will give more flexibility to the college deans
		* $6 million was set aside for programs starting up this year
		* Going forward, the allocation of resources will be based on program enrollment and history over time with a strategy to handle rapid growth in the short-term.
	2. Reports commissioned from external consultants on programs, faculty/staff salaries over the past 3 years, costs of those reports and are they available for faculty review?
		* Hannover: Competitive Program Assessments, Briefs and Area Market Analysis
		* EAB: Engagements with Academic Affairs, Continuing & Online Education, Finance Services, Student Success, Advancement, RCM Budget Model and the President’s Office
		* Risepoint (formerly Academic Partnerships): Online Program Analysis with a revenue share
		* CBIZ: Comprehensive Salary Studies and Compression Analysis (Equity)
		* Copies of these research reports are available for viewing in the Provost’s office but they cannot be posted on a public forum due to privileged information content
	3. Balances of the University Reserves at the end of each fiscal year over the past 5 years. How have the TUF funds been allocated for FY25? Are some faculty salaries being paid for by TUF Funds and if so – what are the implications for replacement and new faculty lines?
		* Reserve Balances were shared over time and the goal is to have 2 ½ to 3 months of cash on hand at all times
		* TUF (Texas University Fund) which replaced NRUF (National Research University Fund) last year, but TXST was not eligible for a full share based on our average federal private research expenditures the past 2 years but we will be eligible for a full share in the next biennium, but the Texas Legislature will have to vote on it. TUF funds can also be used for the research service/supporting unit overhead salaries. The real benefit from new TUF funds will be realized next year and beyond funding new PhD programs and more. There are some research faculty salaries partially paid for using TUF funds and to get TUF passed, we had to agree not to raise tuition for two years. TUF funds also allow research staff salaries to come from permanent funding and not soft funds like in the past.
	4. Planned Hotel on the site of the Castro Undergraduate Admissions Center:
		* The Center was named after Richard Castro and is not the name of the building/house which is not a designated historical building/structure, simply an “old” building.
		* The university tried to give it away and even pay to relocate it but had no takers. There had been multiple conversations with different entities about taking the building, but none came to fruition.
		* There was an RFP just that closed to relocate the building to be evaluated but to move forward, parallel paths will be followed allowing for the “selective” demolition of the building, unless relocated first, allowing portions of the building like with the former President’s House, to be given to interested parties
		* The work that is about to get underway is for abatement and must be done regardless of the building is relocated or demolished
		* A downtown San Marcos hotel near campus is badly needed as the only lodging options that currently exist are on IH35 and will provide housing for regents, university guests and more
		* A parking structure will not be included for the hotel relying on existing university parking facilities but there are RFP’s to build two additional parking structures. A new 700-space parking lot for an existing property is currently in progress,
	5. Round Rock campus
		* There had never been a parking problem on the Round Rock campus but with recent freshmen enrollment growth, additional parking spaces will be needed, especially if residence halls are built let alone for the new Esperanza Hall building which breaks ground this December
		* Recently established a food bank on campus (the first university to do so in Williamson County) addressing food insecurity
		* The State of TXST was taken on the road to the Round Rock campus and even served food to the approximate 600 attendees
	6. Police Department staffing levels
		* Sadly, we routinely train new officers but sadly they go elsewhere for higher salaries with large signing bonuses
		* TXST Police officer salaries have been increased over the past few years
		* Competition is also very high for salary and personnel
2. **PAAG and Joint AAC/Faculty Senate/Council of Chairs Meeting Debriefs:**
	1. General discussion from both the Joint meeting and the PAAG meeting occurred
3. **Approval of Previous Faculty Senate meeting minutes:**
	1. October 2, 2024 minutes moved for approval and passed
4. **The Faculty Senate moved into Executive Session to discuss the following items:**
	1. NLF Reception event reminder: Thu 10/10/2024 4-6pm in the Wittliff Gallery
	2. Piper Committee Recommendations: Had 7 applicants and we can send 1 nominee for the Piper award and 2 Swinney award nominees
	3. Committee Recommendations
	4. Senate Updates on Special Election, FDL applications and NLFWR application cycles
	5. Updates from the Faculty Hire Date Committee and RCM sub-committee meetings
5. **Motions made coming out of Executive Session**
	1. Endorsement of the Piper Committee Recommendations for awardees moved for approval and passed
6. **Meeting Adjourned**
	1. Chair Ledbetter adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

October 23, 2024 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom ONLY with Faculty Senate Liaisons
*Note: The October 16,* *2024 meeting is cancelled*