Faculty Senate Minutes  
Wednesday, September 14, 2016  
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending  
Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Michel Conroy, Dana Garcia, Lynn Ledbetter, Ting Liu, Vincent Luizzi, Shirley Ogletree, Jovita Ross-Gordon, Vivek Shah, Shane Smith, Vedaraman Sriraman, Alex White  
Faculty Senate Fellow: Andrew Marks  
Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Thomas Grimes (SJMC)

Meeting called to order at 4 p.m. by Senate Chair Conroy

Associate VP Research & Federal Relations, Walt Horton  
Presentation and discussion directed at beginning to identify greatest potential and greatest obstacles at Texas State as we move toward achieving NRU status
- Many strong programs with great potential to become stronger  
- Important to work within strategic plan framework to continue to address faculty workloads, faculty service, and resource distribution  
- Important to create and encourage good communication strategies  
- Interest in creating cross-collegiate interdisciplinary programs  
- Important to create more initiatives for research that would include operational, administrative and staffing aspects  
- Interest in seeking opportunities for multi-institutional awards  
- Need for facilitating post-award administration

Approval of Sept. 7 meeting minutes  
Minutes approved

Council of Academic Deans Aug. 23 meeting report (Conroy)
- BAT Website Introduction: Dr. Ron Brown updated the Council with the efforts of the Behavior Assessment Team in creating a BAT website. Dr. Brown distributed a handout containing various examples of troubling student behavior and how they should be dealt with.

Council of Academic Deans Sept. 6 meeting report (Conroy)
- UPPS Index and Proposed Conversion Index for PPSs: Dr. Beth Wuest and Dr. Lisa Garza informed the Council that by January 2017 a website will be created to consolidate all UPPS and divisional PPSs in order to better manage and search for policies.  
- Textbook adoption process: Dr. Bourgeois reported to the Council that there has been a significant increase in textbook sales at the University Bookstore and apparently the initial implementation of *Verba Collect*, the new textbook ordering program, has gone very well.

Senate 2016-17 goals  
Discussion of suggestions for Senate 2016-17 goals included
- Continuing to improve communication with senate liaisons, senate committees, all faculty, and administrators  
  -Seeking input from senate committees and setting clear committee charges  
- Reviewing the senate’s mission, vision, and writing a senate strategic plan  
  -Senate subcommittee: Senators Bezner, Bowman, Luizzi, and White (Chair)
Senate committees that have ad hoc charges

- **Academic Standards Committee**: Reviews and initiates proposals that affect university academic standards, including changes in admissions requirements, graduation requirements, grade-point requirements/enrollment barriers, and probation/suspension standards, as well as proposals related to assessment, testing and advanced standing and accreditation, and makes recommendations to the faculty senate.
  - Suggestions: “+/-” grading system, grade inflation

- **Budget Committee**: Examines the annual budget and the financial report published by the University and reports significant facts and recommendations to the faculty senate.
  - Discussion of ideas for condensing of information regarding faculty equity, faculty salaries, and graduate student salaries

- **Faculty Handbook Committee**: Committee’s purpose needs revision as Faculty Handbook is now published online.

- **Retirement and Benefit Programs Committee**: Makes recommendations to the Faculty Senate on issues related to retirement and benefit programs and interacts with the Texas State Human Resources Office concerning implementation of various policies and issues that impact faculty.

Items returned to agenda

- Faculty office hours subcommittee (Senators Bezner, Bishop, Ross-Gordon, and Sriraman)
  - Discussion of proposed rewording of policy statement (UPPS 4.01)
  - Suggestions should be directed to Senator Bezner

Concerns from faculty

- Parking: Comments from Professor Thomas Grimes (SJMC) about impact of parking space shortage on faculty productivity
  - Concern about rumor of the loss of 1500 faculty parking spots
  - Concern expressed regarding parking issues during and after Strahan remodeling project
  - Request to visit this issue through the Campus Master Plan and University Plan
  - Ride-sharing app, parking lot app
- Faculty office break-ins
  - Returned to agenda due to time constraints

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Lynn Ledbetter