

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
JCK 1100 (Reed Parr Room), 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Dana Garcia, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Diego Vacaflares, Alex White.

Liaisons: Carrie Boden, Deborah Harris, Diane Dolezel, Barbara Covington, Chris Russian, Steve Gordon, Asha Hegde, Luis Intersimone, Yoo Jae Kim, Tom Patterson, Rahul Chakraborty, Bahram Asiabanpour, Moonis Ali, Amy Benton, Bob Rutledge, Hunter Close, Ann Burnette, Sarah Blue.

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*).

Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Senate Chair White

Spring semester full senate meeting, Senators and Senate Liaisons (Senator Chair White)

- Discussion of the committee preference survey.
 - Committee on Committees recommends faculty.
 - Senate aligns the selections and approves the final committee selections.
 - Nontenure line faculty participation high.
 - Settings for this year's survey were changed to better facilitate faculty finishing the survey.
 - Asked liaisons to encourage completion of the survey in their colleges.
 - Generally, all full time faculty can serve on a committee.
 - Committees are represented by colleges for a broad mix of faculty.
 - The new preference survey uses Qualtrics and is in a different format than in the past.
 - More information is now available about each committee and if there will be an upcoming vacancy for a particular college.
 - Faculty can choose three committees from each level.
 - There have been some issues when closing the survey and they are being addressed.
 - Please reach out to colleagues to answer any questions they may have and encourage them to serve and complete the survey.
- Discussion of the New Learning Management System (LMS).
 - It is likely Sakai (TRACS) will be replaced with a new LMS.
 - Sakai no longer supported by many universities.
 - Fewer publishers are providing Sakai compatible modules.
 - Three possible replacements are Blackboard, Canvas, and Brightspace.
 - Concerns about the role of the advisory committee have been expressed to ITS.
 - There will be vendor demonstrations on March 5th, 7th, 9th. There will be one vendor per day and they will demonstrate certain capabilities of their system.
 - Once the LMS vendor is chosen, ITS will pilot the system down the road.
 - The LMS advisory committee is addressing concerns and working with ITS to ensure faculty needs are addressed.
- Discussion of IRB issues.
 - The senate is addressing IRB issues, especially with delays in exempt and expedited categories.
 - Currently there is an initial review by staff and one board member.
 - Sean Rubino and Monica Gonzalez in the IRB office are available to visit departments and discuss IRB procedures.

- The faculty senate is asking for input on any problems and help with our effort to improve the process, especially from anyone who has experienced delays.
- Please ask your colleagues about any concerns and use the senate online form to report any issues. The faculty senate needs the data to take to the IRB to try and address any issues.
- Discussion of issues from various colleges:
 - There is an unacceptable response time and faculty input to the IRB.
 - The time required for approval is unacceptable, especially for students working on course, thesis, and dissertation research.
 - What the IRB is telling us does not align with what faculty are experiencing.
 - Process of going to the full board seems more laborious and feels like a trial. The senate should examine the full board process.
 - Senate liaisons are concerned about confidentiality when using gift cards for research subjects. The University requires private information when using gift cards and there is a concern that this could breach confidentiality and limit participation by research subjects. The senate will investigate how data is secured.
- Discussion of the new faculty contact form.
 - Liaisons were asked to inform faculty about the new senate online contact form and to use the form for any issues the senate should address.
- Discussion of safety issues on campus
 - Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services, recently updated the senate via e-mail concerning ongoing safety improvements on campus. Highlights of Mr. Algoe's presentation included:
 - The campus lighting committee safety walk continues each semester to identify opportunistic improvements to lighting. A campus-wide lighting study has been completed. This lighting will be rolled out in phases over the next four years. It is anticipated that this will amount to an investment of approximately \$2.2 million, not the \$1 million originally estimated. Aggressive tree trimming around lights has been completed in several areas around campus.
 - The replacement of 183 out of 233 first-call classroom door locks has been completed. Additional door locks are currently being identified for replacement. This project amounts to an investment of over \$800,000. Swipe card access is now a requirement for the exterior entrance doors of all buildings on campus.
 - Additional police foot patrols and bike patrols have been added to the campus. Additional security guards have been hired and placed on foot patrol at night. Several new outreach programs have been implemented such as "Coffee with the Cops", "Chat with the Chief", the "Adopt a Residence Hall" program, and a Bobcat Village satellite office to help improve police relations. UPD was authorized three additional full-time police officers in 2017. They have hired 15 new officers since May 2016, including five who just started on January 31, 2018. Recruiting remains open for the two remaining vacancies in the police department. These efforts were made possible by a \$1.1 million budget increase for UPD.
 - The Social Sentinel program is now used routinely by UPD. The Bobcat Guardian Mobile App was launched in the fall of 2016.
 - Transportation Services provides real-time bus tracking. The Bobcat Shuttle extended its hours during finals from 10:50 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Additional routes were added in the evening after class periods end. An Additional 6-passenger vehicle was placed in service for Bobcat Bobbies. Multiple solar charging stations with integral lights are being added to bus stops.

- There is a new International Advisory Group headed by Vedaraman Sriraman, associate vice president for Academic Affairs.
- The Faculty of Color group is now lead by Dr. Valarie Fleming, chair and associate professor in the Department of Communication Disorders.
- Candidates for the position of chief diversity officer have been chosen and interviews will begin soon.
- Pell grants can now be used in the summer sessions.
- Discussed online faculty evaluations, the low response rate from students, and how faculty can encourage more participation.

Texas State Employees Union (TSEU) staff presence (Senator Bell-Metereau)

- Texas State Employees Union is asking the administration to look at safety issues concerning required staff presence during inclement weather events.
- The Staff Council and TSEU would like the faculty senate to be a signatory to this issue.
- A proposed letter from the union to President Trauth was read aloud.
- The union is asking the administration to work on the wording of policies to help reduce the number of essential personnel required to be on campus during inclement weather events.
- Currently Texas State University vice presidents choose personnel in their division who they consider to be essential.
- The consensus was to invite a staff council representative to speak to the senate.

Discussion of future bulletin items

- The following items will be considered as future Faculty Senate Bulletin items:
 - New Learning Management System (LMS) update.
 - Add demonstrations dates and a link to the LMS website.
 - Extending the deadline for the committee preference survey.
 - Part time teaching award due dates.
 - Faculty Senate Fellow nomination package due dates.
 - Information of safety issues from Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services
 - Jones Diner update
 - Add link for ordering.

Committee appointments

- Senate still needs Presidential Award for Teaching selection committee College of Science and Engineering member and the Presidential Award for Scholarly/Creative Committee still needs a College of Applied Arts member.
- A senator from their college will contact faculty to fill these committee roles.

Approval of Minutes

February 7 minutes approved with a few non-substantive changes to be made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan