Minutes from the AFC meeting of April 17, 2015:

Presiding: Vedaraman Sriraman

AFC members and liaisons in attendance:

David Nolan
Andrew Marks
Pat Gibson
Amy Meeks
Shannon Duffy
Diane Eure
Yvonne Eixmann
Sherwood Bishop
Brian Johnson
Britney Webb
Amanda Meyer
Suzy Okere
Lillie Cogswell
Wendi David

Guest: Debra Feakes

AFC Members & Liaisons: Clarification of the roles of AFC members and AFC liaisons: There are two AFC members from each college. If a department does not have an AFC member, it has a liaison. In answer to a question regarding how one gains a seat as an AFC member, we are reminded to check the box on the university survey regarding desired committee service. In general, the Committee on Committees, which evaluates the survey, prefers experience. As to serving as liaisons, the choice is a departmental decision.

Adjunct Faculty Dialogues: The last adjunct faculty dialogue spent most of its time working on questions for a survey of all 900+ adjunct faculty, which has since received administrative approval. The goal is to distribute this survey before May 1, so as to have the summer to process the data. Debra asks us to strongly encourage all adjuncts in our departments to participate. The survey will have 4 demographic questions (which may be tallied automatically by the system) as well as 31 questions and one comments box. The questions will have “agree,” “neutral,” “disagree,” or “N/A” as possible answers.

The last Adjunct Faculty Dialogue of the semester for the San Marcos campus will be held next Tuesday, April 21 from 4-6 PM in JCK 880. Debra is hoping to continue both the orientation and the adjunct faculty dialogues next year.
Adjunct Orientation: Three fall orientations have been scheduled, all for CHEM 100: Aug. 18, 2:30-4:30; Aug. 18, 6:30-8:30 PM; and Aug. 19, 9-11. They need volunteers for all of them—they usually have four presenters plus additional help with setup.

Video clips of the orientations will be made available on Faculty Commons, which is also looking for volunteers. The orientation is open to anyone who wishes to come. Orientation may also have additional flash drives for folks who want one.

Britney notes that her department has also put together a departmental orientation, if other departments want to use it as a template.

AAUP: Debra, Michelle and David are presenting in June at the AAUP conference in Washington DC on adjunct faculty issues. Send any ideas or suggestions to Debra.

Terminology: The term “adjunct” will probably be replaced with “non tenure line” a.s.a.p. “Adjunct” will now mean “per course,” bringing Texas State into greater conformity with national usage of the terms.

Sherwood noted that the attitude of the Faculty Senate and the administration overall toward adjunct issues has been very positive, and Debra notes the same regarding the Council of Chairs.

When the committees give their reports May 5, we might want to look into someone presenting from AFC.

Excellence in Online Teaching Award: In the recent Excellence in Online Teaching award, 2 out of the 3 winners were adjuncts, including the overall winner.

Faculty Senate Fellow: will be chosen from among the AFC members, excluding the liaisons, for this upcoming year. Sriraman will send out an email soliciting nominations. We will be picking one representative and one alternate.

Part-Time Teaching Awards: The last AFC meeting of the semester is May 1, and at that meeting the colleges need to put forward their candidates for receipt of the Part Time Teaching Award. The applications are now all in and the packets are available online on our TRACS site. Remember you only need to read the applications for your college. After the May 1 meeting, the AFC will forward their recommendations for the awards. The following people have agreed to serve as chairs for the teaching award committees:

Andrew: College of Applied Arts
Diane: McCoy School of Business
Britney: College of Education
Shannon: College of Liberal Arts
David: College of Fine Arts
Suzy: Health Professions
Wendi: Science and Engineering
**PPS policies**: We have succeeded in getting the name “adjunct” changed to “non tenure line” and that can now be applied throughout the pps. Beyond that, the AFC recommends drafting a bullet-point list of goals that the AFC should work toward in the future. Amanda will draft the list of goals.

**Evaluation Standards**: Amy noted that Psychology’s non-tenure track faculty drafted a letter to their chair asking for greater clarification on how non-tenure track faculty are evaluated. In response, Psychology is setting up a committee in the fall to look into clarifying the evaluation standards for Non Tenure-Track faculty. The are also setting up a Personnel Committee subcommittee, made up of two TT and one NTT, to evaluate adjuncts. Amy offered to make the letter available if other departments wanted to use it as a template.

**Per Course Salary**: Pat noted that some per course faculty are being paid below the university-set minimum of $3000 per course. A department can set pay above this rate, but it should not pay below it. The AFC noted that this may be an issue of chair re-education that perhaps should be brought before the Faculty Senate.

**Workload Release**: The AFC will address selection for the Work load release program in the fall.