Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Bahram Asiabanpour, 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, Alex White

Administrators: President Denise Trauth, Provost Eugene Bourgeois, Associate Provost Debbie Thorne

Guests: Selene Hinojosa (Library), Thomas Grimes (Mass Communication), Pat Pattison (University Ombudsman), Katie Burrell (University Star)

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

President’s Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)
Preliminary comments included mention of extremely positive external review of proposed PhD in Computer Science; $1 million in scholarship endowments from Houston Rodeo Association; productive meetings with North American CEO of NEC; MLK celebration organized by students; new $1 million contribution to endow Psychology scholarships; Bobcats United wristbands serving as symbols of our inclusive, caring environment that values and respects all of its members; and Bobcat Caravan headed to four Texas cities to spread the Texas State “story”.

- Information Items
  - COSE interim senator appointment, Dr. Bahram Asiabanpour
  - Academic Freedom FS Committee
    - To convene in Fall 2018
    - Subcommittee to draft mission, purpose, and structure (Senators Bell-Metereau, Bishop, Bowman and Luizzi)
  - Scholars at Risk institutional membership recommended by senate

- Discussion Items
  - Spring Action Agenda and process update
    - Suggestion made through online survey to share the rules of engagement used for Philosophy Dialogue Series to encourage civil conversation and interchange of ideas between all campus constituencies
    - Diversity Connections webpage ([www.sdi.txstate.edu/DiversityConnections](http://www.sdi.txstate.edu/DiversityConnections)) is now live
    - Student Campus Climate Survey instrument is being developed and will be administered this semester
    - Interactive, online course for faculty, staff, and supervisors to learn best ways to respond to students in distress, “At-Risk Training” through counseling center ([www.counseling.txstate.edu/parfacstaff/fac.html](http://www.counseling.txstate.edu/parfacstaff/fac.html))
    - Provost Bourgeois has shared via email statements on core values/shared values, honor code and code of conduct and encourages faculty to include these in course syllabi as “talking points” to facilitate beginning of semester discussions regarding diversity, civility and freedom of expression.
    - Bobcat Guardian Mobile App
      - Has functionality which allows reporting of incidents and concerns, as well as other safety features ([www.police.txstate.edu/Personal-Safety/Safety-Apps](http://www.police.txstate.edu/Personal-Safety/Safety-Apps))

- Legislative update
  - Feb. 20 is date for Texas State leadership’s testimony on budget before House Appropriations Committee
  - House is finalizing committees so it is difficult to project outcomes for proposed bills:
-Senate Bill 18: Eliminates provisions requiring public universities to set aside tuition for student financial assistance
-House Bill 1403 – Calls for the elimination of in-state tuition for undocumented students
-Senate Bill 516 – Calls for a study and report concerning faculty productivity
-Multiple bills would further permit guns on campus
-Hiring freeze on all current vacancies by Governor Abbott
  o Clarification is being requested through TSUS office regarding implementation
-Ombudsman required and preferred qualities: to be discussed at a later date

PAAG follow-up
- Need for more information on process for submission of specific requests to increase carve out areas to include, for example, an individual’s faculty office
  -Blanket inclusion of all faculty offices not possible at this time

Handbook Committee and University Ombudsman’s role, Dr. Pat Pattison, Handbook Committee Chair and Ombudsman
- Dr. Pattison discussed the role of the Handbook Committee and pros and cons of whether it should be a standing committee or be convened on a periodic basis to do a read-through.
  -She stressed the importance of the review of the handbook being faculty-centered and faculty-led.
- Summary of qualifications and qualities of Ombudsman
  -Maintain total confidentiality
  -Be a good, active listener
  -Legal background is helpful
  -Encourage mediation
  -Good problem solving ability
  -Good critical thinking skills
  -One course release per semester
  -Average of 3-5 cases per semester

Nontenure Line Faculty Committee report, Senator Alex White, NLFC Chair
- Two meetings (Dec. 16, 2016 and Jan. 20, 2017)
- Streamlining New Faculty Orientation workshops with goal of reducing overlap with Human Resources mandated new faculty orientation presentations
- Preparing workshop “Understanding Your Position as NLF”, Feb. 13 and 14
- Workshop on NLF Workload Release Program, Mar. 22 and 23
- Review of application process for Part-Time Teaching Award
  -Include letter of support from full-time faculty member
- Senator White nominated NLFC for University Team Award
- NLFC wants to continue dialogues with President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois
- Recommending recognition for long-serving NLF who are per course faculty

New business
- Regents Rules change requests
  -Returned to agenda
- Topics to discuss with Associate Chancellor for Academic Affairs
  -What plans/strategies exist to protect vulnerable international and DACA student populations at the system level?
  -Is there a long-term system-wide strategic plan regarding growth?
  -Is there a way to strengthen TSUS political influence to a level similar to the UT system?
- Equity and Access Committee faculty representative
- To replace former Senator Sriraman
- Information from Committee Preference Survey to be circulated by email

- *Starving the Beast* streaming is available in the Alkek Library catalog. The link is on the senate homepage. ([http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~Sla](http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~Sla))
  ([http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~Sla](http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~Sla))

- UPPS 03.04.05 Facilities and Administration Costs (F & A or Indirect), Feb. 10 (Senator Asiabanpour)

**Approval of January 25 meeting minutes**
Minutes unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
~Minutes submitted by Lynn Ledbetter