07/10/15 Minutes – Nontenure Line Faculty Committee Meeting

Glynda Betros, Sherwood Bishop, Wendi David, Shannon Duffy, Yvonne Eixmann, Susan Holtz, Susan Lee, Andrew Marks, Sherri Mora, Jo Beth Oestreich, BJ Spencer, Allie Thomas, Alex White attending.

1. **Introduction of New Members** -- Dr. Alex White (new Chair of the Committee) called the meeting to order. Welcome, Alex.

2. **Selection of Officers:**

By nomination and show of hands, Sherri Mora was selected as Vice Chair and Wendi David as Minutes Maker (Secretary).

3. **Information Items**

- Congratulations to Andrew Marks on his selection as Senate Faculty Fellow.
- Council of Academic Deans discussed:
  - **TK-20 roll-out.** University needs consistent reporting of information found in vita. By 2018 all departments will be using TK-20 for managing this information. Several colleges, including Health Professions, are already using TK-20 and have experienced bugs which are being addressed.
  - **Campus Carry.** This new Texas law begins Aug. 1, 2016 and will allow concealed hand-gun carry by persons over age 21 on campus. The President of the university is allowed to develop reasonable expectations for compliance that don’t constitute a complete ban. At this time it is unclear whether classrooms, some classrooms, athletic events, etc. are included. A committee is charged with formulating a policy for Texas State compliance with the law. The committee has a representative from the Senate. Debra Feakes is also a member of the committee. Nontenure line faculty (NLF) are encouraged to communicate any concerns related to how this law impacts classroom teaching to Debra Feakes (df10@txstate.edu).
- SPI surveys (for HB 2504) are going online only by Fall 2015. This applies to all undergraduate courses. The Senate conducted a comparison of online vs in-class paper responses and found no significant differences in overall results. Some discussion ensued, including reasons for completing the SPIs (besides the legislative mandate), disagreement with the policy, strategies to increase response rates, and implementation of online departmental evaluations (which is up to individual departments). Whitten Smart at ITS will help with implementation if departments are interested in using online surveys besides the mandated SPI’s.
4. PPS 8.13 Workload Release Application Process

- change wording from ‘adjunct’ to ‘nontenure line’
- item 15, change wording to ‘submit progress report to Faculty Senate and copy Chair or Director’
- a motion was made to approve changes – vote was unanimous approval
- a request was made for Valerie to post a sample workload release program application on the committee TRACS site

The committee requested that the data from the work life survey in 2013 be parsed according to tenure-track or tenured versus non-tenure track faculty.

5. AAUP Conference Report

David Nolan, Debra Feakes, and Michel Conroy presented a talk at the national American Association of University Professors (AAUP) conference in June. The theme of the conference was ‘One Faculty’. The committee viewed the presentation, which focused on initiatives at Texas State to enfranchise nontenure line faculty, particularly with respect to shared governance. In the presentation Debra, David, and Michel discussed creation of the Adjunct Faculty Committee (AFC) – now the Nontenure Line Faculty Committee – and accomplishments of the committee. These accomplishments include the Part-time teaching award, changes to term limits for senior lecturers, creation of the Senate Faculty Fellow, consistency in policies addressing NLF, and the orientation. The newly conducted “Adjunct Faculty Orientation” received a very positive response at the meeting, with many attendees requesting information about the orientation.

A request was made that the presentation be posted on the committee TRACS site.

6. Nontenure Line Faculty Orientation

Debra Feakes will be conducting the orientations in CHEM 100 on Tuesday, August 18, 2:30-4:30 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm, and on Wednesday, August 19, 9:30-11:30am. Additional volunteers include Allie Thomas, Sherwood Bishop, and Wendi David (did I miss anyone?). If you are available, please come and help out – discussions with new faculty are always beneficial.

To do for the orientation:

- change the word “adjunct” to “nontenure line” throughout
- add links that are in the powerpoint presentation to the folders on the USB
- check the links to make sure they are still functioning
- notify department liaisons to broadcast the orientations
- add the presentation to the NLF website (without full set of info)
- What does Debra need volunteers to do?

7. Results from Nontenure Line Faculty Survey

- Debra’s analysis
  - What we do well – teaching assignments, academic freedom, adequate support
  - Improvements – mentoring, advancement, merit/equity, shared governance

- Discussion of results analysis
  - Which questions are most relevant?
  - separate full-time responses from per-course responses
  - find out which questions have highest degree of associated dissatisfaction
  - Andrew Marks, Susan Lee, and BJ Spencer will analyze the qualitative comments

8. Adjournment -- next meeting will be Aug. 14 1-3pm