**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Lyn Litchke, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Corey Benbow (president, Student Government), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Christine Norton, Ruth Taylor.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner

**Student Government Presentation**

Corey Benbow, president, [Student Government](https://studentgovernment.dos.txstate.edu/) (SG), discussed details of the student government executive agenda and agenda items completed recently. They have created a campus safety and climate task force to help improve the campus climate. They have also started to address food insecurity for students on campus and are working on food insecurity lockers across campus. As part of this strategy they are advocating that [Bobcat Bounty](https://bobcatbounty.txstate.edu/), the student-run on-campus food pantry at the university, occupy a permanent space in the LBJ Student Center by fall 2020. They have started the SG lending library program to help students with textbook costs, and while it is small at this time, they hope to grow the program in the future. They have started a free menstrual hygiene product pilot program across campus. This fall, SG is coordinating a monthly river cleanup that occurs the last Sunday of the month. Recently SG hosted a [student roundtable](https://studentgovernment.dos.txstate.edu/programs/roundtable.html) with the president, provost, and other administrators. This fall, SG held an event for [National Voter Registration day](https://studentgovernment.dos.txstate.edu/programs/voter.html) and had the second highest number of voter registrations in the country and the most in Texas. They continue to support the [Rising S.T.A.R. (Scholarly Travel Activity and Research) program](file:///C:\Users\jb25\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\YK1RB49X\Scholarly%20Travel%20Activity%20and%20Research%20(S.T.A.R.)).

Senators asked for Benbow’s opinion on a possible university tuition increase. He supports a modest increase, but wants to keep the increase stable by reducing textbook costs. He thinks an increase is important to provide services, but the increase needs to be a net positive for students. He believes the university has been a good steward of student tuition and fees, but feels they need to do more if possible. As part of any increase in student service fees the administration needs to ensure fees support students.

Benbow shared details of the upcoming [Diversity Week](https://studentgovernment.dos.txstate.edu/diversity-week.html) event. He encourages attendance from everyone on campus, including faculty. The purpose of the event is to unify and celebrate our differences. Senators asked if the university has made improvements concerning diversity. Benbow stated that work done by SG at their level doesn’t always match what’s happening at the upper levels of the university. Certain incidents have overshadowed the progress the university has made. Asked what the Faculty Senate could do to facilitate the process, he stated that for diversity and inclusion to work there has to be a shift in culture at the university to accomplish anything. Student Government wants to create a larger conversation concerning diversity. As a small part of this effort SG has created a diversity pledge and pin that will be part of the Diversity Week events for students and faculty. Senators discussed items in the SG executive agenda and a tenure and promotion statement concerning diversity and inclusion in university policy. Senators agreed that the administration needs to respond better to incidents on campus. Communication to Student Government and students needs to be improved. Miscommunication and slow responses create a culture of mistrust. He feels that there is not a lot of diversity, or a diversity of ideas, when it comes to the upper levels of the administration.

Benbow discussed a student forgiveness program for violations of conduct or law. This would not mean there would be no consequences for a student, but a belief that there are other ways to approach certain offenses. Student Government supports environmental initiatives across campus such as the river cleanup, Bobcat Blend, etc. One important area of concern for SG are student mental health issues. Unfortunately, SG keeps getting pushback from the administration regarding these concerns. They believe there are other ways to approach mental health issues that are not being addressed.

Lastly, Benbow shared his personal story concerning his involvement in the foster care system. He is pleased that the university has embraced the [FACES program (Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success)](https://www.studentsuccess.txstate.edu/programs/faces.html), however, he feels that the program could be more robust and Texas State could be a leader in this initiative with more university support.

**October Faculty Senate Bulletin**

Senators reviewed and discussed the Faculty Senate bulletin items for October and approved the current version.

**Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships Final Comments**

Senators discussed revisions to [AA/PPS 04.01.32 Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-32.html). The Faculty Senate chair met with Associate Provost (AP) Thorne concerning the recent discussions concerning the policy. The AP is open to rewording the policy based on feedback from the senate and other constituents. Senators discussed the revised changes and made a few additional minor changes. With the most recent changes added to the policy the senate feels faculty concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.

Senators also discussed the current grievance policy ([AA/PPS 04.02.32 Faculty Grievance Policy](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-02-32.html)), as a means for faculty to address any concerns related to the possible denial of a faculty fellowship. The senate chair will monitor any current grievances and come up with a possible plan to address any concerns. The senate chair will forward comments to the associate provost.

**October 23 Senate Liaison Meeting Agenda**

Senators discussed agenda items for the upcoming meeting of the full senate on October 23, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Reed Parr Room (JCK 1100). The following possible agenda items were discussed:

* Implicit bias training for all senators
* A discussion of the faculty hiring requirement diversity statement
* Clery Act Campus Security Authority (CSA) issue

**Policy Review**

Assignment of senators/committees to review specific University and Academic Affairs policies:

* AA/PPS 02.02.13 Transfer and Award Graduate Academic Credit (new policy). Due October 18. Senator McClellan and Academic Governance Committee
* [AA/PPS 02.02.11 Transfer and Award of Undergraduate Academic Credit](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/02-02-11.html). Due October 18. Senator Wesley and Academic Governance Committee
* [UPPS 02.06.03 Excused Absence Policy related to University Sponsored Events](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/02-06-03.html). Due October 11. Senator Ledbetter
* [UPPS 07.04.03 Solicitation on Campus](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-04-03.html). Due October 11. Senator Jensen
* [UPPS 07.09.01 Management of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-09-01.html). Due October 14. Senate Chair Bezner. Senators discussed the deletion of this policy and the chair will bring the suggestion forward to the administration.

**Approval of Minutes**

September 25 minutes were approved by senators.

**Announcements**

October 9, 2019 senate meeting

* The senate chair and vice chair will be unavailable, the senate secretary will facilitate the meeting.
* Presidential Academic Advisory Group (PAAG): Discussion of national enrollment data and the Student Government executive agenda.
* Presentation of the Piper Professor Committee report.
* Academic Freedom Committee issues: (1) how to handle responses to submissions to us through our portal, which usually are anonymous, and (2) the possibility of the AFC proposing academic freedom as the new Common Experience theme.

October 16, 2019 senate meeting

* The senate chair will be unavailable, the senate vice chair will facilitate the meeting.
* Invited guests: Ameerah McBride, chief diversity officer, director of Equity and Inclusion, and Title IX coordinator. Scott Bowman, special assistant to the provost for inclusion and diversity.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan