

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Senators present: Covington, Czyzewska, Wilson, Furney, Payne, Kimmel, Feakes, Blunk, Hindson, Ash, Conroy

Guests: Thompkins, Sigler, Nusbaum, Richmond, Prentice, Blair

1. Information and Follow-Up Items
 - a. Dr. Barbara Covington will serve as Interim Senator for the College of Health Professions.
 - b. The February 12 meeting of the Council of Academic Deans was cancelled.
 - c. Council of Chairs meeting report (Conroy)
 - i. Dr. Oskam, SJMC Director, initiated a discussion of moving both HB2504 and department teaching evaluations online. Gail Ryser, Director of the Testing Center, participated in the discussion. A subcommittee was formed to research the outcomes of online evaluations at institutions that have made this move.
 - ii. Dr. Sriraman is working on a proposal for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering and asked departments interesting in collaboration on the effort to contact him.
 - d. UC meeting report (Feakes)
 - i. The President discussed potential budget proposals.
 - e. A UCC representative has been appointed for the College of Health Professions.
 - f. An Alumni Association Board of Directors representative from the Senate has been selected.
2. FY14 Parking Permit Rates and Bobcat Transit Interurban bus service (Associate Vice President Nusbaum, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Richmond)
 - a. As part of the Campus Master Plan, an external committee recommended that the units of Parking and Transportation Services be combined, and that they be housed within Finance and Support Services.
 - b. Joe Richmond was hired as the Director of Transportation Services. However, he is currently on leave, and a new Director will be hired soon. Candidate interviews are scheduled for February 19 and 20.
 - c. The current bus contract was extended until 2014 due to rules prescribed by the Board of Regents; and the student bus fee will be raised to \$95 as of 2014, if approved by student referendum.
 - d. The Texas Transportation Institute did an external review of the university's bus services, and the President's Cabinet decided to cancel the Bobcat Transit Interurban (BTI) route based upon their recommendations.
 - e. A carpooling system, Ride Share programs, and Van Pool programs are being investigated as feasible replacements for the BTI trams to San Antonio and Austin.
 - f. Parking Services has been operating at a loss for a few years. Moreover, the Gary Street Parking Garage is not being used as much as predicted. Three parking garages have replaced surface spaces lost in the campus master plan.
 - g. Parking Services has proposed that permit rates be increased for almost all permits (10-27%), and the office is also considering requiring permits for contractor, delivery, and Texas State vehicles.

- h. The Faculty Senate raised concerns about the cancellation of the BTI, as well as the lack of discussion about the cancellation with stakeholders before a decision was reached. According to Nusbaum, the President's Cabinet made the decision without consulting faculty, staff, or students. The Senate is also concerned that the decision was made after Mr. Richmond explicitly promised the Faculty Senate in the Fall of 2012 that the BTI would not be cancelled. Nusbaum commented that in her experience "Any university service can be cancelled at any time."
 - i. The Faculty Senate raised concerns about students with disabilities who previously used the BTI service to get to class and may have no other means of transportation. In addition, cancelling the BTI may be a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the IDEA.
 - j. The Faculty Senate raised concerns about the University's status as a model for Sustainability, and how the decision reflects badly on the University. How can we be a leader in the area of sustainability if we cancel a bus program that reduces both car traffic and emissions, in order to sell more parking permits for the Mill Street parking lot, which will increase both car traffic and emissions.
 - k. According to Nusbaum and Prentice, the number of 24-hour Red Restricted spaces will not be reduced.
 - l. The Faculty Senate expressed concerns about how raising permit rates might push parking farther onto city streets, and how the City of San Marcos would respond to such a situation.
 - m. The Faculty Senate noted that these recent decisions made without consulting stakeholders seem to signal a troubling change in the approach of the Transportation Services Advisory Council. Nusbaum confirmed that the committee is only advisory and has no policy-making powers.
3. Old Business
- a. PPS reviews were returned to the agenda, due to time concerns.
4. New Business
- a. Concerns about the research tool, SPSS, being removed from software levels are being investigated. SPSS has been purchased by IBM, and the price has been raised significantly. The university is exploring alternatives due to this raise in price. Milt Nielsen will be invited to speak to the Senate about the process for selecting a replacement program.
 - b. The Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT) is trying to develop procedures that would govern a Medical Leave Policy for students. Senator Czyzewska will serve on the committee.
 - c. The Senate reviewed draft proposals for the Part-time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award and Adjunct Faculty Development Release Time.
5. The Minutes of February 6, 2013 were approved.