

Nontenure Line Faculty Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 17, 2017

1:00 – 3:00 p.m., JCK 880

Members Present: Chairman Alex White, David Nolan, Shannon Duffy, Andrew Marks, Amanda Meyer, Maureen Lemke, Kay Newling, Sherri Mora, Marylyn Kajs-Wyllie, Kevin, Jetton, Wendi David, Susan Holtz, Katie Salzmann, Amy Meeks, Glynda Betros, Sharon Armstead, Sherwood Bishop, Allie Thomas, and Jo Beth Oestreich

Welcome and Greetings from Chairman White, 1:02 pm

Informational Items from Chairman White:

- Ombudsman Search- deals with faculty matters, and the current one is retiring, a search committee has been formed. The current Ombudsman spoke to the Faculty Senate to share her role and background, i.e. mediation, and encourages anyone with mediation skills to apply. Encourage individuals from the various departments to consider applying. The university is seeking from within the university. There is a student Ombudsman (university issue/ethics, etc.).
- Starving the Beast available at library - (<http://catalog.library.txstate.edu/record=b3552570~S1a>) It is now available through the library. About 90 minutes. There is a button on the Senate webpage to link to the documentary too.
- Academic Freedom Committee- The Senate is drafting the mission and purpose of this new committee. The goal is to have diverse members represented from across the university. (See information provided at the end of the minutes). There will be a survey generated to glean interest on who would like to serve on this committee. There is some concern on how to post your preferences of committee service via the on-line link. The Committee on committees is reviewing this process of committee assignments. Chairman White encouraged the Faculty Senate to appoint nontenured faculty to the committee (s), and graduate students. The NLF committee requests review of the language in the document, i.e. change from fulltime lecturer to nontenure line faculty member.
- *Re-appointment of non-tenure or tenure track is at the discretion of the Chair and Dean. No rationale is required to give as why the individual will not be reappointed.*
- **Senate Fellow**- Andrew Marks has completed his term on behalf of the NLF Committee. It was modeled after the President's Fellow. Dana Garcia is the current President's Fellow. The future call is for anyone interested in being considered for this position, and also consider a project to work on while serving in this position. Full-time faculty of Texas State at least the last three years are eligible to apply. A work-load release may be applied (depends on the project) to the Fellow.
- **NYT Times Site License** – Faculty Senate recommended the library to pay for a site license for the *New York Times* and additional resources that are aligned with this source.
- **Scholars at Risk** – Organization tries to help scholars that are in international situations that are oppressed with their academic views. Encourage universities to work with these individuals to get out of their area and present to various organizations, or work at the university, etc. Texas State was asked to participate, the

President asked the Faculty Senate, who stated, yes, to participate in this organization.

- **McNair Scholarship-** Trio program (LBJ Act), help underrepresented groups, minorities to get into graduate school. They produce a database of interested students to attend graduate (invite them as undergraduates) school at Texas State. Texas State is actively pursuing participating in this program. This is a new program for Texas State. More details to follow.
- **Hiring Freeze-** The current interpretation at Texas State: if you are hiring someone who will be paid for the first time in September 1st, 2017, you can hire them; graduate students are ok, if you do not pay them before September 1st; and or moving within the university; and per course faculty. What is not ok: a new hire. Exceptions can be approved/authorized via the Governor's office (via through Academic Affairs). The freeze is only until August 31, 2017.
- **Nominate for Team Award-** Chairman White nominated our organization for this award. A committee review, and Provost announced. Letters of Support can be sent (even though this is not indicated on the submission form).

Workshops

- **Understanding your position as NLF** – April 13th and April 14th, 2017. April 13th session was videotaped (5 attended). On April 14th, (2 attended). This session was not taped. These were great conversational workshops.
- **NLF Workload Release** – Powerpoint is on TRACS. Chairman White asked those members able to participate to review the PPT and update information, etc. as necessary. The call for this is not until the Fall 2017. There are Grant Specialists in various departments and we want to encourage our department Grant Specialist to attend too. We are encouraged to continue these sessions in the coming years.
 - **Wed Mar 22, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Alkek 105/106**, Alex W (in charge) Sherri, Maureen
 - **Thur Mar 23, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Alkek 119**, Alex W. , Sherri, Amy, Gloria, Glynda and Jo Beth

Plans for Future/Old Business

- **Mixer-** Consider a dual purpose with Recognition (Affirmation) and welcoming of new faculty. Consider the Jones Dining, the Witliff, or off campus to hold this event. If we held it at the library, early fall is a great time. Katie Salzmann will check on the availability of space in the fall. **Sub-committee:** Katie Salzmann, Kevin Jetton, Sherri Mora, David Nolan, Susan Holtz (funding), Sherwood Bishop (event publicity), and Jo Beth Oestreich. We can check on Faculty Records with the Faculty Senate assistance (Chairman White). The committee will report back next month on findings of place/time/date, etc.
- **NLF Dialogues-** Do we want to continue these sessions? Consider to have one a year with the Provost and the Associate Provost. Chairman White will ask for one session in the spring of each school year with the Provost and Associate Provost.
- **Recognition of Long Term Faculty-** As per the Mixer item above, to have our committee consider combining with the Mixer.

Response to Fliers - Please see the information at the end of the minutes. The administration supports the faculty, but is concerned about the PR that occurs after such events. Posters were hung by outside groups. The administration is looking into creating dialogues with professors, etc., and Officer Otto Glenewenkel has held numerous Standard Response Protocol (SRP) workshop

sessions. Chairman White will gather information on what has occurred and report back next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Mixer and Affirmation Process

Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Beth Oestreich

"Academic freedom is freedom from duress or sanction aimed at suppressing the intellectual independence, free investigation, and unfettered communication by the academic community -- faculty, librarians, students, and guests." (Statement on Academic Freedom, UCLA)

Academic Freedom is vital to a university, and all faculty have a compelling interest in its preservation, as it is vital to them as well as to university librarians, students, and guests. As such, the Faculty Senate (FS) and its Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) assume joint responsibility for insuring that it prevails.

The Academic Freedom Committee and the Faculty Senate have a dynamic relationship insofar as the AFC may call upon the Senate to take up a matter for action and the Senate may refer a matter to the AFC for consideration.

Both the FS and the AFC will vigilantly engage in the following measures:

1. promote an understanding of academic freedom by encouraging and sponsoring ongoing events and activities to convey its significance and establish it as a guiding core value of university culture;
2. identify threats to or restrictions on academic freedom and initially, by resolution, make concerns known whenever there is convincing evidence to warrant attention;
3. address challenges where possible and refer them to other units for assistance as necessary;
4. assist with insuring academic freedom in the international arena by networking with such organizations as Scholars at Risk which seeks opportunities for oppressed faculty, such as gaining temporary employment at Texas State or receiving invitations to speak here;
5. identifying and securing funding for the activities in 4. above.

Members of the AFC should include at least one person who is a faculty senator, a tenure track faculty member, a fulltime lecturer, a librarian, and a member of the Graduate House.

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Email from Liaison

I'm not sure when the NLFC is meeting again, but you asked about agenda items--I noticed this morning that the question of who put the racist fliers up on our campus may be at least partially solved, as a White Supremacist group is now claiming credit, after having done the same thing to UT. I also notice that UT's response right out the gate is a lot more aggressive than our administration's was--they are calling it vandalism and threatening criminal investigation. I bring this up because I have friends in the Model Arab League that tell me the group is still too nervous to meet publicly. They are terribly unhappy with the administration's response, and they asked if the NLFC could also put it on their agenda for discussion. I'm not sure what we can do, since it seems more like the province of the Senate, but the Senate seems to have moved on to other matters.