**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Guests**: Stephanie Towery (Library), Senate Fellow Shannon Duffy, Micky Autrey, Janell Pemberton.

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

**Marketable Skills Presentation**

Janell Pemberton, director of the Technology Resources Project Management Office and Micky Autrey, director of Curriculum Services, briefed senators on the background and development of the new marketable skills website. The website is a tool to help meet Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requirements for a visible public report of marketable skills affiliated with academic programs. They demonstrated the workings of the website for use by program coordinators, chairs, and deans. Program coordinators will access and input information on a yearly basis. For this academic year there will be two input dates, once in the fall and once in the spring. The first iteration goes public in November or December. The public site will be functionally similar to the faculty profiles site. The website will occupy space on the provost’s website and be linked to the academic catalog. Program coordinators may contact Micky Autrey at micky@txstate.edu for assistance with the site.

**Presentation from 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Fellow Shannon Duffy**

Presentation by Senate Fellow Dr. Shannon Duffy, senior lecturer in the Department of History, on her upcoming project. Her goals are to research issues nationwide related to faculty academic freedom, research possible solutions to issues related to academic freedom with a focus on nontenure line faculty and social media, and create venues for faculty to express academic freedom concerns. Her ultimate goal for the research is to gain a clearer understanding of faculty concerns regarding academic freedom, a clearer understanding of the degree to which all Texas State faculty feel they have academic freedom in their teaching, research, and service at Texas State, and to create a proactive statement establishing the university’s clear commitment to academic freedom for all faculty. Senators discussed the goals and process of the project.

There are three senate fellow dialogues that will be held in the coming year. Each dialogue will be promoted for maximum faculty attendance. There was a discussion by senators to possibly include graduate teaching assistants and teachers of record in the dialogues. There may be a brown bag lunch on the Round Rock campus before the senate meeting there in November.

**PAAG Agenda for September 11**

Senators discussed the agenda for the September 11 President’s Academic Advisory Group session. President Trauth has asked for 45 minutes to present and discuss the university’s Diversity Road Map. Senators suggested that the president also include a discussion concerning the role of new vice president for University Administration, Dr. Lisa Lloyd, and how her job relates to diversity.

**Faculty Senate Form Submissions**

A concern from a faculty member about a policy prohibiting children from attending the annual LBJ Picnic was relayed through the Faculty Senate contact page, and Chair Bezner received a second similar concern directly from another faculty member. The faculty member was told by the picnic organizers that there is a policy prohibiting children from the event. Senators discussed the issue and decided to contact the administration for clarification of the policy.

**Report from CAD**

Senate Chair Bezner relayed information from the recent Council of Academic Deans to the senate. Issues discussed included the possible change in staff titles (collapsing titles to take away complexity), the mid-cycle review of the university plan, Hispanic Serving Institution Week that will focus on retaining men of color at the university, and the possibility of a new “Unity Lounge” in the LBJ Student Center.

**Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting Attendees**

Senators are needed to attend the October 18 meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates in Austin. Senators McClellan and Bell-Metereau volunteered to attend.

**Review September 11 Faculty Senate Agenda**

Senators reviewed and discussed the September 11 Faculty Senate agenda.

* PAAG from 4:00-5:00.
* Senate photograph. Please dress accordingly.
* Discussion of university plan revisions.
* Use of pronouns in policy statements.
* Faculty ombudsman report.
* University and Honors College representation on senate and NLFC.

**Policy Review**

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

* UPPS 07.04.07 Demonstrations on University Property. Due September 5. Senator Supancic
* AA/PPS 03.01.12 Faculty Incentive Compensation for Externally-Funded Sponsored Programs. Due September 16. Senator McClellan
* UPPS 04.04.30 University Leave Policy. Due September 11. Senator Wesley

**Approval of Minutes**

August 28 minutes were approved.

**Discussion of UPPS 07.04.07 Demonstrations on University Property**

Senators discussed what the policy is based on and where the information/language in the policy came from. There was some concern expressed over how and if outside law enforcement agencies would be trained in de-escalation. There was also a discussion concerning some of the statements in the policy and how they address staff taking leave to participate and possible incidental participation. These concerns will be addressed in the feedback provided. There was also a general discussion concerning policy reviews and how senate comments are addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan