

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, May 7, 2014  
JCK Regents Room, 4 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

**Present**

**Senators:** Augustine Agwuele, Elizabeth Blunk, Mary Ellen Cavitt, Michel Conroy, Barbara Covington, Maria Czyzewska, Debra Feakes, Steven Furney, Ted Hindson, Jesus Jimenez (for Alex White, spring 2014), Emily Payne, Vedaraman Sriraman, Susan Weill

**Senators-elect:** Brock Brown, Lynn Ledbetter, Ju Long, Shirley Ogletree

**Administrators:** President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim

**Guests:** Lisa Ancelet, Tom Grimes, Selene Hinojosa, Karen Sigler

Meeting called to order at 4 p.m. by Senate Chair Conroy

**President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)**

President Trauth began by congratulating the Faculty Senate on a productive year. She also recognized and congratulated Senator Debra Feakes for her selection as Presidential Fellow for the 2014-15 school year.

Senator Feakes will conclude her work with the Adjunct Faculty Committee after the committee's inaugural adjunct faculty orientations are conducted on August 19 and 20, one session being offered in the evening, with the sessions taped for those unable to attend. There will also be an adjunct faculty orientation conducted in January. This is the fourth noteworthy initiative successfully launched by the AFC, made all the more important because at Texas State, about half the faculty is considered adjunct, including full-time lecturers. The only non-adjuncts are tenured and tenure track faculty.

- **Promotion and tenure cycle summary**

President Trauth was pleased to report that all of the applicants for tenure and promotion advanced to her office were approved: 35 assistant professors were promoted to associate professor with tenure, two associate professors were tenured, one clinical assistant professor was promoted to associate, and 11 associate professors were promoted to professor. Among the applicants promoted or tenured, there were only a few no votes across the university, a tribute to the quality of their academic portfolios, she said. Four applicants were turned down by vote in their department, school or college and not advanced to the president. The final vote and approval for the cycle rests with the Board of Regents in late May, but historically the regents endorse the president's recommendations.

- **External funding submissions**

President Trauth discussed how the rapid increase in faculty numbers has positively impacted grant proposals submitted for external funding. She noted that since 2004, the faculty at Texas State has doubled in size. Provost Bourgeois said there are now seven research/grant coordinators in six academic colleges to assist faculty with external grant proposals. Texas State must reach \$45 million in restricted research expenditures to be eligible for National Research University funding and to achieve recognition as a Research University. Currently, that amount at Texas State is \$21 million. (Note: More information is available in *The Texas State Strategic Plan for Research*, accessed through the website of the Office of the Provost.) The provost also noted that the Council for Funded Research and the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) address faculty issues in an effort to increase external proposal submissions.

- **Development leave supplemental grants, goals and outcomes**

Five to ten supplemental grants of \$20K are awarded annually to selected Faculty Development Leave projects. Associate Provost Opheim said the supplemental grant program has been in place a sufficient number of cycles to assess that its outcomes are meeting the intended goals. She said priority is often given to applicants who demonstrate that they are eligible for and plan to also seek external funding. In response to whether these funds might be made available for competition across the university to include tenure-track faculty rather than restricted to faculty awarded development leave, President Trauth said she preferred that the process remain as it is. She was open to the idea of a university wide competition, but no funds are currently available.

- **Music building construction priority demotion**

President Trauth addressed a concern that in the Texas State *Strategic Plan for Research* the construction of a music building had fallen to a new low priority. She said construction of an engineering and science building in San Marcos and a health professions building in Round Rock using Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRB) funds will be requested at the next legislative session. If approved, the next priorities in coming years will be a music building in San Marcos and another health professions building in Round Rock, also using TRB funds. Other buildings listed in the *Strategic Plan for Research* may be funded with philanthropic gifts or Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF) funds.

## **BREAK**

### **Departing senators recognized for service**

Mary Ellen Cavitt, College of Fine Arts and Communication

Maria Czyzewska, College of Liberal Arts

Steve Furney, College of Education

Ted Hindson, College of Liberal Arts

### **PAAG follow-up**

Reaction to the PAAG discussion was positive. The Senate will continue to pursue additional research funding sources for tenure-track faculty. The Senate will also request that several more faculty members be appointed to the Faculty Development Leave Supplemental Grants Review Committee. Currently, three of the four members are administrators.

### **Information and follow-up items**

- **Council of Chairs 5/1 meeting**

Senator Feakes reported that the Council of Chairs is against the university's plan to discontinue its full contract for SPSS, predictive analytics software used widely across the university. Cost is the issue for the proposed discontinuation. The Senate concurs with the Council of Chairs that SPSS should be retained because of its wide use in academia and industry. Another issue was that the chairs remain concerned about the Faculty Development Leave online application process and that they have no power to disapprove an eligible leave request.

- **Committee assignments**

Senators will vet faculty lists for committee assignments so that faculty going on development leave will not be appointed for a first year that coincides with their leave. Senators were asked to also actively recruit faculty for committee service.

- **Approval of 4/30 minutes**

### **Perceptions of administrators survey summary**

Senator Feakes has compiled the findings and created the summary for perceptions of administrators.

### **Part-time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards**

Senator Feakes reported that there were 40 nominations submitted for the first *Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards*. The Senate endorsed the recommendations submitted by the Adjunct Faculty Committee for these inaugural awards. The award allows for one faculty member to be honored from each college and to be presented an award of \$1,000 at the fall college convocation. The only college without an applicant was Health Professions.

**Installation of newly elected senators**

Brock Brown, College of Liberal Arts  
 Lynn Ledbetter, College of Fine Arts and Communication  
 Ju Long, McCoy College of Business  
 Shirley Ogletree, College of Liberal Arts  
 Jovita Ross-Gordon, College of Education (not present)

**Election of Faculty Senate officers**

Officers of the 56<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate (2014-15)

Chair	Michel Conroy
Vice Chair	Vedaraman Sriraman
Secretary	Susan Weill

**Members of the 56<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate (2014-15)**

College of Applied Arts  
 Elizabeth Blunk (2015) Family and Consumer Science

McCoy College of Business  
 Ju Long (2016) Computer Information Systems and Quantitative Methods

College of Education  
 Emily Payne (2016) Curriculum & Instruction  
 Jovita Ross-Gordon (2017) Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology

College of Fine Arts and Communication  
 Michel Conroy (2016) Art and Design  
 Lynn Ledbetter (2017) Music  
 Susan Weill (2016) Journalism and Mass Communication

College of Health Professions  
 Barbara Covington (2016) St. David's School of Nursing

College of Liberal Arts  
 Augustine Agwuele (2016) Anthropology  
 Rebecca Bell-Metereau (2016) English  
 Brock Brown (2017) Geography  
 Shirley Ogletree (2017) Psychology

College of Science and Engineering  
 Debra Feakes (2015) Chemistry and Biochemistry  
 Vedaraman Sriraman (2017) Engineering Technology  
 Alex White (2016) Mathematics

**Summer meeting dates**

The 2014 summer schedule for Senate meetings (3 p.m. – 5 p.m.):

June 11 (Wednesday)  
 July 9 (Wednesday)  
 August 13 (Wednesday) Tentative

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

~Minutes submitted by Susan Weill