The Faculty Senate welcomes senators-elect Elizabeth Bishop (History, Liberal Arts), Scott Bowman (Criminal Justice, Applied Arts) and Dana Garcia (Biology, Science and Engineering). All are first-time senators and will begin their 2015-18 terms at the May 6 Faculty Senate meeting.

The pilot program of the summative review of chairs to include a Faculty Senator as an outside observer who will convey faculty and staff input to the dean preserving anonymity has been completed in the College of Liberal Arts. A review from the Dean of Liberal Arts was generally positive and the Council of Academic Deans has endorsed proposed revisions to PPS 1.10.

Although final actions have not yet been taken, Texas State University budget priorities positively addressed by the legislature thus far include (1) funding for construction of a science and engineering building in San Marcos and a health science building in Round Rock, (2) increased funding for the Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF), and (3) an increase in the formula for general appropriations.

Faculty research grant awards will play a role in achieving criteria for National Research University Funding (NRUF) status. However, the significance of successful grant writing in the tenure, promotion and merit processes is a department/school/program decision and should be made clear in unit policies.

If you have questions about any of the topics above, please contact your Faculty Senator or Liaison. The Faculty Senate encourages you to voice your concerns and comments on any faculty and shared governance topics to these representatives or directly to the senate via email: FacultySenate@txstate.edu.