**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

JCK 880, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

**Guests**: Andrea Golato (Dean, Graduate College), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Faith Smith (University Star).

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner

**New Graduate School Application System**

Andrea Golato, dean of the Graduate College, demonstrated the new graduate school application system (SLATE by Technolutions) for the senate. The Graduate College has been working on a new system for several years. SLATE will replace ApplyTexas and GADU (a .net site) for fall 2020 and beyond for graduate student applications. The previous system had several issues that were problematic in getting some information in a timely manner. The system was not ADA compliant and there were also some security concerns. As part of the application system selection process, the graduate council and graduate advisors identified must haves for the new system. National peers and Texas peer institutions were benchmarked. Graduate advisors and faculty participated in the selection process and gave feedback from the system demonstrations. As of August 1, 2019, Texas State now has one system and access is through the [Graduate College website](https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/admissions/document-info.html). The new system is customizable, easy to use, and ADA compliant. According to the dean there have been no questions, complaints or other issues with the new system. Applications for spring and summer 2020 will use the old system.. The dean presented the new application process and demonstrated the website interface. In the new system, recommendation letters are preferred, but departmental forms are also accommodated. Senators discussed specific points of the process.

Dean Golato shared the Graduate College’s recent recruitment activities. There will be graduate student information sessions at both the San Marcos and Round Rock campuses and also online in the coming year. The Graduate College is participating in graduate student fairs throughout Texas and there will be a graduate student fair at Texas State in San Marcos in February. On October 3, there will be a half day application bootcamp in the Writing Center for first generation undergraduate students on campus. There is also a first generation website and events to assist students getting into graduate school. The dean also shared information on roads to research, Honors College grad chats, social media and online campaigns with university marketing, and international recruiting with International Affairs. All of the events are listed on the [Graduate College events page](https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/events.html).

**Faculty Senate Representation from University and Honors Colleges**

Senators discussed the merits of adding Faculty Senate representation from University and Honors Colleges. Discussion centered around the number of faculty from the two colleges. Senators discussed possible representation through the nontenure line faculty committee and/or as a Faculty Senate liaison. Discussion also centered around key points of communication with the colleges, the senate, and the administration and whether or not representation would solve this issue. Several options to move forward with this concern were discussed. Senators will query members of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates at the October meeting to benchmark equivalent issues at their institutions. Issue was tabled to a future meeting pending more information.

**Discussion of University Plan Mid-Cycle Review**

Senators discussed the university plan mid-cycle review adjustments sent from the provost on September 5, 2019. Several questions senators attempted to answer were:

* What changes, if any, should be made to the draft revised initiatives presented?
* What changes, if any, should be made to the draft revised key performance indicators (KPIs) presented? Are they measurable?

There was some discussion of the various section goals and new additions/deletions as well as issues affecting faculty and staff. Senators requested more time to review the plan. Issue was tabled to September 25.

**International Advisory Council for Fall 2019**

Senators discussed the need for a replacement senator to serve on the International Advisory Council for Fall 2019. Senator Bell-Metereau volunteered to represent the senate on the council and the senate approved the nomination.

**Policy Reviews**

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

* UPPS 03.02.01 Reserves, Carry-Forwards, and Over-Expenditures. Due September 30. (Senator Davenport)
* AAPPS 04.01.32 Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships. Senators discussed the recent revisions to the policy. Senators will review the policy and the senate will also send the policy to the Academic Governance and Academic Freedom Committees for additional feedback. Policy will be added to the September 25 senate meeting.

There was some discussion of the policy review process and out of cycle reviews. Senators also discussed the creation of a new personnel committee policy. Senators decided to task the Academic Governance Committee to look at creating a new personnel committee university policy.

**Approval of Minutes**

September 11 minutes were approved with minor changes.

**Discussion of Job Posting Language**

Senators considered the updated job posting language from Associate Provost Thorne. Senators supported statement option one with some changes/additions to the language. Senate Chair Bezner will make changes and forward to the administration.

**Clery Act Reporting Issues**

Senators discussed the previous week’s Clery Act issues presented by the administration. Some discussion revolved around issues of credibility concerning the problem and how this may also affect other initiatives on campus. The senate chair asked for input from senators concerning an upcoming interview with The University Star.

**Miscellaneous Items**

Pronoun use in university policies discussion from the previous week was presented to Associate Provost Thorne. Dr. Thorne said that the senate should discuss the issue with Beth Wuest, associate vice president for Institutional Effectiveness, and Lisa Garza, director, University Planning and Assessment. Their offices have responsibility for UPPS 01.01.01 Policy and Procedure Statement System changes.

Discussion of academic administrators applying for faculty development leave (FDL). Associate Provost Thorne stated that there has been some discussion of changing the policy to allow administrators who may be stepping down in that academic year to be able to apply for FDL.

**Announcements**

September 25, 2019 senate agenda items:

* Update on the new Canvas Learning Management System by Mr. Whitten Smart, special assistant to the vice president for Information Technology.
* Discussion of agenda items for meeting with senate liaisons October 23.
* Discussion of University Plan.
* Discussion of Inclusion and Diversity Plan to Build Capacity.

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan