Minutes
Liberal Arts Council
12 November 2014, 2:00 pm, FH 230

Presiding: Dean Michael Hennessy
Recording: Associate Dean Lucy Harney

Council Members: Bill Kelemen, Dennis Dunn, Mary Brennan, Beth Erhart, Bob Fischer, Alberto Giordano, Craig Hanks, Susan Day, Dan Lochman, Ken Grasso, Associate Dean Britt Bousman, and Associate Dean Nancy Grayson

Guest: Dan Perry

1. University Advancement presentation:

Dan Perry, Assistant Vice President for University Advancement, gave an overview of services available from Texas State’s Office of University Advancement. He distributed a hand-out highlighting Raiser’s Edge, a recently-implemented alumni data base that is managed by their office on behalf of the University community. Academic departments, centers, and programs may request unit-specific alumni data. Dan is available to assist academic units in managing their plans regarding alumni outreach and requests for donations.

2. Student service fee:

Lucy Harney distributed a hand-out and reviewed the procedures for applying for funding from the student service fee committee. She is available to assist chairs, directors, and faculty in preparing proposals for the upcoming funding cycle.

3. CAD update:

Dean Hennessy briefed Council members on the CAD meetings of 11/4 and 11/11:

- Dean Hennessy distributed an overview of the UPPS regarding sexual misconduct that is currently being developed in accordance with Texas State System policies. Council members discussed the policy’s possible implications for chairs, faculty, and students.

- Dean Hennessy alerted Council members to President Trauth’s message to the University community regarding Ebola. (http://www.president.txstate.edu/health-and-safety)

- The University Council is to be renamed the University Leadership Assembly, due to the fact that this group is no longer a deliberative body.

- Dean Hennessey distributed information regarding the Texas State Employee Wellness program to be piloted in spring 2015. Employees will have free and unlimited access to wellness education classes, swimming, racquetball, and group exercises. An extended package, including a membership in the Student
Recreation Center and other wellness activities and services, will be available by lottery. The deadline to register for the pilot program is December 15.
(http://www.worklife.txstate.edu/Wellness.html)

- The Faculty Senate has approved 51 faculty development leaves for 2015-2016. Final approval is expected in January. Dr. Day noted that chairs were asked to absorb the costs related to development leaves, where possible.

- The Texas State system Board of Regents recently approved a name change for one of the Geography Department’s PhD programs. They also approved a tuition increase of 4.5% and an increase of one dollar for the student computing fee.

4. Other business:

Council members discussed issues to come before the new governor and state legislature, such as Hazelwood relief and tuition revenue bonds for new campus construction.

Dean Hennessy discussed the evaluation documents for the recent round of 2nd-year faculty contract renewals.

Around the table:

Britt Bousman will work individually with chairs to complete the entrepreneurial questionnaire requested by VP Bill Covington.

Bob Fischer asked for clarification on reporting revisions to departmental strategic plans. Council members agreed with Dean Hennessy’s suggestions to add a facilities priority to the College plan and to increase staff requests where appropriate.

Susan Day asked for agenda items for the 11/9 joint meeting of the Council of Chairs, the Council for Academic Deans, and the Faculty Senate.

Mary Brennan asked about sources of funding for services and equipment required for disabled faculty.

Nancy Grayson noted that the University of Texas now encourages incoming students to take the first semester of freshman composition at another institution. This might explain the disproportionate increase in freshman composition enrollments at Texas State.

Dan Lochman asked about the classification of a scholarly book, in comparison with articles and chapters, for purposes of faculty evaluation, tenure, and promotion. Council members agreed that, while the credit accorded a book-length project varies across disciplines, the general standards applied in Liberal Arts at Texas State have not changed in recent years.

The meeting was adjourned.