

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
4:00 – 6:00 pm, JCK 830

Minutes from previous meetings are available at
<http://www.txstate.edu/facultysenate/about/59th-senate-minutes.html>

Attending senators and liaisons: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Michel Conroy, Ting Liu, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White

Guests: Selena Hinojosa, Liaison, Alkek Library; Sandra Sadek, *University Star*

Salary Report:

Senators noted substantial variation across various colleges and departments. From a mathematical perspective, the variation is statistically significant. The chair will ask for peer institution comparison CUPA data. The senate debated the value of asking for data on the degree of variation at comparable universities. The senate also discussed variables in considering differences between staff salaries at Texas State and peer institutions. Finely detailed data requested from a broad range of universities may not be as useful as the five comparable emerging research institutions. The set of comparable universities is determined by Texas State administration, and senators asked what ~~factors are part of the~~ criteria are employed in selecting peer institutions.

Faculty Senate Bulletin:

The chair asked if the senate is interested in sharing the suggestion by the AAUP on how to fight targeted harassment of faculty.

Honor Code Council:

Senate voted to have Cathy Thomas replace Marilyn Goodwin.

PPS Review: Senators assigned to review each policy

Council of Chairs - Alex White, Michel Conroy

Contracts – Scott Bowman, Ting Liu

Misconduct – David Nolan, Jesse Gainer

Effort reporting: Sponsored programs – Diego Vacaflores and Dana Garcia

Researcher conflicts of interest - Benjamin Martin, Janet Bezner

Small class report – Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Ted Hindson

Enrollment management in Academic Departments - David Nolan and Michel Conroy

Accessibility for students with disabilities to instruction - Alex White & Diego Vacaflores

Instructional contact – Michel Conroy, David Nolan

Presidential Upper Level Scholarship Program – Scott Bowman & Benjamin Martin

Academic Affairs Computing Priority Committee –Alex White, Janet Bezner

Announcements:

9:30 coffee for Fulbright, all-campus event, February 2, 2018.

Julie Kavanagh, Diplomat in Residence: Afternoon Master class Friday, Feb 2, 2:30 Taylor-Murphy 105. Skills developing opportunity. RSVP EB26.

Senator Conroy reported on placement of art in Jones faculty and staff dining room.

Suggested PAAG items:

Faculty Senate Fellow:

Send RFP this week, applications due by March 21st, and notifications sent by April 15. Full-time faculty with three years teaching experience at Texas State. The chair plans to send it out tomorrow. It was also suggested to be published as a bulletin item. The chair encouraged senators to invite colleagues to apply.

Committee Preference Survey:

The survey was emailed to a test group including senators. Adding the time-commitment for each committee would be a good idea. Survey is set up so that respondents can express interest in up to four Senate and four University committees. Someone tried to do one (and succeeded) but no one tried to do more than four. It was suggested that the available ones be bolded, to make them more evident and to reduce the maximum number of choices to 3 for each set of committees. Committees are open meetings and if requested by the committee chair, they may include more people than the listed number of members. Testers requested that it be possible to navigate or return to revise selections. The chair agreed to check if this is possible in Qualtrics. Introductory information should make clear that there are two types of committees and describe the differences and term lengths.

Liaisons will be asked to help publicize participation in the preference survey.

Announcements from CAD:

The provost reported that TXST is third in the U.S. in the amount of financial aid rewarded to students.

Faculty Concerns:

The chair reminded senators to ask faculty to use the contact form indicating what action the faculty member has taken to resolve or explore the concern and what is requested of the senate.

A College of Education faculty member is concerned with the safety in the area from the Den towards JCK and to the parking lots near Sessoms. Health and Human Services had vandalism in the laboratory. The contact form will help so the senate will know who has been contacted and what specific areas and changes are requested. Senators should reach out using the form on the senate website. Concerned individuals should use the Bobcat Guardian app available via the University police website: <http://www.police.txstate.edu/Personal-Safety/Safety-Apps.html>

Senator Nolan described the death threats (via phone, email and in person) towards University Star staff. UPD provided special security for a limited time. University said further security needs to be funded by University Star.

Liberal Arts faculty have concerns about the bus schedule not accommodating people who are taking evening classes.

Senate agreed to take up the matter again once the updated list of safety measures is forwarded by VPFSS Algoe.

Council of Chairs report:

The proposed transition from TRACS to Blackboard, Canvas, or VPL, to be designated as Learning Management System (LMS) was announced. Administration requests input in the future from faculty and chairs. Chair, faculty and staff input was not included before the RFP went out to LMS companies. A survey was conducted concerning TRACS, but the data has not been shared with the LMS advisory committee. The committee first met on Monday after the fall semester ended. IT sent out request for proposals to some twenty or thirty companies and three organizations responded with completed proposals. They are the three most familiar LMS firms. The issue will appear on a future agenda. In the meantime, senators and liaisons are encouraged to discuss the issue with colleagues.

Minutes approval postponed for possible revision.

Senate adjourned at 6:04.