

Faculty Senate
Wednesday, November 8, 2017
4:00 – 6:00, JCK 880

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

Attending senators and liaisons: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Alex White, Diego Vacaflares, Selene Hinojosa (Library)

Guests: Alyssa Newsome (*University Star*)

Senators will complete review for preliminary approval of proposals for FDL by November 15, 2017, and the chair will forward these to Provost Bourgeois.

CAD report:

Writing Center Director spoke at CAD about proposal to expand the center's mission: create writing intensive courses, offer workshops on how to grade writing, and collaborate on research related to writing. The deans will consult with faculty on this proposal.

Teaching load vs. research productivity: some departments have asked for tenured faculty to go from current load (3-teaching, 1- research) to a 4-course load with no research requirement. The question was raised whether this is consistent with R-1 goal. Deans suggested that situations vary greatly, and should be handled on a case by case basis.

Round Rock has advisors for one-stop advising, and they work across colleges. At Texas State, advising is done through the academic colleges. Round Rock advisors may report to University College.

Council of Funded Research reported on Kim Rossmo profiling of successful grant recipients.

Clarifying the stand on grants in relation to promotion and tenure, the provost said that while pursuing external funds is encouraged, attainment of a large grant would not replace a publication record.

Translational health showcase improved collaboration, and another showcase will take place in February.

Targets for next year: Freshman class will increase from 5875 to 6200, which will be .8% overall enrollment increase. Enrollments from two important feeder community colleges are down, including ACC (-1159) and Lone Star (-7769).

Proposed tax reform plan includes removal of tuition waiver tax deduction. Texas State does not waive tuition, but foreign students working as TAs who pay in-state tuition will have this difference counted as taxable income under the new plan.

One college noted that the Academic Computing call for proposals seemed earlier than usual, and Honors College asked about the policy on their senate representation, since Honors College is not currently represented. RTA for discussion and action.

TSUS meeting report:

College budgets are opaque in some universities in the system, whereas Texas State's budget is fairly transparent.

The system is looking at developing a research facility with housing at the Christmas Mountains. They are trying to get more system schools to use the property and will be building a facility on site in the next year or so. Lab and research space will be the priority, but they are also considering some type of temporary housing. The goal is to create a system of networked TSUS field stations for research.

Chancellor Faculty Fellowship Program has issued an early call for applications to work on specific projects at the system level, due by December 4, 2017. (possible bulletin item).

Department Chair Leadership Academy: Systems office is considering providing workshops that would meet two to three times a year, beginning in Fall 2018.

Legislative budget report: Funding will be linked to the 60 x 30 State plan. There are no Tuition Revenue Bonds in 2018-2019. Building projects will continue but no new buildings are planned.

TSUS System office is moving as of February 9th, 2018, to a building purchased from UT.

Free speech: TSUS emphasizes the first amendment, with no limitations of free speech for any reason. Sponsoring organizations will be required to follow TSUS Regents rules.

Faculty clubs: Many schools have lost their faculty facilities and clubs, and the vice chancellor requested advice on ways to create spaces on campuses for faculty to meet.

Update on Old Issues

Dan Eggers is working on the logo issue and redesign of the website access.

Policy for grade change now has a link on the TXST page.

New Issues

Outreach to Staff Council: Staff Council would like to have a relationship with the senate, to support initiatives of mutual interest. Senate considered possibilities such as having a joint summer meeting. The senate chair will send a memo to Adam Clark.

Campus carry report: Senator Conroy reported that Campus Carry Committee voted not to propose faculty offices as gun-free zones. Departments or the Council of Chairs may follow up.

Chair White asked the senators to fill out the form on priorities.

Faculty concerns: Free speech issues need clarification. Senate considered whether Faculty Senate should require those who submit REP applications to consult with chairs.

Minutes approval RTA.

6:05 Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Bell-Metereau