

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending**

**Senators:** Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White.

**Guests:** Sherri Benn (assistant vice president for Student Affairs and director of Multicultural Student Affairs); Skyller Walkes (interim director, Office of Disability Services); Selene Hinojosa (Library); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*).

Meeting called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Senate Chair White

**Senate election results** (Senate Chair White)

Senate Chair White presented the results from the recent senate elections. New and re-elected senators are:

- College of Applied Arts: Michael Supancic, Criminal Justice.
- College of Liberal Arts: Elizabeth Bishop, History, and Vince Luizzi, Philosophy.
- College of Science and Engineering: Rachel Davenport, Biology.

The election process is ongoing in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and is awaiting confirmation of a second candidate before the election can proceed to a runoff. Senators in the College will contact candidates to verify their willingness to serve on the senate.

**Possible Bulletin items for May** (Senate Chair White)

Senate Chair White discussed the potential items for the May Faculty Senate Bulletin. Items to consider are:

- Tenure and promotion cycle update.
- List of early applications such as: Faculty Development Leave (FDL), Piper Professor nomination, Research Enhancement Program (REP), and the Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release (NLFWR) program.
- Announcement of new/continuing Faculty Senate officers and new senators.
- Green Cat Challenge winners.
- Results from the recent assessment of administrators.

Suggestion to add information concerning upcoming potential prestigious national awards and fellowship deadlines to give faculty time to apply.

The senate approved the recommendations for the May bulletin.

**Diversity initiatives** (Dr. Benn and Dr. Walkes)

Dr. Sherri Benn, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and director of Multicultural Student Affairs and Dr. Skyller Walkes, interim director, Office of Disability Services, were invited by

the Faculty Senate to discuss diversity and inclusion at Texas State and their thoughts related to these issues.

- This is an opportunity to openly discuss diversity and the rapid demographic shift at Texas State. This shift has outpaced the university's ability to address inclusiveness issues and students are responding to diversity concerns on campus. The university must be prepared to engage students and faculty as the important stakeholders in this process. Students report the importance of faculty in their experience with the university climate.
- There are initiatives in the works from the president's office to address many of these concerns.
- Inclusiveness issues should be integrated into the core curriculum.
- Their offices want to work with faculty and have an open dialogue with the senate concerning these issues.

The senate discussed several items related to issues of diversity and inclusion with the guests. Some of the questions asked were outside the purview of their offices and should be addressed in other ways such as discussion at PAAG meetings. Other issues highlighted were:

- The graduate student of color forum concerning the types of research that are legitimized or delegitimized, how research is viewed, and whether research outside of historically accepted academic modes is seen as valid by some faculty. Graduate students have a difficult time finding faculty who can support alternative forms of research. Understanding this type of research is important.
- The Multicultural Transformation Institute was proffered is an important part of the faculty diversity and inclusion process.
  - Are there are metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the transformation process?
  - Yes, but they are self-studies, not an outside evaluation of the actual content.
  - Meant to transform instructors' perspectives.
  - It is becoming difficult to get faculty to participate in the program.
- Students need to be exposed to a broad scope of ideas from different perspectives.
- Students state that they are ill prepared by the university to contend with the complex problems we are dealing with as a society.
- US1100 is just not enough anymore. This discussion should not be an add-on, must be a part of the overall university experience.
- Students' experience in their initial campus visits and meetings is different than what they experience once attending the university.
- The message needs to come from faculty members, chairs, deans, and leadership that the conversation on diversity is everyone's responsibility.

The senate discussed adding these issues and discussions as a possible theme for next faculty senate liaison meeting in the fall. There was also a suggestion to create a senate campus climate committee.

### **Committee on Committees (CoC) appointments (Senate Chair White)**

The senate briefly discussed the current CoC appointment recommendations. The senate voted to approve most of the CoC recommendations. Several committees required further discussion.

- Environment and Sustainability Committee.
  - Concerns with some members not attending meetings.
  - Recommendation to find a new staff member through the Staff Council and replace one member for non-attendance.
- Piper Professor Selection Committee.
  - Needs a past Piper Professor member of the committee.
- Committee on Committees.
  - On hold for a College of Fine Arts and Communication nominee.
- University Curriculum Committee.
  - Reappoint Dr. Michael Supancic.
  - Discussion of appointing a vice chair.
  - Discussion of having a different member from a separate department within the College of Liberal Arts instead of two members from the same department.
  - On hold until a member from a different department is found.
- University Lecturers Committee.
  - Recommendation to reappoint Dr. Pam Wuestenberg and as chair.
- Suggested that all senators and liaisons speak at college, school, and departmental meetings to promote the committee survey.

### **Assignment of policy reviews**

Policies to be reviewed by assigned senators:

- UPPS 04.04.51 Phased Retirement. Due April 20. (Senators Vacaflores and Conroy)
- AA/PPS Procedures for Awarding Faculty Merit Raises. Due April 23. (Senators Hindson and Conroy)
- UPPS 01.04.02 Ethics Policy. Due April 27. (Senators Gainer and Bell-Metereau)
- UPPS 04.04.36 Mariel M. Muir Award. Due April 30. (Senator Vacaflores)
- UPPS 05.02.02 Texas State Purchasing. Due April 30. (Senators Liu and White)

### **Standing rules changes & faculty concerns**

Two agenda items, standing rules changes and faculty concerns, were tabled until the April 25 Faculty Senate meeting.

### **Approval of minutes**

The April 4 senate meeting minutes were approved. Approval of minutes from the April 11 senate meeting will be tabled until April 25.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan