

Senate Minutes for 3/7/12

Members present: Sanders, Kimmel, Stone, Hindson, Conroy, Feakes, Ash, Wilson, Sriraman, Furney, Russian (for Melzer), Morey, Czyzewska

Guests: Clark (*Star*), Sigler, Opheim, Bourgeois, Trauth, England

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcements:

1. The Senate will invite Dean Willoughby to discuss concerns about the procedures for processing Graduate College applications from international students.
2. The Chair met with Gordon Thyberg and the Provost about Senate questions on the University Budget. Both suggested that it would be useful for the Senate and the Budget Committee to have a training session on the budget.

PAAG:

1. *Western Athletic Conference (WAC)* – The President noted that the media has reported that the situation within athletic conferences across the US is in flux, and that there is a lot of upheaval in Division I. Even so, the WAC schedule is stable for the next year. Texas State will join the conference on July 1. She explained that all the schools in the WAC are solid academically, and that they share many qualities with Texas State, making the conference a good fit for the University. One issue that the University must hope changes is that it is perceived to be in a weak media market. She hopes that media in the area will begin to report more regularly on the University's sports. She also explained that there are other media markets in which several large schools share the audience, and many are thriving.
2. *University Budget* – President Trauth shared the Cabinet's recent decisions on budget priorities, explaining that the Administration is working to find funds for a small merit pay raise for faculty and staff, along with money to correct salary inequities and to hire a handful of new staff. Merit raises would appear in October 1 paychecks. The Provost will caution Deans and Chairs that equity review should not be used to reverse past low merit decisions on faculty.
3. *General Education Core* – The Chair of the Senate explained that the General Education Council, of which she is a member, is unsure about how to implement recent mandates from the Coordinating Board regarding revision of core requirements and assessment. The Provost argued that the guidelines are very clear about the number of hours to be included in the core (42), about the nine component areas, and about the required outcomes. What the University must do is find ways to assess those outcomes in core courses, since the Coordinating Board shows no willingness to negotiate these mandates. To a Senator's comment that the new mandates seem at odds with

SACS requirements, the Provost argued that SACS requirements govern program assessment, but the Coordinating Board's mandates govern course assessment. He also stated that he thinks departments should develop their own assessment tools for these new mandates within their courses.

4. *Administrative Comparisons with Other Emerging Research Institutions* – The Senate wonders whether the Administration has explored other models governing the contracts of Chairs, who at Texas State hold 12-month contracts and so have little time for research. In addition, shorter contracts would serve as a means for reduced salary costs. One alternative examined at Texas State some years ago was offering Chairs a 10.5 month contract, allowing Chairs six weeks for scholarly / creative activity. President Trauth argued that the University does not have sufficient staff support for implementing such a system. In addition, Chairs already can reserve one quarter of their time for scholarly / creative activity. The Provost shared that there are a range of contract models at Texas institutions.
5. *Updated Salary Data* – The Provost agreed that the latest salary data still omits some faculty who were not a part of the most recent merit cycle, and asked that Senators send him a list of those faculty not on the list; he will then compile a complete table. The Chair of the Senate will ask Senate liaisons to check lists for their units, sharing any omissions with the Chair.

The Senate is also interested in how the CUPA median is determined. The Provost encouraged the Senate to share its questions with Joe Meyer.

BREAK

Academic Computing Committee Recommendations: The recommendations of the UCC were shared by Chair of the Committee Tim England. The Senate will vote on the recommendations at its next meeting. In addition, the Senate will discuss at that meeting whether the Committee should ask that the Administration allow proposals requesting funds for new initiatives.

Adjunct Faculty Committee Description and Charge: Chair of the Committee Michel Conroy proposed wording that will express the nature of the Adjunct Faculty Committee and its charge from the Senate:

1. *Description:* Makes recommendations to the Senate on issues and policies that impact faculty who are not tenured or on tenure-track. To facilitate this charge, members maintain a communication network with the adjunct faculty in the college they represent.
2. *Charge:* Comprised of two appointed representatives and two alternate members from the Colleges of Applied Arts, Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts & Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts, and Science & Engineering, the Adjunct Faculty Committee is charged to ensure that non-tenured and non tenure-track faculty have a means to express their interests and concerns directly to the Faculty Senate.

The Senate approved the suggested wording. Additionally, the Senate decided that all departments with ten or more adjunct faculty should have a liaison to the Committee, and that those with fewer than ten have the choice to name a liaison.

Minutes of 2/29/12 were approved.

Adjournment.