

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Senators: Bell-Metereau, Blunk, Conroy, Covington, Czyzewska, Feakes, Hindson, Jimenez, Weill

Guests: Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim, Kelsey Bradshaw, *University Star* reporter; Robyn Diaz, Alkek Library liaison

President's Academic Advisory Group, Dr. Gene Bourgeois

Clarification of university delayed start and class cancellation days policies

- The university changed delayed opening time to 11:00 am to avoid confusion about starting times, following coordinating board requirements.
- The university has not had makeup days; faculty may adjust syllabi.
- Whether ITV classes should be cancelled is up to the faculty.
- Policy could be in the handbook and schedule of classes.

Academic Affairs budget priorities

- Stress on staff as there is a freeze on hiring. Requested that the university do a "needs assessment."
- These decisions will be made by President Trauth at the cabinet level.
- There is a desire to use money to address staffing needs, as they are prioritized in departments and schools.
- Increasing pay for staff is another issue, in order to retain good staff.
- Clearinghouse or method of posting task force reports was requested. Provost Bourgeois will follow up with the president's cabinet.

Mental Health Advisory Council report recommendations and Counseling Center

- The process for reporting and follow-up on this was questioned and explained.
- Need for services has not been as extensive as was anticipated.
- Hours and availability of qualified staff are issues that affected use.
- University should publicize director search calendar and committee composition.

Full enfranchisement of faculty at Round Rock campus and adjunct faculty

- This has been a concern for Round Rock and a goal for the senate.
- A designated representative from Round Rock might be appropriate for committees like parking and transportation or online delivery and testing.
- Arranging visits to Round Rock campus for faculty was discussed.

- In correspondence, President Trauth is now using “our two campuses” to include Round Rock.

Board of Regents meeting

Discussion allowed public comments about Freeman Ranch having a show barn. Performing Arts Center opening impressed the regents. There was a broadcast web link to the meeting. NRUF (National Research University Funding) eligibility focused on research and commercialization.

Senate questioned the policy concerning deaths of long-time faculty.

PAAG Follow-Up

Counseling Center Director may be a promotion from within, which means the university will have one less counselor position and may not be able to fully address student needs.

Senate request to add three adjunct faculty members to University Council was approved.

Inclement weather policies may need further clarification through revision of PPS 4.01 and 4.02.

Senate considered Academic Affairs budget transparency.

Academic Computing Committee report, Dr. Tim England

VPIT Van Wyatt discussed priorities and budget with the committee and changes to previous funding proposal documents.

Senate discussed new facilities, such as Round Rock, which doesn't have labs.

Rules were suspended and academic computing committee report approved and accepted.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates 2/28 meeting report (Conroy, Feakes)

- The discussion of women in higher education was generally anecdotal; it was noted that there is no Texas statute for maternity leave.
- Texas Pan Am and Texas Brownsville are merging to become Texas Rio Grande in Edinburg.

Parking Ticket Appeals Committee appointments: Walter Dorman, (Science and Engineering, math full-time adjunct); Bill Peeler (Theater and Dance), Judy Allen (Family and Consumer Sciences)

Concern about traffic, especially around business building, was discussed.

Approval of 2/19 minutes RTA; minutes for 2/26 were approved.

6:04 Senate was adjourned.