

Members present: Wilson, Feakes, Kimmel, Furney, Sriraman, Cavitt, Payne, Blunk, Conroy, Melzer

Guests: Sigler, Trauth, Bourgeois, Opheim

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

**PAAG Agenda:**

1. Managing Growth – The President began by noting that we are in a time of severely strained resources, brought on by the confluence of large budget cuts and a Regents-imposed cap on tuition and fee increases.
  - a. *Teaching Theaters and Classroom Use:* The Task Force on Friday / Saturday Classes noted that full use of class meeting times during the week should come before any creation of Saturday classes, and that there are still a number of time slots under-enrolled, particularly at 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The Provost explained that the Administration is reactivating the committee tasked with supervising the assigning of teaching theaters to departments, so that the theaters will be used efficiently. He expects that departments will no longer be able to keep holds on theaters at particular class times from semester to semester.
  - b. *Parking:* The President explained that the Campus Master Plan included parking as an element of all new buildings planned for campus. Previously, a quarter of the campus was surface parking, and so – in selecting sites for new buildings – the Plan also called for locating new parking garages as surface lots are removed. The effect overall is that parking may now be pushed to the edges of campus. Another impact of campus growth, as well as the related creation of new apartment complexes that are often far from campus, is that the Administration has had to respond to the need for tram service at the distant sites, and this has strained tram resources. The Senate asked the President and Provost to examine the role of the Transportation Services Committee now that it is no longer involved in the making of policy but serves as an advisory committee for the Director of Transportation Services.
  - c. *Tuition Revenue Bonds:* The Administration has developed a “robust” strategy for persuading the Legislature to approve TRBs for two new buildings, one in San Marcos and one in Round Rock. The President noted that Texas State has a reputation for using State dollars efficiently. In addition, there are now five people in the Legislature who represent Texas State. Thus, the University’s strategy is to brief each of them on Texas State’s needs and achievements. They are also briefing the Senate Finance Chair, the House Appropriations Chair, the Senate Higher Education Chair, and the Chair of the House Higher Education Committee. The many alumni who work at the Capitol will also be briefed. In San Marcos, they plan to get industry leaders from science and engineering to visit with those same people at the Legislature. In Round Rock, they are working with the mayor, and there will be a town hall meeting to discuss the proposals for a Health Professions Building.
  - d. *Janitorial Services Outsourcing:* The Provost agreed that communications between Custodial Services and contractors must be improved so that employee concerns can be eased. Before changes are made, users will be contacted for input and contractors will meet with those who supervise campus buildings to investigate their needs. No current employee will be terminated. He argued that there are opportunities for advancement with the providers that Texas State cannot offer. Senators expressed their concern that the collegiality we now experience with custodians will be harmed by a shift to outsourcing, and also urged the Administration to insure that safety issues be examined: for instance,

insuring that enough custodians are assigned to buildings that they feel safe working late into the night.

2. Employee Assistance Program Funding – The President explained that the Bobcat Balance Program will not lose its funding, but that the University must investigate ways to promote the program and to increase employee use.

3. Safety Issues – A number of Senators wonder how effectively safety services and procedures are coordinated on campus. The President explained that, when a crisis arises, a crisis management team is assembled immediately, and the team follows established protocols. However, since the Safety Committee itself has expressed concerns about communication, and in particular the training and informing of faculty about safety, the Administration will investigate ways to provide clearer information. The Vice Chair of the Senate noted that adjunct faculty have also requested safety training.

## **BREAK**

**Council of Chairs Report:** At the most recent COC meeting, the new workload system was discussed, as was the outsourcing of janitorial services. Among other issues of interest to faculty was the news that a survey on security issues for online testing is circulating, and discussion on the Senate's request for departmental policies and procedures governing adjunct faculty.

**PAAG Follow-Up:** The Senate continued its discussion of safety issues.

**Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award and Development Leave:** The Vice Chair discussed several possible proposals for the planned adjunct faculty teaching award, suggesting that one plan might be to have a two-tiered system creating an award for those with assignments of more than 50% FTE and an award for those with assignments of less. She also argued that creating a university-level award would require a complex process, and thus college-level awards would be more feasible. The Vice Chair also proposed a plan for awarding adjunct faculty course releases for development, rather than creating a process for awarding traditional development leave. The Senate will return to the discussions and hear reactions from the Adjunct Faculty Committee.

**Dean's Summative Evaluation Committee:** The Senate named a representative to the committee undertaking summative review of the Dean of Health Professions.

**Temporary Appointment of Representative to the Senate:** Senators approved a temporary replacement for a Senator from the College of Fine Arts and Communication; this appointee will serve until the end of the fall semester.

## **New Business:**

1. A faculty member asked whether University bus service between Austin and San Marcos will be discontinued.

## **Executive Session:**

1. Development Leave Action – The Senate voted to approve the ranking of Development Leave proposals.
2. Faculty Appeal of Voter Status – A faculty member wishes to appeal his / her faculty voter status, and was instructed to follow the Senate's established procedures.

**Minutes of 10/31/12 were approved.**

**Adjournment.**