

June 15, 2011 Minutes

Members present: Kimmel, Wilson, Feakes, Morey, Huling, Sriraman, Walker (for Furney), Payne, Stone, Melzer, Cavitt, Conroy (by phone)

Guests: Sigler, Galloway, McCabe, McGee, Bourgeois, Davis, Autry, Hazlewood, Thorne

Meeting called to order at 3:00.

Announcements:

1. The Chair recently emailed Senators a report on the latest Legislative session. Of particular interest is the proposal that all undergraduate courses must have measureable learning outcomes. The Legislature is now in special session, working on a final budget.
2. The Chair is developing a brochure for new Senators that will outline the procedures and goals of the Senate.
3. At the July 13 meeting, the Senate will return to the proposed revisions of the Developmental Leave process.

Faculty Representation on University-level Committees: The Chair distributed a handout listing University-level committees that include Senate representatives. The Chair has asked the committee Chairs to note those members who have been active; such members will be invited to remain on the committees.

Honor Code Council Representation: Senators suggested faculty to fill open seats on the Honor Council. Nominees will be contacted by the Chair.

Mace Bearers for Summer 2011 Commencement Ceremonies: The Chair took nominees for distinguished faculty / Senators to act as Mace Bearers at the three summer commencement ceremonies taking place on August 12, and will contact them to gauge their willingness to serve.

PPS 6.11. Presidential Awards for Excellence in Service, Scholarly / Creative Activities, and Teaching: Revisions to the PPS were again discussed, with the goal of insuring that no continuing faculty are excluded by the wording of the PPS.

Representing Non-Tenure-Track Faculty on the Senate: Eager to insure that all faculty's interests be represented on the Senate, and aware that there is a growing population of faculty who are not tenured or on the tenure-track, the Senate discussed creating a new Senate committee comprised of such faculty. The committee would meet regularly and report directly to the Senate on issues of concern to its members. The Chair of the Senate will request a survey of such faculty be conducted, asking for volunteers or nominees to serve; the survey will be sent in early September.

Senators suggested that the new committee be composed of two faculty from each college, with the Vice Chair of the Senate serving as the Chair.

BREAK

Legal Representation at the University; Merit Raises; Search

Committee for Associate Provost: Acting Provost Bourgeois reported that the appointment of a System Attorney is imminent. This person will be on campus regularly each month, and faculty will have direct access to the Attorney – a relationship with which the President agrees. The appointee will begin work in early July. Dr. Bourgeois added that most of retiring University Attorney Bill Fly's office staff is still in place and will assist the System Attorney with Texas State issues.

Merit Raises: Dr. Bourgeois took a few minutes to outline the current situation on merit raises, explaining that the Legislature has still not passed a definitive state budget. Thus, it is too early to know for certain if there will be merit raises, but the situation does not look promising. The University's goal is to reinstate the merit pool as soon as possible. One source of revenue will be money earned from increased enrollment. While the numbers for the coming semester look good, there is concern that students admitted later in the process may not get grants as expected, and therefore may not be able to attend.

Search Committee for New Associate Provost: Dr. Bourgeois is creating a search committee, to be headed by Dr. Hennessy. Other representatives will be selected from nominations forwarded by Chairs and the Senate. The search will be limited to internal candidates, with the start for the position being January 2, 2012. All applicants should have previous experience as Chairs or Deans.

University Curriculum Committee Recommendations: Chair of the UCC, Don Hazlewood, offered the Committee's recommendations on three proposals:

1. Delete the undergraduate minor in Dance.
2. Move the Master of Science major in Healthcare Human Resources from the School of Health Administration to the Department of Management and rename to a Master of Science major in Human Resources.
3. Create an Honors College and move the undergraduate minor in Honors Studies into the new College.

Discussion centered on the planned creation of an Honors College. The Senate will continue its discussion of the proposals at the July 13 meeting, and will then vote on the UCC recommendations.

New Business:

1. New Faculty Orientation is scheduled for August 22. The Chair reminded Senators that they are encouraged to attend and meet new faculty.
2. Beginning August 2012, semesters must begin on a Monday. The University is working to revise academic calendars to reflect this new requirement.

3. The Chair discussed the possibility of merit raises, noting that there is still no definite news. Of importance are planned cuts to Texas Grants from \$7100 to \$5000, and the effect it may have on enrollment. The University predicts continuing growth, anticipating some 1500 to 2000 new students this fall, but the Administration does not yet know what funds will be yielded by that growth.
4. The Chair asked if faculty have had trouble during final exams getting into locked classrooms.

Minutes of 5/11/11 were approved.

Adjournment.