

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 25, 2018
JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending

Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, 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: Eric Algoe (vice president for Finance and Support Services); Debbie Thorne (Associate Provost); Ms. Stephanie Korcheck (Chair-elect, Staff Council); Michael Supancic (Senator-elect); Rachel Davenport (Senator-elect); Selene Hinojosa (Library); Sandra Sadek (*University Star*); Reiko Graham (Budget Committee); Taylor Acee (Budget Committee); Claudia Gasponi (Student Government).

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair White

Election update, welcome elected senators (Senate Chair White)

Introduction of recently elected senators, Dr. Michael Supancic, assistant professor, Criminal Justice, and Dr. Rachel Davenport, senior lecturer, Biology.

The final round of voting for the election in the College of Fine Arts and Communication has commenced and will run until May 2.

University Budget Overview (Mr. Eric Algoe)

Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services, presented an overview of higher education funding in Texas and at Texas State University. He shared a presentation from the Texas Legislative Budget Board on Higher Education Funding, which can be found at (http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Presentation/5186_Higher_Education_Funding.pdf), and additional information on Texas State University funding. In summary:

- University FY 2017 budget.
 - Total revenue: \$704,251,801
 - Tuition and fees: \$274,040,154 (45%)
 - State appropriations: \$166,963,701 (27%)
 - Government grants: \$124,559,216 (20%)
 - Other core revenues: \$30,620,006 (5%)
 - Private gifts and grants: \$11,656,774 (2%)
 - Investment income: \$7,955,291 (1%)
 - Total expenses: \$687,082,187
 - Instruction: \$237,792,159 (49%)
 - Research: \$65,078,104 (13%)
 - Academic support: \$61,859,260 (13%)
 - Institutional support: \$42,019,739 (9%)
 - Student services: \$41,666,670 (9%)
 - Other core expense (excluding bonds): \$30,620,065 (5%)
 - Public service: \$4,962,055 (1%)

- Debt is not carried on financial statements.
- \$242 million borrowed to fund projects (construction, etc.).
- Only one quarter of every dollar comes from the State.
- Difference in revenue and expenses are in carried forward accounts for next year.
- Seventy-five cents of every dollar goes to instructional support, everything else goes to institutional support.
- Formula funding has nothing to do with what the legislature appropriates for higher education, only how the appropriated amount is distributed to the 38 state-supported colleges and universities.
- The largest portion of the formula is determined by an institution's total semester credit hours (SCH) enrollment.
 - SCH are weighted by discipline (e.g. nursing is weighted more than liberal arts) and by level (lower and upper division, masters, doctoral, and professional). The weights are based on an expenditure study completed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of relative costs.
 - The Legislature sets the rate based on available funding, including consideration of enrollment changes and other factors.
 - Semester Credit Hours X Program/Level Weight X Rate (\$55.82)
 - Hours taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty qualify for the ten percent teaching experience supplement. The weight functions as it does in the Instruction and Operations formula.
 - SCH X Program/Level Weight X Supplement (0.10) X Rate (\$55.82)
- The university does not employ cost based accounting, but does know how departments are performing relative to cost/SCH. It is not a factor in funding.
- The THECB's Formula Advisory Committee reviews the funding formula each year.
- What helps the university in state funding are the number of SCH undergraduate students take.
 - A senate concern was whether the increased teaching load for tenure/tenure track faculty to qualify for the 10% supplement would result in decreased research potential.
- The current Hazlewood endowment for universities from the State is \$200 million.
 - Texas State waived \$19 million in tuition and fees last year as part of Hazlewood and received only \$2 million back from the state endowment.
- Discussion of how the Higher Education Fund (HEF) and the Permanent University Fund (PUF) work in relation to Texas State. Details can be found in the [Texas Legislative Budget Board on Higher Education Funding report](#) referenced above.
- Discussion of the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP). TRIP funds match gifts to the university. However, matching funds are delayed due to a backlog (\$17,500,000 appropriated in FY 18 versus a \$153,846,099 backlog as of March 27, 2018).
- Discussion of the National Research University Fund (NRUF), which is a state designation. Given its Carnegie R2 status, Texas State is already a national research university. The university is not yet an NR1, but is on that path.
 - Today, if Texas State were NRUF eligible, it would share \$15 million in appropriations.
 - NRUF allows the university to talk about objectives that are important to the university, such as endowments.

- The more research the university faculty does, the more the core research fund grows.
- The university needs to get to \$400 million in endowments for NRUF.

Report from Staff Council (Ms. Stephanie Korcheck)

Ms. Stephanie Korcheck, Chair-elect of the Staff Council, presented information on the current agenda of the council:

- Staff Council wants to reestablish a working relationship with the Faculty Senate.
- Recently changed the approach of the Staff Council so that it has strategic plans/goals.
- Annually surveys council members to get a sense of needs.
- Currently revising the bylaws and procedures with elections in May 2018.
 - Asked senators to encourage staff members to run for the Staff Council.
- Staff Council meetings count as work time.
- Staff Council wants to be fully representative of all staff.
- The Staff Council awards three scholarships, one undergrad and two graduate this year, and five staff awards.
 - Asked senators to consider nominating staff for Staff Council awards.
- Staff Council has a red parking permit raffle every year, as well as participating in community service projects such as Bobcat Build.
- The Staff Council is undergoing a change of culture to better advocate for staff.

Ms. Korcheck had three immediate concerns:

1. There seems to be a culture at the university that staff are not valued and are expendable, or an afterthought (e.g. when racist flyers were placed on campus staff were not notified). Staff feel they are not regarded as important to the university. The main objective of the renewed Staff Council is to change the culture and elevate staff to a position of respect (e.g. the UPPS allows staff to be on search committees, but they are not included in that type of decision making process).
2. Round Rock. Want to make sure Round Rock staff are included in Staff Council to enfranchise them as full members of the university community.
3. UPPS policy review. It is frustrating for the Staff Council to put in the work to review a policy, but not be a meaningful part of the process. The level of input seems limited to staff in JCK, not staff on the front lines who are impacted by revisions. Want to work on having more meaningful input into the process.

She stated that as university employees, the Faculty Senate and Staff Council have shared interests and should work together to use the expertise of both bodies to help make the university a better place to work for everyone.

Discussion of the senate revolved around what can we do to help. There was a discussion to possibly change the standing rules to have a staff representative attend senate meetings to further cooperation and information sharing.

PAAG Agenda Items

Senate discussion of possible PAAG agenda items:

- Faculty workload issue presented by faculty member has been resolved and answered as far as expectations. Recommend not including on PAAG agenda.
- Slippage in environmental standards. Working on a list of items to be enacted by Environmental and Sustainability committee and how programs such as Pack-it-Up and Pass-it-On are, or are not being supported. Senator Bell-Metereau will create a list of affected programs.
- Update on current tenure and promotion for the cycle.
- Conversation concerning information from Dr. Benn and Dr. Walkes discussion. What direction forward will the university take from the conversation that has been initiated by the students? Information on response to the student sit-in and decisions made, as well as any new initiatives.
- Information concerning Star funding program for student travel to present research. There was a question concerning how student government is managing the program. Recommendation that Dr. Joanne Smith is the person with whom to discuss the Star program.

Standing rules changes

The senate discussed changing the wording of [AA/PPS 01.02.31 Council of Chairs](#), and [Senate Standing Rules Article II](#).

- **AA/PPS 01.02.31 Council of Chairs.** The discussion revolved around adding new wording: “Except for specifically designated closed sessions, a Faculty Senate appointed liaison will be invited to attend and observe council meetings.” The senate voted unanimously to adopt the new wording.
- **Senate Standing Rules Article II.** The discussion was whether to change the wording in Senate Standing Rules Article II to: “Except for specifically designated closed sessions, a Council of Chairs appointed liaison and a Staff Council liaison will be invited to attend and observe Faculty Senate meetings.” After a lengthy discussion the senate voted unanimously to table the issue until the next faculty senate meeting.

Approval of minutes

The senate voted to approve the Faculty Senate minutes from the April 11 and April 18 meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan