**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Lyn Litchke, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Candace Hastings (Director, Faculty Development), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Sierra Martin (University Star).

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

**Follow up from President’s Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) and meeting with Vice President for Finance and Support Services**

Senators discussed the December 11, 2019, PAAG meeting with the president and provost, and a discussion with Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services, concerning environment and sustainability questions as well as a Clery Report update. There was some discussion by senators concerning environmental and sustainability degree programs on campus and how to leverage current programs into a focused degree concerning these issues. Senators discussed taking on a singular environmental issue (plastic bottles, research institute, etc.) and focusing the senate’s resources to incrementally build a focused plan of action for the senate regarding these concerns. Senators discussed the possibility of having the 2020 Senate Fellow nominee focus on environmental and sustainability issues as a topic for the academic year.

**Faculty Development**

Candace Hastings, director, Faculty Development, presented information and fielded questions from senators concerning her office’s efforts. Issues discussed were:

* The position was part time in the past, it is full time now.
* Faculty Development now tries to use Zoom for all sessions.
* There is also a focus on Round Rock with sessions and content specific to faculty there.
* The office is trying to diversify the offerings they present to faculty.
* There are some limitations to the office’s offerings due to the small staff.

Some of the new programs and initiatives from their office include:

* University level programs.
* New faculty orientations with practical information for faculty.
* Nontenure line faculty (NTLF) book club [BookCats](https://signup.txstate.edu/topics/1429-bookcats-book-club-spring-2020).
* Mid-career program for associates and full professors. Sub-committee to look at programming, sustainability, etc.
* Teaching and learning initiatives as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).
* Micro courses for faculty development.
* Connecting more through social media. Faculty Development Twitter: @facdevtxstate
* Future leadership program for new department chairs.

Senators discussed the history of the faculty development office and what has been successful in the past such as stipends and grants for participation. Discussed the possible inclusion of clinical and practice faculty in programs now only available to tenure-track faculty. The office wants to create an ecosystem for faculty to share and leverage expertise. Funding and support for the office was also discussed as well as how the office measures the impact of their programs.

**Committee Preference Survey**

Senators discussed and approved the new format of the Committee Preference Survey that goes out to all faculty.

**Senate Election Verification**

Senators discussed the upcoming Faculty Senate elections for seats coming up this spring. There are five seats coming up for election. The senate office will e-mail senators and liaisons in the colleges that have expiring terms to verify eligible faculty candidates. Deadline to respond is February 3. The election will be earlier this year.

**Mariel M. Muir Excellence in Mentoring Awards Committee Representative**

Senate vice-chair Ceballos solicited a senate or faculty member volunteer to serve on the Mariel M. Muir Excellence in Mentoring Awards Committee as a representative at large. The committee will meet in March/April 2020. Senator Ledbetter volunteered to serve.

**College of Applied Arts and Honor Council**

Senate vice-chair Ceballos asked for a College of Applied Arts faculty member who could possibly serve on the university Honor Council to replace a retiring faculty member. A faculty member from the College of Applied Arts was identified and will be asked if they would be willing to serve.

**Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) 2020 Annual Meeting**

Senators discussed sending a representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) 2020 annual meeting on February 14-16, 2020, in Baton Rouge, LA. Senators discussed the merits and costs of sending a faculty member and decided not to send a representative this year.

**Council of Academic Deans (CAD) Update**

Senate vice-chair Ceballos presented information from the recent CAD meeting. Discussion centered around an equity adjustment policy and merit pay.

**Around the Table**

Senate vice-chair Ceballos opened the table for issues from senators.

* Question concerning current Hazlewood Act funding status. The Hazlewood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit. Senators discussed the current status and potential for future funding from the state. No resolution.
* Council for Inclusive Excellence update.
  + JEDI (Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion) training program explanation.
  + Decision from the university to pause the hiring of a new chief diversity officer.
  + Search committee training on diversity and inclusion may not happen unless the Faculty Senate pushes for it to happen.
  + May look at putting search committee training online.
* Academic Freedom Committee update.
  + Funding for speaker has been approved and the committee will be bringing a speaker to campus this spring.
  + Update on the grievance and academic freedom policies.
  + The committee is compiling all requests, accomplishments and placing them on their website.
  + There was a recent case involving an open records request for slides from a faculty member’s course of instruction. The faculty member did not want to allow the release for copyright and other reasons. The Texas Attorney General’s decision was to allow the faculty member to retain their instructional materials and not have to release them. There is still an active court case involving this issue.
* Senators discussed voter registration in class issues and concerns as well as clarification of the university policy.

**Approval of Minutes**

The December 11, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by senators.

**Policy Review**

Assignment of senators to review specific University and Academic Affairs policies:

* AA/PPS 03.02.05 Merrick Endowment Funds. Due January 29, 2020. Senator Davenport.
* UPPS 07.03.02 Scheduling of University Housing Facilities for Camps, Conferences, and Other Activities and Uses. Due January 30, 2020. Senator Nolan.
* UPPS 04.04.60 Workplace Accommodation. Due January 30, 2020. Senator McClellan.
* AA/PPS 01.02.20 Dean and Chair Workloads. Due January 31, 2020. Senator Ledbetter.
* AA/PPS 04.01.01 Faculty Hiring. Due February 6, 2020. Senator Supancic.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan