

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 28, 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 García, Ted Hindson (for Vince Luizzi), Ting Liu, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White.

**Guests:** Sandra Sadek (*University Star*).

Meeting called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Senate Chair White

**DACA Resolution from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates** (Senate Chair White)

A resolution was recently passed by the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) concerning DACA students in Texas colleges and universities regarding a pathway to citizenship. The Texas State University Faculty Senate is a member of TCFS. The resolution states:

*The members of Texas Council of Faculty Senates remain committed to serve their students regardless of national origin. We recommend that all students in the United States of America under the provisions of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) be provided a pathway to citizenship by legislation.*

President Trauth has signed on to a similar statement in the past.

(<https://star.txstate.edu/2018/02/president-trauth-signs-on-to-letter-supporting-action-for-dreamers/> )

**Dean of Education search**

Candidates for the Dean of the College of Education position will be on campus in March and April. Senators will meet with each candidate. Several senators will attend the first candidate meeting on Friday March 2, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Centennial 331. Future candidate meetings are scheduled on Tuesday, March 20, from 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Friday, March 23, from 10:15-11:15 a.m.; and Thursday, April 12, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Each meeting will be held in Centennial 331.

After discussions concerning senate questions for each candidate, the final proposed questions for candidates are:

1. Please share with us the extent of your participation in academic shared governance. In your view, what are important key elements to successful shared governance? *Possible follow-up:* What type of relationship have you had with the faculty senate at your current institution? Have you been a member of a faculty senate in the past?
2. How might communication and partnerships within and outside the college be encouraged and supported?
3. Please describe your experience with evaluating faculty for merit and promotion. What do you see as challenges to conducting equitable and fair evaluations?

4. In what specific ways would your leadership support and reflect the university's mission to be active in “serving the educational needs of the diverse population of Texas and the world beyond”?
5. What is your vision for Texas State? What questions do you have for us?

There are several open forums and public presentations scheduled for Texas State faculty to hear from each candidate:

**Candidate: Dr. Lenford Sutton**

*Public Presentation*

March 1, 2018  
11:00-12:15pm  
Comal 116

*Open Forum*

March 2, 2018  
1:15-2:45pm  
ASBN 408

**Candidate: Dr. Jesse Mendez**

*Public Presentation*

March 19, 2018  
11:00-12:15pm  
Comal 116

*Open Forum*

March 20, 2018  
11:30-12:30pm  
ED 4061

**Candidate: Dr. Michael O’Malley**

*Public Presentation*

March 22, 2018  
11:00-12:15pm  
Comal 116

*Open Forum*

March 23, 2018  
11:30-12:30pm  
ASBN 408

**Candidate: Dr. Donald Easton-Brooks**

*Public Presentation*

April 11, 2018  
11:00-12:15pm  
Comal 116

*Open Forum*

April 12, 2018  
10:30-11:30 am  
ED 4061

**Chief Diversity Officer search**

Several candidates for the role of Chief Diversity Officer will be on campus in the coming months. There will be opportunities for faculty to hear from each candidate. Search candidates and meeting dates/times are:

- Ameerah McBride, J.D., Tuesday, March 20, 2018, from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in LBJ Student Center 3-9.1.
- Lisa McBride, Ph.D., Thursday, April 5, 2018, from 2:30-3:45 p.m., in LBJ Student Center 3-9.1.
- Kamala Green, M.P.A., Monday, April 9, 2018, from 2:30-3:45 p.m., in LBJ Student Center 3-9.1.

One candidate has already been to campus: G. Anthony Brown, J.D., spoke on Wednesday, February 28, from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in LBJ Student Center 3-5.1.

The senate discussed the role of the Chief Diversity Officer and the office personnel structure and that it could be a possible PAAG agenda item to discuss with the president. Senator García is on the search committee for the position and reported on the first candidate, G. Anthony Brown. Senator García will report to the senate on future candidates after their campus visits.

### **PAAG agenda**

Discussion of possible PAAG items:

- Recently the Texas Senate Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education Formula Funding met to discuss non-formula funding for Texas universities. The senate would like to hear from the administration concerning how this could affect Texas State. Senators also discussed the need for a “budget primer” to better understand university budget procedures. A suggestion was made to invite Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president of Finance and Support Services, and the senate Budget Committee chair, to a future meeting to help senators better understand the budget process at Texas State.
- Discussion of the Rising Star Research Program. Senators have numerous questions concerning the program and would like to have an update and better understanding of the process. For instance: How is the program funded? Who controls the process? Has funding decreased? The consensus was to further investigate the issue and to query student government concerning their process. The recommendation was to table this concern for a future PAAG after research into the program.
- Senators discussed the scope of the E&A/CDO position and whether the responsibilities for Title IX supervision, diversity advancement, search/hiring procedures approvals, sexual misconduct investigations, etc. can adequately be handled by one lead administrator and five staff members.
- Discussion of Search Engine Optimizers. How is the university brand protected? Discussion concerning who the point of contact is at the university for this issue and whether this was a Senate concern. Issue will be tabled pending further discussion.
- Discussion concerning the results of the Greek organization task force that recently wrapped up. What are the task force’s recommendations? What are the next steps concerning Greek organizations on campus?
- Discussion of program faculty role and how time and sick leave are reported. Suggestions for different types of releases and other issues concerning program faculty were discussed.

### **Learning Management System update**

Discussion of the upcoming Learning Management System demonstrations on campus next week. Senators were asked to encourage faculty to participate in the three demonstrations slated for next week:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Solution Provider</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Blackboard		Monday, March 5, 2018,	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Canvas	Instructure	Wednesday, March 7, 2018,	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Brightspace	Desire2Learn (D2L)	Friday, March 9, 2018,	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Faculty can sign up to attend each demonstration and for e-mail alerts from ITS concerning the LMS process. The demonstrations will also be live streamed for those not able to attend. A recording will be made available after the demonstrations for those not able to attend a live or streamed session. Sign-up and additional information can be found at the following links:

<http://www.its.txstate.edu/lmsreview/solution-provider-demos.html>  
<http://www.its.txstate.edu/lmsreview.html> (sign up for alerts)

Several concerns were voiced as to whether ITS was responding to comments added to the LMS e-mail group.

#### **Faculty concerns (Senate Chair White)**

Discussion of IRB issues received from faculty. There were nine contacts that listed 17 applications (all exempt), with an average 41-day approval time (standard deviation 26 days).

The concerns were:

- Responsiveness from the IRB office (e.g. multiple unanswered emails). One contact had such a delay in the IRB response that it led to worthless data.
- The perception among faculty is that the “squeaky wheel gets the grease.”
- There are concerns from faculty that the IRB is going beyond their mandate and meddling with the structure of research studies.

The senate consensus was to invite Dr. Walt Horton, associate vice president for Research and Sponsored Programs and chief research officer to attend a future meeting to address these issues.

Two other faculty concerns were tabled for a future senate meeting:

- Special Parking for Graduate Students.
- Paper Copies of New York Times.

#### **Candidate lists for Senate elections (Senate Chair White)**

The process is underway for senate elections for liaisons and senators whose terms are up this year. Eligible faculty on the master list are being contacted to ask whether they will participate in the upcoming election. Senators were asked to contact non-tenure faculty in their colleges to inform them about their ability to run for faculty senate.

#### **Approval of minutes**

February 21 minutes approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan