

## October 5, 2011 Minutes

Members present: Wilson, Feakes, Sanders, Cavitt, Hindson, Kimmel, Furney, Melzer, Conroy, Stone, Winek, Ash

Guests: Sigler, McKenzie (*Star*), Nielsen, Colombik

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

### **Announcements:**

1. Development Leave applications are due by October 13.
2. In the coming month the Chair of the Senate's Budget Committee and the new Dean of University College & the Pace Center will visit the Senate.
3. The Chair will request salary data from the Provost after the current merit cycle is complete on November 1.
4. The Chair has requested data on grant awards from 2006 to the present from the Library Committee.
5. There has been no information yet on whether there have been changes to the process for purchase requests before the start of a semester.
6. The Senate representative and an alternate have been named for the Grievance Committee.
7. Richard Batey will send out a request to non-tenure-track faculty gauging their interest in serving on the Senate's new Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee.
8. The Committee conducting the search for a new Associate Provost has narrowed its list to four internal candidates. They hope to complete the selection process by the end of October.

**Update from Suspension & Appeals Committee:** Chair Erik Nielsen offered an overview of the process by which the Committee hears student appeals, which reach them after the appeals have been rejected by the Deans of the students' respective Colleges. The Committee meets three times a year, prior to each semester. At meetings students are asked to explain the circumstances that led to their suspensions, as well as outlining their plans for avoiding such circumstances should the students be reinstated. In addition to rendering a decision on appeals, the Committee counsels students on effective plans as they continue their education after reinstatement or while they are on suspension and awaiting a return to Texas State. From 2006-2009, the Committee had 124 appeals, of which 80 were rejected and 44 accepted; 37 of those reinstated students successfully continued their educations. Nielsen believes the Committee functions very effectively, insuring that standards are maintained while also helping students be more successful academically.

**Update from the University Lecturers Committee:** Chair Roger Colombik praised the work of Pat Heath, in the College of Liberal Arts, who oversees the Committee's budget and distributes funds to awardees. He noted that one ongoing problem faced by the Committee is uncertainty about the amount of funds they will have for funding proposals each year. Even so, he feels that the Committee functions well and supports important activities that contribute to diversity and that can attract a large audience from across the

campus. Among recent initiatives are work to simplify the application process and the decision to reduce the upper limit for an award from \$10,000 to \$5,000. This past year, 12 proposals from 18 received were funded, although not all received the full amount they requested.

The Chair of the Senate asked that the Committee forward data on recent awardees and the amounts awarded, with the goal of posting the data on the Senate website so that interested faculty can understand the goals of the Committee. In addition, the Chair asked that the Chair of the University Lecturers Committee report to the Senate after the Committee meets next spring.

**Task Force (Friday & Saturday Class Scheduling) Representation:** Senator Don Sanders will serve as the Senate's representative. The Chair will also select from those nominees suggested by Senators one faculty member not serving on the Senate.

## **BREAK**

**Faculty Senate-Senate Liaison Meeting Planning:** The Senate's meeting with Liaisons will take place on November 9, on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Kellam Building. Among the topics suggested for the agenda are the following:

1. An update in workload policy development at the departmental level.
2. An overview of the Senate's new Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee.
3. A discussion of the use of single-use textbooks on campus.
4. A discussion of the workload question regarding summer compensation for administrative positions.
5. A discussion of the topics that will be explored by the Provost's Task Force on Friday / Saturday Scheduling, as well as on expanding course offerings at the Round Rock campus.

**Leadership Development:** The Chair described year-long fellowships offered by the American Council of Educators, which support job shadowing by faculty interested in leadership positions in academia. She wondered if this model might be more effective for leadership training at Texas State than the use of faculty in assistant / associate appointments. The goal of leadership training should be to introduce interested faculty to the full range of duties associated with administrative positions.

## **New Business:**

1. The University's Commencement Committee will soon begin researching ways to increase faculty participation at commencement ceremonies. The Senate noted that participation is actually at the level required, but that holding so many ceremonies may make it appear that too few faculty take part.
2. The Senate may work to develop policies on selection and review of Assistant / Associate Deans.

**Minutes of 9/28/11 were approved.**

**Adjournment.**