

October 26, 2011 Minutes

Members present: Morey, Stone, Furney, Sanders, Cavitt, Melzer, Hindson, Feakes, Ash, Kimmel, Conroy, Czyzewska

Guests: McKenzie (*Star*), Sigler (*Library*).

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Announcements:

1. The Faculty Senate mail distribution lists are not working properly. IT is in the process of correcting the lists; however, in the meantime, the Faculty Senate mailbox has been given the authority to send mail to all faculty using the faculty@txstate.edu distribution lists. The Chair is working on a method to obtain College-specific mailing lists until the problems are solved. As a backup, the Faculty Senate agendas are being posted on the Faculty Senate web-site each week.
2. One department on campus has proposed using the five teaching questions prepared for HB2504 as a means of evaluating teaching and as a replacement for a more departmental specific student evaluation of teaching. This was not the original intent of the questions. The appropriate uses of these questions will be added to the agenda for the upcoming joint Senate/CAD/Council of Chairs meeting.
3. The PAAG meeting will be next week, November 2.

Piper Report: Dr. BJ Friedman reported on this year's Piper Award nominees and presented the Piper Committee's recommendations for the award recipients. She indicated her willingness to talk to the candidate about the application process and files and to offer advice to strengthen the packet that goes forward. She also offered to assist the other applicants, especially the winner of the Swinney Award, as they work toward improving their materials before next year's nominations begin.

The Piper Committee had several suggestions regarding the application process. They would like to require, rather than suggest, that all materials be presented as a single pdf file. They suggest limiting the number of pages to encourage the candidate to concentrate on the most significant aspects of the proposal. The suggested limits are 15 pages for the main application, including supplemental materials and highlights from the vita, and 10 pages for the letters of support with a suggestion of 2 pages each for the 5 letters. They also suggest that the Senate send an announcement to faculty in the spring to increase the amount of time faculty have to prepare the folders and potentially increase the number of nominations. This announcement should encourage interested faculty members to contact Dr. Friedman. There were some difficulties from the applicants' perspective with the electronic forms. The Senate will continue to work on improving the ease of use of the forms. The Senate will also consider archiving data on nominees and award winners on the Senate web page, along with additional information and pointers and suggestions for future candidates.

In light of the time constraints, the Senate voted to suspend the rules and vote on the recommended candidates. The vote was in favor of accepting the Piper Committee's recommended candidates as ranked by the committee.

Developmental Leave Applications: The Senate discussed proposals from 37 applicants for developmental leave. Preliminary scores will be tabulated by next week to form a ranking. The Senate will consider the resulting ranking at its next meeting.

Minutes of 10/19/11 were approved.

Adjournment.