**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jennifer Jensen, Lyn Litchke, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores.

**Guests**: J.D. Jamieson (Academic Governance Committee), Augustine Agwuele (chair, University Research Enhancement Committee), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow).

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

**Academic Governance Committee Perception of Deans Survey (J.D. Jamieson)**

The Academic Governance Committee presented a draft of the revised Perceptions of Deans Survey. The survey is used to elicit faculty perceptions of their college dean’s implementation of academic governance. With input from deans, the committee found that the current survey does not support constructive comments that a dean could use to improve performance. The revised survey collects constructive comments that a dean could use to improve their use of academic governance.

Senators reviewed the proposed draft and provided feedback to the committee. The proposed survey instrument was accepted by the senate and will be implemented in the next Perceptions of Deans Survey.

**Performing Arts Committee Request**

The Performing Arts Committee (PAC) requested senate approval to apply for an equity and inclusion grant on behalf of the committee. They have identified a group they would like to bring to campus in February 2020. Committee funds already on hand will be used for matching as part of the application process.

The senate voted to approve the request.

**Policy Review**

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

* [AA/PPS 03.01.05 Fee for Service](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/03-01-05.html). Due December 16, 2019. Senator Martin
* [UPPS 01.04.45 Concealed Carry of Handguns by License Holders on University Premises](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/01-04-45.html). Due December 10, 2019. Senator McClellan
* [UPPS 04.04.32 Employee Wellness Program](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/04-04-32.html). Due December 13, 2019. Senate Chair Bezner

 **Approval of Minutes**

The November 20, 2019, minutes were approved by senators.

**Announcements**

* President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG) meeting on December 11 will include discussion on budget and merit raises, a debriefing from the recent Board of Regents meeting, and discussion concerning the requirement for search committees to attend training and the use the new diversity tool kit.
* Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services, will discuss current environment and sustainability issues, as well as the recent campus Clery Report on December 11.
* Two curriculum proposals for Construction Management and Religious Studies will be presented, discussed, and voted on at the next senate meeting.
* The new director of Faculty Development, Dr. Candace Hastings, has several new programs in development. She is working with the Nontenure Line Committee to create a faculty book club, and is creating a new faculty orientation. She is also looking at creating a department chair training program.

**Faculty Concerns**

Several concerns from faculty were discussed:

* A faculty member had a concern about how travel allocations vary from department to department. Senators discussed various funding issues for travel in departments and the current process. Senators suggested a possible discussion with the administration concerning current travel funding issues.
* A faculty member had an objection to receiving announcements from advertisers in official e-mail without having the ability to unsubscribe. The senate will discuss the issue with Mr. Eric Algoe, vice president for Finance and Support Services.
* A faculty member had a concern about some faculty giving final exams during the regular semester. Senators discussed the current university policy and how new methods of instruction may be in violation of that policy. The senate will review the current policy and make possible recommendations based on new course formats.
* A faculty member had a question concerning the lack of a pathway for senior lecturers to receive emeritus status from the university. The Nontenure Line Committee is currently working on a possible career path policy.

**Research Enhancement Program (REP) Report (Augustine Agwuele)**

The Research Enhancement Program Committee presented their report and rankings from the most recent cycle. The senate reviewed the report and asked several funding questions. The senate voted to approve the committee recommendations with the following stipulations:

* In the case in which less than the full amount of funding is available for an REP application, partial funding will be offered to the applicant(s) if at least 50% of the requested amount is available for funding
* If the REP applicant declines partial funding, the leftover funds will go back to the college for use in a future cycle.
* Any funding not awarded below 50% will go back to the general REP fund.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan