**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Guests**: Denise Trauth (president), Gene Bourgeois (provost), Debbie Thorne (associate provost), Gary Ray (associate vice president Enrollment Management and Marketing), Joanne Smith (vice president Student Affairs), Margarita Arellano (associate vice president Student Affairs and Dean of Students), David Falleur (Piper Professor Committee), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow).

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Secretary David Nolan

**President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)**

National Enrollment Data presentation by Gary Ray, associate vice president for Enrollment Management and Marketing.

* Topics covered included statistics on economically disadvantaged students, general enrollment trends, risk analyses/strategies, dual credit students, increase in graduations at Texas State, decrease in international students, low national unemployment percentages lead prospective students to believe a college degree is not necessary, PELL eligible students (13,348), philanthropic dollars for scholarships, decline in non-traditional post baccalaureate students.
* Three to four-year plan for enrollment management discussion includes 17 new programs in such areas as Civil Engineering and Health Sciences.

Student Government (SG) executive agenda discussion with Joann Smith, vice president Student Affairs, and Margarita Arellano, associate vice president Student Affairs and Dean of Students, revolved around the structure of SG in relation to the administration at Texas State.

* Bobcat Bounty. Researching sustainability possibilities.
* Book lending library. Part of FACES program now. Researching possibilities for enlarging the program to assist more students than currently served (approximately 138 students currently using the program).
* Menstrual hygiene projects. Pilot program includes six buildings currently being covered by this program.
* Diversity pledge. Still working with SG on the pledge. Diversity Week is October 25 through November 1.
* Forgiveness program. Once a student is arrested, there is nothing the administration can do to interfere. If it is a campus violation it is generally handled through university channels. Senators discussed the types of sanctions imposed and if community service can be required after an arrest. Also discussed the discretion University Police Department (UPD) officers have in certain situations. There is a memorandum of understanding with the San Marcos Police Department (SMPD). Student Affairs staff are training in de-escalation.
* Mental health resources. The university is continuing to develop programs to assist students, such as a prioritization system and an online therapist. Senators discussed ideas for a peer support program (ex. University of Michigan). This issue is a high priority for the administration.
* Discussion of scholarship programs. Cat Camp, STAR travel awards, and many other projects initiated through Student Government have strong support from the administration.

**Piper Committee Report**

David Falleur, Piper Committee chair, presented recommendations for the Piper Professor Award conferred by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation of San Antonio, Texas. There were seven highly qualified applicants. Senators discussed the quality of applicants and supporting materials. Senators voted to endorse the committee’s recommendations.

**PAAG Debriefing**

Senators discussed the issues presented by the administration during the PAAG meeting. The discussion around enrollment by the administration seemed to indicate a priority shift in thinking to dramatically improve funding for student scholarships. There are issues in increasing enrollment in some programs. There seems to be a lack of support for faculty lines to deal with increased enrollment, especially at the graduate level. Discussion also addressed Student Government concerns and the ways in which the Faculty Senate could support SG efforts. Senators discussed UPD issues in terms of discretionary latitude of officers and ways to temper treatment of students for certain offenses. Suggestion to invite a Student Government representative once a semester to visit with the Faculty Senate.

**Academic Freedom Committee**

Senator Luizzi discussed reports of violations of academic freedom or constraints of academic freedom that have resulted in anonymous complaints to the Academic Freedom Committee. Senators discussed the possibility of training department chairs in the proper use of information, such as student evaluations of faculty to justify rehiring or reappointment. The committee serves as a conduit to the senate concerning trends in complaints and areas of concern for faculty. Senators recommended that the committee keep a running record of actions taken regarding issues and complaints.

There was a recommendation from the committee to propose academic freedom as a university Common Experience theme. Senators agreed that the committee should spearhead the initiative.

**Policy Review**

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

* [UPPS 07.10.06 Procedures for Students Seeking Resolution or Reporting University-Related Complaints](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-10-06.html). Due October 14. Senator Martin
* [UPPS 05.06.03 Student Travel](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/05-06-03.html). Due October 14. Senator Supancic
* [UPPS 03.07.01 Acceptance and Sale of Marketable Securities](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/03-07-01.html). Due October 18. Senator Vacaflores
* [UPPS 04.04.11 University Classification and Compensation](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/04-04-11.html). Due October 18. Senate Secretary Nolan
* [AA/PPS 01.01.01 Academic Affairs Policy and Procedure Statement System](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/01-01-01.html). Due October 18. Senator Davenport
* [UPPS 08.01.16 Facilities Leases](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/08-01-16.html). Due October 22. Senator Wesley

**Approval of Minutes**

October 2, 2019 minutes were approved by senators.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Ledbetter