

## September 28, 2011

Members present: Furney, Sanders, Kimmel, Feakes, Cavitt, Wilson, Morey, Melzer, McWilliams, Ash, Winek, Czyzewska, Conroy

Guests: McKenzie (*Star*), Hinojosa, Dorman, McDaniel, Ogletree, Heath

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

### **Announcement:**

1. The election for a new Senator from the College of Liberal Arts should be completed soon.
2. The Chair distributed a handout on Computer Refresh Allocations for 2012. This year, the process for allocations will again distribute units rather than a percentage of funds available.
3. The Pride in Action campaign becomes public on October 14. A new feature targeting faculty and staff is the "Family Campaign," which will require a 5-year commitment of donations rather than the one-year requested in previous campaigns.
4. Senators are encouraged to review draft Leave proposals from those in their Colleges who are applying.

**Update from Retirement Committee:** Walter Dorman, Chair of the Committee, reported on recent activities, several initiated after a request from the Office of Human Resources, which this past summer asked the Committee to poll its members on the following four topics:

1. Require vendor to accept electronic funds transfer.
2. Require vendor to supply the University with a report of total plan assets.
3. Change the application period to later in the fall but maintain a January 1 effective date.
4. Remove the restriction of allowing only two representatives per vendor.

All changes were approved by the Retirement Committee. In exploring the recommendations, the Committee created a table outlining the number of Texas State faculty enrolled in the various vendor plans. One thing not known is how many faculty are enrolled in more than one plan.

Senators asked that the Committee to monitor the effect of enacting the change that vendors can have more than two representatives on campus. The Senate may also ask the Committee to conduct a new survey of faculty to gauge their satisfaction with current vendors (including the number of representatives each vendor has assigned to campus), and also requested that the previous survey be posted on the Senate website.

**Update from Library Committee:** Shirley Ogletree reported on recent activities of the Library Committee, which meets twice a year. Among the issues they discussed this year were applicants for Library Research Grants, applicants for One-Time

Online Research Grants, a review of the process by which funds are allocated to departments, and costs related to faculty publishing in open-access journals. Among current initiatives are exploring plans for renovating Alkek Library so that it reflects more modern approaches to research, and considering ways to move into more digital collections. Currently over 60% of funds go to digital acquisitions.

Dr. Ogletree noted that the Committee lacks a representative from the College of Education.

The Senate asked that the Committee report regularly on allocations of grant funds as well as changes to the allocation formula. In addition, the Chair asked that the Committee gather data on the recent history of grant awards – data that will be posted on the Senate website for faculty access.

**Student Liaison to Faculty Senate:** In response to a question from the Student Government, the Chair noted that the University Curriculum Committee and the Academic Computing Committee already provide membership for student representatives: the UCC allows two voting student members and the ACC allows one non-voting student member. The Senate agreed to create a seat for a non-voting student member on the Academic Standards Committee. The Chair encouraged the ASG to make appointments to those committees before the start of the fall semesters so that students are able to take part in all meetings. She also noted that Committee Chairs report that student representatives are often absent from meetings. The Senate, however, welcomes student participation and encourages the ASG to work toward appointing student representatives who can take an active role in committee discussions.

### **Task Force (Friday & Saturday Class Scheduling)**

**Representation:** The Provost has requested one or two Senate representatives for the task force that will be charged with exploring scheduling alternatives to confront the needs for classroom space at the University. The Chair solicited nominees from the Senate.

### **BREAK**

**Grievance Committee Representative:** The Colleges of Fine Arts & Communication and Health Professions are not represented, with one spot to be filled by a Senate representative. The Chair solicited nominees.

**Faculty Voters Questions:** The Chair has received a number of inquiries regarding the status of particular faculty with unique workload assignments. The Senate endorsed following the criteria stated in the recently approved definitions.

### **New Business:**

1. *Mace Bearers:* Volunteers are needed to serve as mace bearers at the fall

- commencement ceremonies.
2. *UPPS 04.04.42 & 04.04.46*: This UPPS outlines procedures for investigating charges of sexual harassment. Discussion centered on whether it is appropriate that deans nominate faculty members who will serve on the investigating committee. The Chair will explore the rules governing the process, as well as how the process has been followed in the past and how the Senate is to be consulted on appointments.
  3. The Chairs of the University Arts Committee and the University Lecturers Committee will report at the October 5 meeting. The following week, the Chair of the Budget Committee will report.
  4. A Senator shared a faculty concern regarding course texts that are coded by publishers so that they can be used only by one student, thus prohibiting either resale or putting the texts on reserve in the library. This concern will be raised with Senate Liaisons and at the upcoming TCFS meeting in Austin.
  5. Compiling a list of eligible faculty to serve on the Senate's new Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee will begin soon.
  6. A Senator asked about the criteria by which instructors for University Seminar are chosen, particularly when a large number of staff and others are hired to teach sections.

**Minutes of 9/14/11 were approved.**

**Adjournment.**