**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Janet Bezner, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Benjamin Martin, Vince Luizzi, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Ryan Crawford, Jen Pickard, Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Michelle Lopez, Kenedi Rutherford, Judy Oskam, Roque Mendez, Andrew Ojede, Dale Blasingame, Karen Sigler.

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

**VPSA Search Committee Listening Session**

Ryan Crawford and Jen Pickard from WittKieffer, the executive search firm contracted by the university for the Vice President for Student Affairs search, introduced themselves and presented background information on the company and their previous search experience. This was the last listening session with constituents by the firm before proceeding with the next step in the search process. According to the firm they do not hire a candidate, they recruit one. They work with the search committee to find the best candidates for the position. Once the search process ends selected candidates will be brought to campus, possibly in September of this year.

Senators asked questions and made comments concerning desired candidate qualifications, the preferred characteristics in a candidate, and how candidates should be able to create connections to faculty. Senators can recommend potential candidates to the search committee.

**Personnel Committee (PC) Policy Plan**

Senators discussed the draft Personnel Committee policy to identify additional changes to be made. Discussion focused on the description of faculty eligible to serve on the committee, consideration of the possible new instructor ranks, curriculum decisions, who chairs the committee, definitions of voting members, size of PCs, and consideration of possible changes to the faculty constitution.

A small subcommittee will work through the issues and bring the policy to the senate for further discussion. Once the policy draft is finalized it will be sent to Dr. Thorne, associate provost, for consideration and further review. After discussion the members of the policy subcommittee will be: Beth Erhart (Academic Governance committee), and senators Ledbetter and McClellan. Chair Bezner will contact the newly elected Senators and request one additional member to serve on the subcommittee.

**Committee Assignments**

Two senators have been requested by the Provost’s office to serve on a subcommittee to review and recommend different scenarios for the spring and summer 2020 commencement plans for August. Vedaraman Sriraman, associate vice president for Academic Affairs will lead the subcommittee. Senators Supancic and Jensen volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

The Provost is looking for committee members to serve on several committees to look at COVID 19 concerns on campus. Senators were asked to canvas their colleges to look for potential colleagues to serve.

A senate subcommittee was formed to review Senate Fellow applications and make a recommendation to the senate by next week. Senators Davenport, Luizzi, and Bell-Metereau volunteered for the subcommittee.

**Faculty Development Leave Rubric Revision**

Senators reviewed and discussed possible changes to the current Faculty Development Leave (FDL) rubric. Discussion revolved around FDL reporting requirements, changes to the FDL policy, providing guidance for final reports, changing the point spread of the rubric, and changing the language in section (E) to match language in the nontenure line workload release program rubric. Senate Chair Bezner will make the recommended changes and the senate will discuss the new rubric in two weeks.

**Policy Review**

Assignment of senator to review specific University and Academic Affairs policy:

* [UPPS 05.04.01 Releasing Information Contained in University Police Department Records](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/05-04-01.html). Due May 4, 2020. Senator Supancic.

**Approval of Minutes**

The April 15, 2020 minutes were approved by senators.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan