

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 4, 2013
4:00 – 6:00 p.m., JCK 880

Senate members present: Bell-Metereau, Blunk, Cavitt, Conroy, Covington, Furney, Hindson, Menninger, Morris, Payne, Sriraman, Weill, White

Guests: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Associate Provost Opheim, Library Liaison Karen Sigler, Weldon McKenzie, University Star reporter

Meeting called to order at 4:00

President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)

- Response to Legislative Outcomes:
President Trauth reported that the session was good in terms of the funding formula for the university, yielding the first net new funding increase in ten years. We're doing better on the formula because of more advanced and post-grad enrollments. A statute to ease the financial burden of the state's Hazlewood Act programs (university-funded tuition exemption for veterans, their spouses and dependents) was passed for one-time funds that will be distributed to universities according to their Hazlewood costs. Because Texas State has a high percentage of these veterans, a significant portion of this funding will come to Texas State.

Texas Research Initiative Funding (TRIP) is realizing returns; contributions from philanthropic sources made to support research are eligible to be matched from this fund on a percentage scale. Texas State has submitted match requests for \$7 million in donations to research, which triggered \$4.3 million in matching funds. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is developed between the university and donor to designate the donation to support research, which can include graduate fellowships and stipends: \$2 to \$10 million donations are matched at 100%, with 90% to the principal investigator (PI) and the department. The administration is dedicating the remaining 10% to the Research Enhancement Program. The TRIP program is very popular with donors because it enhances the impact of their contributions.

The legislature did not fund tuition revenue bonds (TRB) for new construction. Texas State's was the highest TRB request, \$118 million for a science & engineering building in San Marcos and a health professions building in Round Rock (which became a collaboration with A&M, with plans for a four-year medical school).

It is too early for a new strategy to pursue funding for these buildings. University Development continues to cultivate donor support, but it is unlikely that construction costs for these two buildings could be funded by donations alone. President Trauth does not foresee a fourth legislative special session to address TRBs. Texas State does not receive Permanent University Funds (PUF, oil and gas money constitutionally directed to UT & A&M). The Higher Education Assistance Funds (HEAF) that come to the university are dedicated to deferred maintenance and smaller projects.

- Impact of Enrollment Growth at the Round Rock Campus:
Changing the food service provider has been well received. Starting a nurse practitioner

masters degree, Round Rock will open a health clinic on 9/16 so that students can fulfill their requirements for clinical experience. This clinic is now an outpost of the Student Health Center, but it will not be staffed by a physician and its hours of operation are limited. There is currently no mental health counseling for students and not all the types of support provided in San Marcos are available at Round Rock. There is no bus service to transport students to the main campus for services and there is no telemedicine or web counseling available. Faculty cannot serve as counselors for students they teach. The President stated that VPSA Joanne Smith is committed to improving services within the limited fee-based resources, and Dr. Smith is exploring alternatives to a full-time physician and counselor. Dr. Smith will be invited to address the senate on these issues later this semester.

- Assistant VP/Director of Counseling Services Position:
The senate asked if the position should be limited to direction of the counseling center. The president said that all VPs have big portfolios of responsibilities, which is why the university has relatively low administrative costs. Health, Career, and Counseling are under one Assistant Vice President. Counseling is the most complex among the three. Senate asked if this arrangement should be reconsidered, with one of biggest issues in higher education being mental health. The timeline for this appointment is January, with an interim director serving until then.
- Presidential Award Recipients Posting: The senate thanked the president for following through on posting a summary of the accomplishments that led to each recipient's award and requested that the posting be announced to the faculty. The Provost will distribute an announcement. The senate is looking for ways to drive traffic to this post.
- The President commended the academic progress of Texas State's student athletes; 8 out of 16 teams have perfect scores within Division I for all students making progress toward their majors and being on track to graduate in no more than 5 years. Texas State is in top 70 of licensing university materials.
- Emergency Management Coordinator is a new position in University Police Department.
- The criteria for Piper Professor eligibility listed in the handbook require applicants to be tenured, but the Piper Foundation does not. Texas State has a great Piper Professor track record. The senate will deliberate on whether to bring Texas State's requirements in line with those of the foundation.

PAAG review: Reflecting on student athletes' academic performance, senators commented on their experience with the Athletic Academic Center and the student progress reports faculty are asked to submit. A senator commented on the case of a student athlete who was failing a class, but when the ACC was alerted, was told that they couldn't do anything because the student was not currently playing. Men's basketball hires someone to monitor team members' class attendance, but the football team does not. The senate will consider inviting a representative from the AAC. It was noted that some athletes have an interest in nursing education. Senators expressed concern about whether sufficient attention is being paid to the 1875 students at the Round Rock campus.

Information Items

- CAD report (Conroy) RTA (returned to agenda)
- The chair asked senators to contact departments in their colleges to check if senate liaison elections have been conducted so that representation is in place for all departments. The chair will request that Senate Liaison department elections be held in Anthropology for F13 and History for Sp14 because Senator Agwuele is on leave this semester.

Old Business

Committee Appointments: The senate made appointments to the following committees.

- University Arts: Sandra Mayo, Theatre
- Grievance Committee: Rosie Morris, Business (for Jon Bible) and Karen Meaney, Education

Senate Committee Charges were discussed. Input from committee chairs on what their charges should be was requested. RTA

New Business

Piper Professor Criteria: Should tenure continue to be an internal eligibility requirement? RTA

TSUS/TCFS 10/25 meeting delegates: The chair asked senators to check their calendars for availability to attend Texas Council of Faculty Senates and Texas State University Systems. Two delegates will attend.

Other

- A concern was raised about a finals period for an evening 5-7:30 graduate class, with students who work full-time, that is scheduled for 2-4:30. Petition dean to change it, and bring to attention of Dr. Heintze.
- Student photos on class rosters are not updated year to year, so they are not functioning well as aids to help faculty identify students.
- A request was received for the senate to consider how benefits can be extended for faculty and staff same-sex partners and spouses. A suggestion was made that the work life advisory council look into this issue.

Approval of 8/28 minutes: RTA

6:00 Adjournment