

Faculty Senate
Wednesday, October 25, 2017
4:00 – 6:00, JCK 880

Minutes from previous meetings are available at
<http://www.txstate.edu/facultysenate/about/59th-senate-minutes.html>

Attending senators and liaisons: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Dana Garcia, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Ting Liu, Alex White, Diego Vacafloros

Guests: Selene Hinojosa, Library; Alyssa Newsome (*University Star*)

CAD report: Senate Chair reported on the October 17 Council of Academic Deans/AA Budget Committee meeting.

International travel: The provost has asked that requests include a comment specifying how the travel will enhance research.

Upcoming report on QEP: preliminary requests for QEP information should be sent to Beth Wuest and Alejandra Sorto. In December, SACS-Commission on Colleges will decide if QEP will continue to be a required element of the accreditation process.

Budget priorities for Academic Affairs are essentially the same as previous years. The Academic Affairs Budget Committee agreed on priorities listed below for the Division of Academic Affairs.

- a. Do not terminate full time Academic Affairs employees for budget reasons
- b. Replace current vacant faculty and staff positions.
- c. Provide at least a 1% merit pay increase, if available, to faculty and staff. A comparable salary adjustment will also be given to all Method Funded graduate assistant positions.
- d. Add new tenure-track, or tenured faculty, or graduate instructional assistants, or graduate teaching assistants and add net new staff positions to address enrollment growth and in response to strategic needs.
- e. Add support for graduate students including increases in scholarships and/or tuition fellowships.
- f. Provide additional funds for limited equity salary adjustments. These funds would be over and above the merit pool.

Update to Strategic plan for research:

A new committee will be set up and deans will recommend members to Dr. Horton.

Ten-year update is due April 2019, but it will occur earlier to avoid interfering with the SACS report. The university will update with figures on restricted funds.

Academic Freedom Committee Report:

Senator Luizzi, chairman of the committee, reported on the committee's progress. Senator Luizzi presented a draft of the committee's statement of purpose, the committee's concern about the decision not to purchase the education package from the *New York Times* (see below) and the desire of the committee to create a university policy on cyberbullying. The faculty senate discussed how pro-active the committee should be in seeking issues relating to academic freedom.

Senate moved to approve the committee's statement of purpose and include wording to assure anonymity for faculty submitting reports to the contact form on the web site.

Last year, a request to get a site license for the *New York Times* was denied, as recommended by IT. Senate will take the matter to PAAG as working against will of the academic sector. It was noted that the library's material budget, which is used to purchase shared materials, comes from the student library fee.

Possible PAAG Agenda Items:

- 1) University logo access
- 2) Senate moved to discuss *New York Times* decision
- 3) Setting 100% renewable energy goal for Texas State
- 4) Reaction to sick leave proposal
- 5) Response to hate posting: Add link to website of resources?

Faculty Receptions: Senate collected possible topics and a task force will include Senators Bell-Metereau, Ceballos, and White to plan and establish budget for the first two events.

Response to Full Senate Meeting, RTA

10/11/17 minutes approved.

6:05 Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Bell-Metereau