**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending Senators:** Taylor Acee, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Stacey Bender, Janet Bezner, Dale Blasingame, Rachel Davenport, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Vincent Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, Roque Mendez, Andrew Ojede, Michael Supancic, Nicole Wesley

**Guests:** Bob Edward Vasquez, Kiana Burks (University Star), Kyong Hee Chee, Tina Marie Cade (Senate Fellow), Cynthia Hernandez, Judy Oskam, Scott Pope (Library), Aimee Roundtree, Joni S J Charles, Karen Sigler.

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

**Update from Vice President of Student Affairs**  
Dr. Cynthia Hernandez, who joined the university in January as Vice President of Student Affairs, provided an update on her goals for the next year. Dr. Hernandez’s plans include listening and learning about the culture at Texas State to assess real and perceived challenges faced by students. She plans to support growth in areas of self-care, well-being, and crisis support. Several issues on her radar include social justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion; student mental health issues; and building a culture of evidence by assessing programs and services to determine their effectiveness.

In response to several questions asked by senators, Dr. Hernandez described the importance of partnerships in conversations about student success and provided examples of strategies to boost student retention including early interventions, scaffolding student experience programming, and helping instructors reimagine gateway courses that tend to generate many poor and failing grades as well as withdrawals.   
  
**2020-2021 Faculty Senate Fellow Update**  
Dr. Tina Cade provided an update on her senate fellow research project. Dr. Cade has developed a survey to assess the campus community’s perceptions of sustainability across several categories/divisions on campus. The survey is currently being reviewed by the Environment and Sustainability Committee. Once the survey is finalized and receives IRB approval, a link will be sent to students, staff, and faculty. The overall goal of Dr. Cade’s research is to develop a campus master plan for sustainability.   
  
**Agenda items for Faculty Senate meeting with liaisons**Senators brainstormed agenda items for the next full Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Items considered included soliciting additional feedback about the draft Personnel Committee policy, requesting feedback from liaisons about the plan to resume mostly face-to-face course modality for Fall 2021, and potentially collecting information from faculty about student attendance in the classroom.   
  
**Committee Appointments**  
Senators voted to appoint Dr. Alex White to the Academic Computing Committee and Senators Jensen and Supancic to continue their service on the Commencement Planning Work Group.  
  
**Miscellaneous**  
Senate Chair Bezner announced that the TRIO grant writing dates have been set and that she will forward the meeting dates to senators so they can identify faculty members interested in attending the McNair proposal brainstorming sessions.   
  
**Executive Session**Senators participated in an informal discussion of diversity, equity, and inclusion topics/perceptions facilitated by Senator Martin.   
  
**Approval of Minutes**  
Senators voted to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting.   
  
Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.  
  
Minutes submitted by Jennifer Jensen