

Faculty Senate and PAAG Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
4:00 – 6:00 pm, JCK Regents Room

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

Attending senators and liaisons: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Elizabeth Bishop, Scott Bowman, Natalie Ceballos, Jesse Gainer, Dana Garcia, Lynn Ledbetter (for Senator Conroy), Ting Liu, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, David Nolan, Shane Smith, Diego Vacaflores, Alex White

Guests: President Trauth, Provost Bourgeois, Assistant Provost Thorne, Michael Blanda, Michael Supancic

PAAG Meeting:

Review of Fraternities/Sororities:

In response to a question concerning the review of activities of Fraternities/Sororities, the president and provost reported that the administration may revisit some of the activities that are not purely social in January. For the time being activities are prohibited, including new-member events, chapter meetings, social functions, and philanthropic events. Dr. Joanne Smith is working with local and national fraternity and sorority representatives.

With guidance, students determined that they would suspend activities and coordinate with the national offices for the fraternities and sororities. The goal is not to end them, but to resuscitate them and return them to their original values: service in the community, and connections to the education. They are looking at whether first-semester students should be involved and whether pledging continue to be part of the tradition, since it often leads to hazing. In January, the group will assemble one or more advisory groups, which will involve faculty, alumni, external stakeholders, and students. These representatives will propose changes and present them by spring break. The trend in alcohol consumption among students is going down for the student population at large, but it is going up in fraternities and sororities.

In response to the idea of issuing waivers for some student organizations to not have faculty / staff advisors. Regents rules say that each organization shall have a faculty or staff advisor.

Administration is looking forward to graduation, which may represent a record number of graduates. University events center to be completed by November of next year. Flyers were distributed again early Monday morning, campus police found people with the flyers. These people did not have a current relationship with the university. They are part of a national group with at least four chapters. They were given criminal trespass citations which will last in perpetuity. If these individuals return, they will be arrested.

The provost discussed an initiative started by Vicki Brittain, Bobcats United, which emphasizes core values. University marketing has the idea to have eight columns with distilled language reflecting core values by the arch at the ASB. The senate asked to have the language vetted for parallel construction before finalizing plans.

In response to concerns about the IRB process, the president discussed how staffing for these programs are being reviewed. At this time there is no plan to add staff to the IRB office to handle to increasing workload.

Report from University Research Enhancement Committee:

Michael Blanda reported on available REP funding: \$350,000 plus base funding from TRIP. Match on philanthropic gifts is 10%. \$90,000 total (budgeting for fringe). TRIP money is set aside. \$420,000 total. Each college's request is proportional (so each college has the same funding rate). All recommended applicants were approved, subject to final verification. With issues in Health Professions resolved, the committee ranking stands, and the allocation is made according to formula. Faculty Senate voted to approve the ranking.

Report from University Curriculum Committee:

<http://www.txstate.edu/curriculumservices/committees-and-councils/faculty-senate.html>

- Master of Science in Nursing major in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Asked about the decision process to go for psychiatric, the spokesperson said that there is a tremendous need for psychiatric care and a lack of providers.

Senators asked about enrollment projections. An enrollment of forty per year is the target, anticipating a post-MS proposal that will result in a certificate. The program is four semesters.

- Undergraduate minor in Latina/o Studies:

A couple of courses are in the review cycle, but no other new courses are required. A large group of students came to the UCC in support of the multi-disciplinary proposal, which was student-driven. All colleges are involved, except the College of Science and Engineering.

- Undergraduate minor in Music Composition:

There is a growing MS degree program in Music Composition, with future plans for a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and a major undergraduate degree program to feed into the MS degree program. Not a viable career path until graduate studies. Minors are employed in MS programs. Senate suspended rules and unanimously approved all programs.

The chair will seek a substitute for Senator Luizzi.

Minutes were approved.

Senate adjourned at 6:08. Next meeting will be on January 17, 2018.