

May 2, 2012 Minutes

Members present: Stone, Wilson, Feakes, Hindson, Furney, Sriraman, Sanders, Melzer, Conroy, Ash, Morey, Cavitt

Guests: Sigler, Opheim, Grimes, Blunk, Bourgeois, Trauth, Gorman

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

PAAG Meeting:

1. *Tenure and Promotion Cycle* – The numbers of those tenured and promoted this cycle were distributed by the Provost. The President spoke about the issue of early tenure, explaining that she believes a person should stand for tenure after six years, although “superstars” should have the opportunity to stand early. She went on to argue that, if too many candidates attempt early tenure, the bar for receiving tenure is probably too low in departments. Moreover, receiving tenure is based upon a body of work, and we should not use early tenure as a retention tool. The Associate Provost recently shared current policy with first-year faculty, noting that early tenure is “rare” and for “exceptional candidates.” The President also noted that the Administration wants to see faculty publishing in national journals rather than those suggesting a regional focus. Even so, it is incumbent on departments to explain the quality of their candidates’ publications. Both the Provost and the President praised the quality of candidates’ files this cycle, and explained that those few faculty denied tenure and/or promotion were clearly not as qualified. Regarding external review of candidates, the President argued for a more consistent approach across the university, and the Provost hopes soon to begin work on a university-wide policy. The Provost recommended that “non-science” disciplines without an external reviewer policy in place use the Liberal Arts procedures as a model.
2. *Faculty Development Leave for Adjunct Faculty* – The Adjunct Faculty Committee, based upon recent comments from the Provost, inquired about the possibility of adjunct faculty being eligible for development leave. The President stated she has no opinion one way or the other on the subject, but does believe a discussion across the university must be undertaken before a decision is reached. Traditionally, only tenured faculty are eligible for leave. The implications of such a change must be explored. In addition, she can imagine a time in the future when there will be more applicants than there are available leaves. How will allowing adjunct faculty to apply affect such a situation?
3. *University Distinguished Professor* -- The President agrees that the stipend for those named Distinguished University Professors should be at least equal to that awarded for Presidential Excellence Awards (\$5,000), since being named a Distinguished Professor is the highest recognition afforded by the university.
4. *State of the University* – Reflecting on her ten years in office, the President spoke of being especially proud of a number of university achievements during her tenure: achieving status as an Hispanic Serving Institution, becoming an Emerging Research University, reaching Division I status in athletics. She noted that these achievements were the results of shared vision and governance. The current strategic plan also includes some ambitious goals, but our past work has provided us with the blueprint for success. Of particular importance, the university must not lose sight of its commitment to undergraduate education, and monetary support is needed for the initiatives to internationalize the university. Also important is to find a balance

- between distance education and face-to-face education.
5. *Sun Belt Conference Membership* – Discussing her May 2 announcement that the university would join the Sun Belt athletic conference in July 2013, the President reiterated that there has been much flux in conference alignments across the country this past year, and a number of football schools are leaving the Western Athletic Conference (which Texas State joins this year), meaning it will have too few for FBS status. Thus, Texas State is lucky to gain membership in a more stable Division I conference. Georgia State is also a new member of the Sun Belt, and Texas State compares favorably with that institution academically.

BREAK

University Curriculum Committee: The Senate voted to approve the UCC recommendations presented to the Senate on April 25.

PAAG Follow-Up: Senators agreed that it will be important to continue the discussion on development leave for adjunct faculty. The Senate also appreciated the President's commitment to attracting international students and faculty to Texas State.

Introduction of New Senators: Recently elected Senators were introduced, and departing Senators thanked for their service.

Faculty Senate Officer Elections: The Senate elected new officers for the coming year. The faculty serving on the 54th Faculty Senate during the 2012-2013 academic year are identified below, by College. The officers and Senators for the Faculty Senate are:

Officers:

Chair: Dr. Barbara Melzer
Vice Chair: Ms. Michel Conroy
Secretary: Dr. Gwynne Ellen Ash

Senators:

College of Applied Arts:

Elizabeth Blunk (eb03@txstate.edu<<mailto:eb03@txstate.edu>>)

College of Education:

Gwynne Ellen Ash (gwynne@txstate.edu<<mailto:gwynne@txstate.edu>>)

Steve Furney (sf02@txstate.edu<<mailto:sf02@txstate.edu>>)

College of Fine Arts and Communication:

Mary Ellen Cavitt (mc58@txstate.edu<<mailto:mc58@txstate.edu>>)

Michel Conroy (m.conroy@txstate.edu<<mailto:m.conroy@txstate.edu>>)

College of Health Professions:

Barbara Melzer (bm06@txstate.edu<<mailto:bm06@txstate.edu>>)

College of Liberal Arts:

Maria Czyzewska (mc07@txstate.edu<<mailto:mc07@txstate.edu>>)

Ted Hindson (th09@txstate.edu<<mailto:th09@txstate.edu>>)

James Kimmel (jk02@txstate.edu<<mailto:jk02@txstate.edu>>)

Steve Wilson (sw13@txstate.edu<<mailto:sw13@txstate.edu>>)

College of Science:

Debra A. Feakes (df10@txstate.edu<<mailto:df10@txstate.edu>>)

Stan McClellan (sm65@txstate.edu<<mailto:sm65@txstate.edu>>)

Sriraman Vedaraman (vs04@txstate.edu<<mailto:vs04@txstate.edu>>)

McCoy College of Business Administration:

Don Sanders (ds26@txstate.edu<<mailto:ds26@txstate.edu>>, until August 29th)

Janet Payne (jpayne@txstate.edu<<mailto:jpayne@txstate.edu>>, beginning again August 29th)

Perception of Administrators Survey: The Senate voted to approve the publication of the Perceptions of Administrators survey.

New Business

1. The Senate set the summer schedule for meetings (from 3-5pm)

Wednesday, June 13th

Monday, July 2nd

Monday, August 13th

On August 29th, the Senate will resume regular meetings on Wednesdays from 4-6pm.

2. Senator Cavitt would like to gather a focus group of faculty to gather information on concerns and needs for the Safety Committee in order to develop a presentation for faculty.
3. Several faculty members in the College of Education have expressed concerns about the lack of parking for faculty in the College of Education with the ongoing construction. Faculty strongly expressed safety concerns about walking long distances to parking as most graduate classes end at 9:30pm.
4. Concerns were raised by some faculty regarding the adoption of UPPS 04.05.10 relating to animals' presence on campus.
5. Senators were encouraged to submit events related to next year's Common Experience Theme (Global Perspectives) to the Common Experience Calendar.
6. Release time for Senate Service in additional positions was discussed.

Amended Minutes of 4/25/12 were approved.

Adjournment.