

Senate Minutes for 1/25/12

Members present: Ash, Cavitt, Conroy, Furney, Hindson, Kimmel, Melzer, Morey, Sanders, Stone

Guests: McKenzie (Star), Sigler (Library), Dr. Tom Meyers

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcements:

1. In response to the Senate inquiry regarding out-sourcing jobs in custodial positions, Vice President Nance confirmed to Senator Feakes that some out-sourcing is present and ongoing, but that it is not unusual in scope or manner.
2. Senator Feakes met with Provost Bourgeois to discuss the status of the Faculty Equity Study and AAPPS 7.16. Provost Bourgeois assured Senator Feakes that a model would be used to conduct the study. Due to likely funds limitations, any faculty equity salary adjustments will probably be targeted and based on a local model, subject to specific justification by the respective College.

Senate Agenda Items:

1. Revisions to Senate Standing Rules. Proposed drafts of changes to the Senate Standing Rules will be distributed and considered at the next Senate meeting. The revisions specifically include Articles III, IV, VIII, and XII.
2. Faculty Development Leave Wording Request: The request to expand the designated reasons for faculty development leave to include “commercialization” was discussed. The wisdom of expanding the AAPPS language to include subsets of categories was of concern to the Senate. Concern was also expressed about the use public funds, through the faculty leave system, to foster private gain. It was noted that research which results in the publication of a salable book or producing artistic works may be comparable. After discussion, including participation by Dr. Tom Myers, it was agreed that the faculty development leave language would remain the same, and the current language was sufficient to include faculty efforts in applied research and related “commercialization,” such as patenting technology. Senator Feakes will provide Dr. Myers with a letter of explanation to document the Senate understanding that appropriate commercialization is considered scholarly activity.
3. Committee on Committees:
 - a. The Committee on Committees preference poll will solicit interest by eligible faculty members for all committees, and not just the committees for which an opening is available for faculty member’s college. A cover memo will clarify which committees have openings for faculty from specific colleges. Polling for all committees, not just those with vacancies, will provide additional information should a committee appointment be necessary prior to the next polling period.
 - b. After discussion the Senate decided to separately poll adjunct faculty for

their interest in serving on the Senate Adjunct Faculty.

4. PPS 2.11, Academic Administrative Units: Concern was expressed about the routing process within the PPS and its concentration on instructional methodology.
5. TCFS Meeting and System meeting: The annual TCFS meeting is scheduled for February 17-18. Senator Ash will attend the TCFS February meeting on behalf of Texas State. Feakes and Sanders will attend the System meeting.
6. Senate Photographs. Arrangements for the group photo of the Senate will be made. Additionally, individual photos will be taken.

New Business:

1. Senator Conroy noted that emails are being received involving a lack of HB 2504 syllabi compliance for courses, such as special problems courses, which are outside the statutory designated “organized” courses.
2. The Banner system failure to properly deal with pre-requisites has been reviewed and no specific reason has been identified as the source of the problem. Senator Feakes understands that Banner representatives will be participating in resolving the issue.
3. The level of participation of faculty in advising following the creation of PACE remains problematic. The Senate is given to understand that summer advising will have one face-to-face session, and other advisees will be advised through an on-line system and those students then referred to their advisor. For participating faculty advisors there appears to be an expectation that they be present and available to advise during the summer months. If that is the expectation, the issue of contract obligations and summer salaries for involved faculty needs to be addressed.

Minutes of 1/18/12 approved.

Adjourned at 5:10.