

March 21, 2012 Faculty Senate Minutes

Members present: Sanders, Wilson, Feakes, Hindson, Sriaraman, Furney, Meyer, Stone, Morey, Conroy, Cavitt, Czyzewska, Ash, Kimmel

Guests: Clark (*Star*), Opheim, Willoughby, Solis, Beebe, McGee, Springer, Eichler, Holschuh, Werner, Mogab, Supancic, Autrey

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Announcement: In discussions of the Provost's Task Force on Valuing Service, a concern arose about service expectations for adjunct faculty. The Chair noted that this topic will be of interest to the Senate's new Adjunct Faculty Committee.

Academic Computing Committee Recommendations: The Senate voted to accept the Committee's recommendations on proposals. Further Senate discussion centered on the money remaining after all approved ACC proposals have been funded (roughly \$200,000). The Senate will ask the ACC to consider ways that criteria for proposals can be expanded to answer student computing needs.

Joint Faculty Senate / CAD Meeting Agenda Development: The joint meeting will take place from 3-5 PM on March 28. The Senate will suggest the following agenda items:

1. Developing consistency across colleges in the nominating process for Presidential Excellence Awards.
2. Senate representation on College Councils.
3. Consistency in forms of information provided by Deans in their letters appended to Development Leave proposals.
4. Deans' plans for responding to enrollment growth.

Graduate College: Dean Willoughby discussed issues surrounding the processing of applications from international students, noting that Texas State's guidelines are very similar to those at UT-Austin. He explained that the standards were developed in 2005, based partly upon criteria suggested by the Educational Testing Service. He further noted that most Emerging Research Institutions require a base TOEFL score, but do not also have a requirement for minimum section scores on the exam. Texas State may follow the practices at other ERUs in the future. The Dean encouraged faculty to advise the Graduate College on those international students they have recruited. He also encouraged departments to decide what standards they value for admission, sharing those standards with the Graduate College. A Senator argued that the responsibility for tracking applications from international students could not be placed solely on faculty, and so a better means of communicating between the various offices on campuses is required. Another Senator urged the Graduate College to review the website aimed at international students to insure its clarity and usefulness.

BREAK

University Curriculum Committee Report: The Chair of the UCC shared the Committee's support for several proposals:

1. Add a Department of Occupational, Workforce, and Leadership Studies
2. Add an undergraduate minor in International Business
3. Add a graduate Certificate in Developmental Education
4. Delete the Masters of Arts and Master of Education majors in Elementary Education-Early Childhood Education

5. Add an undergraduate minor in Health Communication
6. Delete the Master of Arts majors in Legal Studies-Alternative Dispute Resolution, Legal Studies-Environmental Law, and Legal Studies-Legal Administration, and add those as specializations under the Master of Arts major in Legal Studies

The Senate will vote on these recommendations at its next meeting.

Budget Session: The Chair reported that the Provost will offer a University Budget workshop for the Senate and the members of the Senate's Budget Committee on April 18.

New Business:

1. A Senator inquired about the University's process for evaluating international degrees held by applicants for faculty positions.
2. The Chair reported that the University Lecturers Committee is having difficulty scheduling a meeting that all members can attend. She will encourage them to meet when a quorum of members is available, so that decisions can be made on proposals.
3. To a question from a Senator, the Chair explained that married faculty who both wish to be recognized as contributors to the University's Family Campaign can do so by making their donations in writing rather than online.
4. The Texas State chapter of the Golden Key Honor Society needs a faculty advisor. A Senator volunteered to fill the post.

Minutes of 3/7/12 were approved.

Adjournment.