

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

Senators: Agwuele, Bell-Metereau, Blunk, Cavitt, Conroy, Covington, Feakes, Furney, Hindson, Jimenez, Payne, Weill

Guests: Dr. William Stone, Kelsey Bradshaw, *University Star* reporter; Robyn Diaz, Alkek Library liaison

Retirement and Benefit Programs Committee report, Dr. William Stone, chair

- At the committee's recommendation, the senate endorsed the proposed changes to UPPS 04.04.52 that are due to changes in statutes. Any retirement vendor can petition to be on campus, but approved carriers must record deposits within 7 days, have a standardized front-end fee with a certain maximum, and come to campus twice yearly.
- Faculty have access to a range of funds, but few faculty members actively manage their funds; some pull money out before they reach retirement.
- Suggestions for improving existing retirement services: offer primers on investment for current and retired faculty; create webpage; committee recommends that the university provide a part-time financial planner.
- Customer satisfaction poll might be a possibility. Done in 2010 and reported to the senate.
- Human resources representative who met with the committee said they did not see a problem in expanding the retirement seminars to include retired faculty.
- Information provided by the state is publicly available, but faculty generally don't use it. TRS or ORP decision is crucial.
- Some commercial workshops have evolved, such as one in Asheville, NC, a four-day \$800 seminar about how to retire, plan for lifestyle changes, and choose a residence. Faculty may need to plan for as many as 30 retirement years.

Information and Follow-Up Items

- Administrators and faculty Fall 2013 salary data are posted on the senate website via Faculty Resources menu.
- Delegates for Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting (Austin, 2/28, 1 pm), will be senators Conroy and Feakes.
- Senate agreed by consensus that in its minutes, reports on CAD meetings made to the senate by senators should be condensed.
- Senate suggested requesting written senate committee reports from committee chairs, which would signal if there are concerns the senate should discuss. Senator Feakes will forward a form to consider using that will have some standardized questions such as how many times committee meets, and the level of workload entailed.

- The senate was asked by Ron Brown to alert faculty to use the guidelines in the most recent version of PPS 6.11 in preparing Presidential Award nomination submissions.

#### Committee appointments and assignments

- Honor Code Council, one member, Celeste Domsch, Communication Disorders
- Senate liaisons needed in Math and Criminal Justice, in process
- Pres. Award for Teaching, Applied Arts representative will be Catherine Hawkins
- Pres. Award for Scholarly/Creative Activity, Business representative will be Cecily Raiborn
- Handbook committee, Education representative will be Russ Hodges
- Suspension Appeals, Business, Science & Engineering, in process
- Diversity Award committee, request from Herman Horn, in process

#### University Lecturers Series

Deadline for university lecturer's proposals, January 22. Senate will ask the committee to discuss the possibility of splitting the fund to allow for short-term proposals.

#### Spousal benefits

Faculty senate supports spousal benefits for benefit-eligible faculty whose marriages are recognized by the federal government. Approved and suggested as potential PAAG item.

#### New Business

Beta testing of electronic development leave application was discussed and demonstrated.

The 1/15/14 minutes approved as amended.

6:01 Adjournment