

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 16, 2014**

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

Guests: Library: Lisa Ancelet, Selene Hinojosa, Karen Sigler, Paivi Rentz (Library Liaison); Audwin Anderson, History; Mary Jo Garcia Biggs, Social Work; Eleanor Close, Physics; Susan Day, Sociology; Chuck Hempstead, Texas Association of College Teachers; Michael Supancic, Curriculum Committee Chair; Debbie Thorne, Associate VP, Academic Affairs; Julie Westerlund, Biology; Kelsey Bradshaw, *University Star*

Information and Follow-Up Items

- Senate run-off elections voting ends 4/21.
- Perception of administrators survey: senators and liaisons should encourage colleagues to respond.
- Academic Testing for Students with Disabilities (ATSD) survey distributed 4/11; faculty should convey concerns about backlog or other issues.
- CourseLeaf is proposed to allow more functionality with Banner; a representative will be on campus on Tuesday. 8:30 and 2:00 pm in Alkek 105 and 106; please RSVP.
- Passenger rail service survey was announced. *The purpose of this survey is to collect information from employees.* Faculty/staff may access survey at <http://tti.etsurvey.com/index.php/48732/lang-en>.

Council of Academic Deans 4/15 meeting report, Conroy

- Admissions report
- Recommendation to create a new step in FDL with faculty giving chairs notice of intent to apply in the spring; notification by May 1 and meeting with chair by Sept. 15, before application is submitted; chairs will verify that faculty notified and conferred with chair. Change will allow chairs and deans more time to arrange scheduling and staffing needs.
- Summer camps: youth protection certificate for overnight camps will require faculty to have certificate to be renewed every two years.
- Press releases: too many go out from the university, so these need to be filtered.
- Dr. Gratz is retiring in December; there will be a search for special assistant to the president; position serves as liaison with legislature.

Librarians career ladder review process, Karen Sigler and newly elected library liaison, Paivi Rentz

- Career ladders at peer national, regional peer institutions (UT and A&M and other emerging research institutions) will be researched to establish comparative policies and data
- Development leave, promotion review, participation on committees
- Review was originally scheduled for 2005, but not conducted
- Faculty senate representation on review committee requested

- Librarians' role in NRU goals and future of career ladder process
- Senate suggested March of 2015 goal for completion of review

University Curriculum Committee report, Dr. Michael Supancic

- 3 proposals: Graduate Minor in Diversity Studies is 9-hour, international; Master of Science in Dementia and Aging Studies (sociology, interdisciplinary) with three tracks; Bachelor of Science Interdisciplinary Science (BSIS) with Composite Science teacher certification (132 hours)
- The Master of Science in Dementia and Aging includes requests for additional faculty and staff lines

Senate suspended its rules and moved to approve recommendations of the University Curriculum Committee.

Old Business

Scholarly/creative presidential award committee, Dr. Rahul Chakraborty appointed to represent health professions

New Business

Report from Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT) representative, Chuck Hempstead

- Legislative higher education discussions, testimony wrapping up Closing the Gaps by 2015. Benchmarks are almost met. Enrollment at college-level still short of goals and has dipped.
- University enrollment now 55% female, 45% male. Post-secondary percentage of African American and Hispanic at less than half Anglo attainment. Woody Hunt and Larry Faulkner are on the committee.
- Senators asked about makeup of committee. Race rather than stakeholders is a concern. TRS is working on strategic and health insurance plans.
- TACT will lobby on TRBs (new construction), faculty salaries (TX not in top 10 states salaries).

Research Enhancement Program REP travel inquiry discussed. Senators decided not to initiate a revision to the REP guidelines.

Senator discussed concerns about research funding and research workload release for tenure-track faculty.

Approval of 4/9 minutes, RTA

Adjournment at 6:04.