FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
19 March2020
3:30 P.M. –5:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

Present: Yuan Zhao (COM);Maria Botero (CHSS);Siham Bouamer (CHSS);Nick Lantz
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Academic policy review update:

- Last town hall was held the Friday before spring break at TWC.
- Clinical faculty concerns need to be addressed.
- Since COVID-19 crisis, no more information on how/when review process will move forward.

A: No policy for clinical faculty. They are shepherned under standards for tenure-track faculty.

Discussion/comments: There is no written policy for advancement for clinical faculty except in COM. Policy addresses tenured/tenure-track faculty and non-tenure track faculty only. Need policy to address how clinical faculty's different degrees are considered, what service expectations should be, etc. Clinical faculty in nursing are more like medical faculty than regular faculty. The concerns are not new, they started being voiced in 2015. Clinical faculty should be addressed in these policies or in a separate policy.

Q: What happens if the policies are pushed through despite the COVID-19 hiatus?
A: This shouldn't happen. The last step of the process is the vote of the Academic Affairs Council (AAC). Faculty Senate has two votes on AAC. We would object and Chairs (at the very least) would back us up. A new president would also likely object to academic policies being somehow forced through the approval process. But, before any of this happens, we have monthly meetings with the Provost and will discuss.

Discussion/comments: Clarification that the town halls were not run by Senate. Senate representatives were there, as were other members of the summer policy review committee, to help answer questions. The policies were presented to the summer policy review committee and the faculty have provided edits, revisions, etc. to them. We revised the policies we were given. The summer policy review committee is chaired by Deans Lyons and Edmonson.

A: Faculty Senate should be communicating to all faculty about the process. Is this what we are doing? Is this what the administration is doing?
Q: The Provost has to approve all university-wide emails. (That is why we asked senators to send out notifications to their departments/colleges).

Discussion/comments: Consensus is that sending updates to faculty members would be a good idea. But, we need to update faculty on the policy revision process by the end of the semester or the beginning of fall term at the latest.

Then include a similar open-ended question on the university's COVID-19 response.

Other updates

- Spring commencement cancelled, plan to hold a joint spring/summer commencement;
- Campus buildings are open and faculty my work in offices;
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Nominations could happen earlier meeting, then statements and voting could happen at the last regular meeting of the Senate in the spring semester as indicated by the Charter.

This proposal would mean that nominations would be put forward at the April 2nd meeting and statements and voting would happen at the April 16th meeting.

Stockall moves that we adopt the modified proposal above. Hay seconds.

Discussion centered around the need to expand period for nominations beyond one senate meeting to have time to consider the nominees and perhaps round out the slate with additional nominees to ensure diversity and inclusion. Suggestion to accept nominations on April 2nd during the meeting and for one week following. Senate Chair would then announce the full slate to all senators prior to the final regular meeting. At the final regular meeting of the spring semester, all nominees will have a chance to make statements, and a vote via secret ballot will be held.

Some discussion of need to discuss the guidelines for nominee statements (length of time allotted, verbal and/or written, do we need to stipulate a particular format, etc. Consensus was to decide on the voting process now and discuss the statement guidelines at the next meeting.

Stockall amends (and Stutts seconds) the original motion to state "Nominations for Chair