

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

At the request of IT, future new IT policies will be created with initial feedback from Dr. Nancy Baker and possibly also Dr. Paul Loeffler before they are put in front of Faculty Senate. The hope is that earlier, informal feedback on the language in new or revised policies will help smooth the process of Senate approval of such policies.

The FES committee had created three possible FES options that they submitted to the provost last year. Currently, the Council of Academic D

One senator said he struggles with the pressure he sees students under to complete their degree as quickly as possible, so that they can keep their debt load minimal, while he knows that more than a year in his major is necessary to educate the students

New Business

Students with Disabilities Policy

Dr. James asked for input on the policy; Vice Provost Eglsaer needs to know if we see changes needed.

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A couple of senators claimed that it is a policy that all faculty must attend all graduations unless they have received permission from their dean to miss; others have said their chair insists they attend one each year.

Dr. James will consult with the provost on this.

Annual Reviews, Third-Year Reviews, Tenure Decisions

Classroom observation of tenured faculty has been raised as an issue in one department; some departments are doing this (as part of peer assessment and mentoring of untenured faculty) and this involves untenured faculty submitting written assessments of tenured faculty, and vice versa, to form a reciprocal relationship.

A senator asked which senators have annual reviews in their departments, and how this process works in their departments. Another senator asked who evaluates FES annually -- a committee or the chair of the department? The senators' answers varied.

Problems with Banner

One senator announced that there is a problem with the Banner system displaying new courses that have been approved. If you have had a new course approved, you (or someone else – your department chair, for example) must request the course be added to the course catalogue the first time you teach it. Otherwise, the course will not be added to the course catalogue and will not show up as an option in which students can enroll.

National Book Awards Event

A senator made an announcement: the English department is hosting a National Book Awards two-part event featuring three finalists for that prize ; the two-part event will be held on March 30 at 4:30 pm and March 31 at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Revised 04-07-2014, 11:44 am

Nancy Baker
Report on the Texas State University System Council of Faculty Senates meeting
Austin, TX
Feb. 14, 2014

Dr. Perry Moore, TSUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, met with eight representatives from TSUS universities' Faculty Senates to discuss issues of concern and answer questions.

Moore clarified that the TSUS Board of Regents serve as volunteers. The regents are not given a stipend for their service, but their expenses are covered.

Moore gave updates on the presidential searches taking place at two universities this year (Sul Ross and Port Arthur).

On budget issues, Moore was optimistic that in the upcoming session the State Legislature would approve some proposed Tuition Revenue Bonds. Moore described at length the consideration currently being given to the idea of performance-based outcomes funding in higher education in Texas. Moore is on a committee devoted to subsidy formulas (how much funding the state legislature should give to universities), and this committee has been tasked by the Commissioner to devise a performance-based outcomes funding formula that they support unanimously. Moore explained the challenges involved.

Reviewing the changes to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as of the last legislative session, Moore's main point was that the THECB has been reminded that it is a coordinating board, not a governing board. He is currently proposing that any low-performing programs that the THECB sought to eliminate ought to continue, as the THECB had no data to support its claims that these eliminations would improve efficiency or quality.

Moore spent a considerable amount of time discussing "set

conservative and therefore potentially less supportive of higher education.

In response to a question, Moore said he had no statement to make at this time on equal spousal benefits for same-sex marriages. Answering another question, Moore explained that student course fees have been cancelled because of a concern over being able to audit course fees (in other words, being able to prove that the money raised was spent on exactly the items for which the funds were raised).

The next TSUS CFS meeting will be held on October 24, 201