

February 12, 2014 Committee Reports, meeting #330

Traffic and Safety-Abigail Swingen

The ad hoc traffic safety committee has attempted to meet and has gathered concerns from those who have volunteered. As convener, I've been in touch with Christine Self, president of Staff Senate, who reported that they do not have a similar committee, but would bring up the issue at the next meeting and thought pooling our resources would be a good idea. I also got in touch with Luke Cotton of SGA, who put me in touch with other student government leaders. They also mentioned bringing this up at their next meetings and also liked the idea of pooling ideas and resources. Once these groups get back to us, we plan to arrange a meeting with Michael Molina and possibly the director of Transportation and Parking on campus.

Faculty Status & Welfare-OP revisions-

70.37 Attachment C (to become OP 74.17 in Fall 14): no objection to the new revision. The OP can go to the entire FS for approval.

79.05 International Travel: no comment or objection from FSW to sending this to the entire FS for approval.

32.29 Faculty Leave and the issue of "service:"

This is my draft language to go to the Faculty Senate for consideration on OP 32.39 and the problem of service duties while on leave status:

1. Faculty who are on approved leave (FDL, FMLA, etc.) are excused from service duties for the department, college, or university while in "leave" status. The following exception is appropriate:

a. Faculty Searches: New hires are moments when the department makes decisions about the future direction of the department and its curriculum. Therefore, the exception to this rule is in the case of participation in departmental faculty hiring committees. A faculty member on leave may choose to participate as a member of the hiring committee or as a voting member of the department faculty but cannot be assigned or compelled to participate while in a "leave" status.

2. A faculty member on leave shall not be penalized within "service" evaluation portions of annual, third-year, or tenure reviews, or for merit-based raises. The period a faculty member is on approved leave status will be calculated by using the highest level of service in either the preceding or seceding year or semester as appropriate to the length of the leave.

SECC Committee-Francesca di Poppa-

The committee has concluded their investigation of the procedure by which charities are included in, or excluded from, the SECC list with the help of David Abercia (Office of the Senior Vice President and Vice Provost), and will report on their findings.

Ad Hoc Committee report on SECC procedures. Information provided by David Abercia Executive Associate, Office of the Senior Vice President and Vice Provost

1. Procedure by which a charity, or a federation of charities, is included in the SECC list:

The State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) is governed by state statute. The state campaign is overseen by a state policy committee (only current or retired state employees can serve on this committee) and a state campaign manager (appointed by the state policy committee).

All of the State Policy Committee meetings fall under the Open Meetings Act for the State of Texas and minutes are kept for each meeting. Anyone can attend these meetings and the approval or denial of charitable organizations or federations would be within the minutes of the particular meeting when the votes took place. Minutes of past meetings can be requested.

2. Criteria:

State statute outlines the criteria that all charitable organizations must meet and they are as follows (application form and info available on the Greater West Texas SECC website)

- They are recognized by the IRS as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and registered with the Secretary of State.
 - They are audited (or reviewed) annually by an accountant in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
 - They provide direct or indirect health and human services. A list of services is on the application, and it includes, among others, disaster relief and recovery, victims advocacy and services, education, family planning, substance abuse programs, youth development, etc. Charities are allowed to add "other" if they offer relevant services not included in the list.
 - They spend no more than 25 percent of funds raised on administration and fundraising
- The committee also examined the language of SECC material and found no evidence of state endorsement of specific charities in the program.