TTU Ethics Center

Re: Spring Advisory Committee Meeting

April 30, 2012 / 2:15-3:45 p.m.

**Members in attendance:** Valerie Paton (chair), Justin Louder, Andrew Canham (for Catherine Duran), Bill Lawson, JoAnn Klinker, Gary Elbow, Jonathan Marks, Ralph Ferguson, Jennifer Bard, Donell Callender, Kim Turner.

**Others Attending:** Keisha McKenzie, Yi Hui Lee, Howie Chin, and Dianne Reyes.

I. Welcome

Dr. Justin Louder welcomed attendees and directed attendees to the last meeting’s printed minutes. Justin then announced that effective next fall, TTU Ethics Center would be going paperless for meetings.

II. Ethics OP 10.11

Dr. Keisha McKenzie reviewed the university ethics operating policy/procedure, which is due to be reviewed every two years in June. She made three key recommendations and presented a draft revision to attendees. Traditionally the OP has been reviewed by the Chancellors’ Office and the General Counsel but this year it was given to the Ethics Center.

Key recommendations:

1. Give Ethics Advisory Committee revision authority, shared with Office of General Counsel.
2. Integrate the Statement of Ethical Principles more deeply in the Ethics policy.
3. Delete the final legal phrase about the university having unilateral authority to change the policy. Ethics requires consent.

During discussion, Kim Turner was asked to do a thorough review of the OP. Justin will email the document to Kim Turner, and she will then send back input so that the Office of General Counsel can review it for statutory changes since 2008. Dr. Valerie Paton approved the revision’s alignment with the Statement of Ethical Principles.

III. Organization and Staff

a. **TTU leadership for International Center for Academy Integrity (ICAI) regional consortium:** Justin discussed TTU taking the lead in a regional consortium. The Advisory Committee is not ready to vote on this proposal; the Committee voted approval for Justin to report back on the cost, attendance, and other institutions that might attend.

b. **Ethics Center Staff:** Dr. Yi-Hui Lee’s title has been modified to Unit Coordinator for Ethics Center. Also, announcing other staff members leaving in July and August for other opportunities. Justin now is accepting application for graduate students.
c. Faculty Fellowship: Funds are available to fund a research faculty fellowship staff for half-time. It was suggested to stipend this position for an associate-level tenure-track faculty member and have them work with a post-doctoral fellow on ethics research.

d. Post-Doctoral Fellowship: A post-doc fellowship has the potential to raise the profile of the Ethics Center, complete more research, and push some of the day-to-day work of running programs.

After much discussion regarding C and D, the Committee agreed on a goal to hire someone for journal/peer-reviewed research publication. More discussion is needed.

IV. Spring Activity Review-

Arbor Day and Strive for Honor Week activities were discussed. From the Arbor Day activity, 110 valid responses were received.

The Ethics Center will help co-sponsor speaker Craig Nelson for Burns Conference on TTU campus in September and he will also lead one of our Ethics Lunch Series. The Ethics Center will also be partnering with TTHSC Ethic Center to bring in Craig Klugman this summer.

The Advisory Committee received print updates on the Ethics Series, the new Twitter page, and preliminary data from the 2nd Annual RCR Conference.

V. Other Business-

Justin reviewed a meeting he and Dr. Valerie Paton had with Paul Woodruff, Dean of Undergraduate Education at UT-Austin about UT’s Ethics Initiative (the Flags program). They have one staff member whose focus is ethics as a curricular activity. TTU’s approach was co-curricular. The Flags program includes six competencies that UT wants all graduates to finish their programs with. TTU gave UT copies of our materials including the Annual Report. UT Austin’s curricular strategy embeds the six competencies across the curriculum from introductory courses through major courses.

The Office of Congressional Ethics has contacted TTU asking to dialog and partner. TTU Ethics Center is on the map, drawing a lot of interest and response nationally.

The Task Force Committee drafted a new Conflict of Interest Policy which it would like the Ethics Center to view once it clears the Office of General Counsel. This new policy is intended to be adopted by all three system universities.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled early in the fall of 2012. This meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.