

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes #221
January 9, 2002**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 in the Senate Room in the University Center with President Giaccardo presiding. Senators present were Kvashny, Buelinckx, Byerly, Dolter, Donahue, Harter, Howe, Marks, Meek, Reed, Reeves, Roberts, Schaller, Stinespring, Williams, Dukes, Hein, Johnson, Murray, Thomas, Lakhani, Mann, Norville, Reeder, Blum, Russ, Phelan, Marshall, Quinn, Bradley, Carr, Cooper, Curry, Hoo, Hsiang and Marbley. Senators that excused were Iber, Lewis, Lucas, Russ and Willis-Aarnio. Unexcused Senators were Blanton, Elam, James, Kuriyama, Lee, Yang, Zhang, Shriver and Steinhart.

I. Call to Order: at 3:16 p.m. (please place name tag in front of your and sign in at door)

II. Recognition of Guests: Provost John Burns; Vice Provost Jim Brink; Assistant Provost Liz Hall; Parliamentarian Gary Elbow.

III. The minutes for Meeting #220 were accepted as mailed

IV. Invited Guests:
Linda Gilbert could not attend because she was out of town.

V. Old Business:
President Giaccardo discussed the progress of the Provost Search Committee. He indicated that there were 33 applications from around the country and that the committee had narrowed that down to 13 active candidates. Phone interviews are going to be held with each candidate sometime in January to reduce that number down to 3 to 5 qualified candidates. President Giaccardo stated that he would keep the Faculty Senate informed of the committee's progress.

Senator Uzi Mann asked how many of the candidates were from Texas Tech. President Giaccardo stated that he could not go into those details. Senator Lakhani asked how many will the 13 current candidates be reduced too. President Giaccardo stated that they would reduce the candidate pool to between 3 to 5 unranked individuals. Senator Steinhart asked what the gender distribution of the candidates was and President Giaccardo did not know.

Gary Elbow reported on the last Southern Association of Collegiate Schools (SACS) meeting and the new procedures for the reaffirmation report process that no longer includes a self-study. The next time Texas Tech comes up for re-creditation will be in 2005. The new process will be streamlined and should be considerably less time consuming. A Quality Enhancement Plan will also be part of the new process designed to enhance a program or programs in the university. SACS now lets us decide what we want to be evaluated on and we need to start talking about what we want to do, how we want to do it and then demonstrate that we have done it.

Vice Provost Brink stated that the new standards will not include hours of committee work because we will already have the data for the report from the strategic plan, assessment data that we have been collecting every year and evidence from the ledger system. Those three elements will be the core of how we demonstrate that we are doing what we say we are doing. The report should no longer be a major undertaking to complete.

Senator Schaller asked what kind of data would be considered sensitive. Gary Elbow indicated that faculty vitas and student records, transcripts, etc. would be handled as confidential.

Senator Howe expressed that the process of completing the old SACS forms actually helped clean up old messes every 10 years. Will the new quality enhancement plan still be beneficial in this regard? Gary Elbow stated that these issues should be covered under the strategic plan. Vice Provost Brink suggested that we select an initiative that is languishing and needs bolstering to improve it. He also reiterated that the new procedure would be (1) faculty driven and (2) faculty will need to take a greater role in determining their department's assessment data and the roles they play in collecting that data. Gary Elbow also stated that flexibility is important and the assessment will become part of the feedback loop needed to create a constant reevaluation and reassessment of what you've been doing over a 10-year period. The new process is also more administrative in nature than the old process due to the heavy reliance on data, however, there will be faculty input throughout the process.

VI. New Businesses:

President Giaccardo announced that the Faculty Senate Nomination Committee consists of Senator Jorge Iber, Senator Julie Thomas; and Senator Walt Schaller. The committee will nominate executive committee members for next year.

VII. Announcement:

President Giaccardo announced that due to comments made by Gary Wiggins and the concerns that the Faculty Senate had regarding the difficulties being faced in finding our way through the TECHSIS system, we decided to link the Faculty Senate homepage with the Faculty portal website for the system.

Vice Provost Brink stated that his office was concerned because some faculty did not realize that they had degree candidates on their class role. So now for each class there is a statement on top of the class roll page that states that you have degree candidates in that course. President Giaccardo asked how we could get that information out to the rest of the faculty and Vice Provost Brink suggested that each Senator inform his or her peers.

Senator Roberts suggested that since about 90% of all the faculty have e-mail that that would be one way of getting information out to them. Senator Marbley suggested that information be disseminated to college deans and chairs who would then inform their people.

Senator Steinhart asked that the Faculty Senate prepare some questions for the next time Linda Gilbert addresses the senate including: how successfully the new program registration went, how many students were dropped, what is being done to bring the new process into conformity with the OP's it currently violates, and how many free t-shirts they distributed. The UD stated that 694 students were dropped because of the new payment system installed this semester.

There were no other announcements.

VII. Adjournment at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Shane C. Blum
Secretary, Faculty Senate