The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, December 11, 2002 in the Senate Room in the University Senate with President Shane Blum presiding. Senators present were. Senators absent were.

I. Call to Order: President Shane Blum announced the call to order at 3:21pm.

II. Recognition of Guest in Attendance: Vice Provosts Jim Brink and Liz Hall, Provost William Marcy, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Lynda Gilbert, Student Government Association President Kelli Stumbo, and Student Government Representative Lee Nard.

III. Approval of Minutes for Meeting #228. The minutes of meeting #228 were approved as distributed.

IV. Invited Guests. President Blum introduced Linda Gilbert, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. President Blum explained that Dr. Gilbert would answer the questions that were provided to her in advance and the Senators would have an opportunity to ask her follow-up questions.

Dr. Gilbert began her responses with the question relating to student tuition payment. 

Question #1: Were you aware of OP 77.04 regarding cancellation of registration for non-payment of tuition before you made the changes in payment procedures for Spring 2002? 1.1 If so, why did you choose to ignore the University’s operation procedures at that time? 1.2 Have you sought to change the OP in question to conform to your new practice or bring your practice into conformity with the OP? She explained that when she came here there was a committee made up of individuals from Fiscal Affairs, Student Business Services, Admissions, the Registrars office, and other groups from across campus working on this issue. Dr. Gilbert stated that the committee came to her with the recommendation that the deadline date for student payment be moved from the 20th class day to before classes begin. She explained that the rationale behind the change was that under the old policy we were penalizing the good students who had paid and needed to get in classes by reserving space in classes for students had not paid and who may never show up. Dr. Gilbert went on to explain that when students were finally removed from class rolls for non-payment it was too late for other students to take their slots because it was already past the add/drop deadline.

Dr. Gilbert was originally not aware that the Registrar had OP 77.04 and stated that the Registrars office was supportive of the proposed changes to the Fiscal Affairs OP that addresses this same issue. She stated that her office is working with the Registrar’s office to have this OP transferred to Fiscal Affairs so it can be incorporated into their OP.

Question #2: Do other state universities in Texas (or the Big 12) collect tuition before the delivery of service on the first day of class? 2.1 Did you seek the advice of University council regarding the legality of collecting fees in advance of delivery of service? 2.2 What is being done to bring Texas Tech collection practices in line with state law? Dr. Gilbert stated that Texas law (54007) requires TTU to collect all tuition and fees before classes begin and we were in a gray area by not requiring it until the 20th class day. She went on to say that the new policy brings us in full compliance with state law in this area. Dr. Gilbert provided some data that illustrates that TTU is in line with other schools in Texas in regards to payment deadlines.

Question #3: Did you seek the advice of the staff of the Office of Student Business Services before making the decision to change the tuition collection practices? 3.1 Did objections to the new practices lead to the termination or demotion of any employees of the Office of Student Services? Dr. Gilbert stated that Student Business Services had a representative on the committee that made the recommendation and no staffing changes have been made because of this decision.

Question #4: Were you aware that the promotional use of free tee-shirts or sweat shirts was administered in such a manner as to discriminate against students receiving financial aid? Dr. Gilbert
read a press release that stated that free T-shirts were available to any student who paid in full by the
deadline, regardless of how they paid. She went on to state that if any student was discriminated against it
was totally inadvertent, and if the names of students who were not given a T-shirt could be provided to her
she would take care of it.

Question #5: Were you aware that delays in payment of financial aid under the new payment system
required students to take out emergency loans and pay a service charge in order to stay enrolled,
while under the old system they would have been able to make payment as late as the 12th class day
before they could be de-registered. Dr. Gilbert responded that Student Business Services works with
financial aid to make sure that every student who is supposed to receive financial aid is flagged. She stated
that these students are never dropped as long a their financial aid is in order. Dr. Gilbert went on to explain
that the students who have problems are those who do not have their financial aid paper work in order.

Dr. Gilbert then entertained questions regarding this portion of her presentation. Senator Steinhart
asked Dr. Gilbert to give the number of the state law relating to tuition payment deadlines. Dr. Gilbert replied
that the number of the law is 54007, and stated that she has a copy if the senator would like to read it.

Senator Steinhart asked if the number of students dis-enrolled in January 2002 was in fact 500 as stated in
a recent newspaper article. Dr. Gilbert responded that this is in fact the correct number, which is actually a
little lower than normal. She stated that TTU typically dis-enrolls between 600 and 800 students per term.
Dr. Gilbert went on to explain that the drop list is sent to deans and associate deans before students are
actually dropped with a request for them to contact these students to notify them that they are about to be
dropped. Senator Steinhart responded that in principal this is very worthy, but in fact these students are
probably not even on campus prior to the payment deadline. Dr. Gilbert replied that a notice is also sent to
the student’s email address, a card is sent to their physical address and they are billed at least monthly, and
weekly during pre-registration and add/drop. She stated that they also mail a bill to mom and dad. Dr.
Gilbert commented that they are trying as hard as they can to let students know that there is a bill because
they don’t want to have to drop anybody.

Senator Held asked if this policy has been explained to student government. Dr. Gilbert replied that it
has. Senator Held asked if they are satisfied with how things are being done. Dr. Gilbert stated that she
has not had any comments from student government. Student Government President Kelli Stumbo
stated that she feels students are generally happy with the change because more openings are available in
classes. She stated that the only complaints have been from students on financial aid who were incorrectly
dropped for non-payment.

Senator Steinhart asked if is was true that most outside scholarship sources require proof of registration
before they will make payment, which creates a bit of a catch 22 situation. Dr. Gilbert relied that this is true
but pre-registration will usually satisfy this requirement. She went on to state that this could be a problem
for students who register late, but they will work with students to make sure they are not dropped while
they are waiting for scholarship money.

In the second part of her presentation Dr. Gilbert answered questions related to financial issues. Question
#1: Why are there shortfalls occurring in academic budgets and how has your office been coping
with them? How much is due to overruns in a) outlying campuses b) new facilities construction and
interest payment c) athletic programs d) scholarships? Dr Gilbert stated that the problems began when
Governor White put a 15% budget reduction in place. TTU’s solution to this problem was to sacrifice the
summer teaching budget. This budget was never restored, and from this point on the summer teaching
budget has been obtained from the lapsed faculty salary account. She went on to explain that this is not a
real solid way to fund summer school but we were able to get by with it until the last two years when
faculty turnover took a down turn.

Senator Stinespring asked if it is correct that the state funds by enrollment for the year and not by the
semester, so there is no formula funding for summer school. Dr. Gilbert replied that in Texas, funding is
on a biannual basis. We are given a lump sum for instruction, which was 8 million dollars in the last
biennium.
Senator Steinhart asked if it is true that funding is only based on credit hours during counting semesters and summer is never a counting semester. Dr. Gilbert replied that summer can be a counting semester, and that funding for the next biennium will be based on summer 2002, fall 2002 and spring 2003.

Senator Donahue asked if she heard Dr. Gilbert state that summer school will be fully funded in the upcoming summer term. Dr. Gilbert replied that she has a strategy that she is discussing with Provost Marcy to achieve that goal. She went on to state that she hopes that after this year funding for summer school will be formally incorporated into the budget. Senator Howe asked if we are still planning to move toward a twelve-month budget even with the change in administration. Dr. Gilbert replied that yes, this is literally what she is talking about. Provost Marcy stated that at a recent SAC meeting it was made clear that one of the compliance documents that will be required is a twelve-month budget.

Question #2: Is it true that your office has been “sweeping” certain academic accounts in departments and colleges to make up for budgetary shortfalls? 2.1 If so, why was this done so early (spring and early summer)? 2.2 Has this emptying of accounts been done without prior notification of the departments and colleges concerned? Where is the money going that has been diverted from academic accounts? Athletics, public relations, entertainment? Senator Steinhart asked if the only destination of the funds from accounts that were swept was summer school. Dr. Gilbert replied that yes this was true.

Senator Held asked if funding for athletics is separate from funding for academics. Dr. Gilbert replied that funding for athletics is a difficult issue, but that President Schmidly has stated we need to move away from university funding of athletics. She went on to state that the problem is that many students are involved in sports that are non-revenue generating and these students deserve the right to compete just as much as students in revenue generating sports such as football, basketball and baseball or those involved in other activities such as band or theatre. Senator Held asked how the $400,000 shortfall in the football budget that occurred this summer was corrected. Dr. Gilbert replied that 1.2 million dollars in revenue from the Pigskin Classic was used to correct this shortfall. She went on to state that athletics is important because it brings recognition to the university. Senator Held followed up by stating that it is also appropriate to point out that the faculty is also important, and this is a year when there is no raise for faculty so it is legitimate to raise questions about allocations and priorities.

Dr. Gilbert responded that she agrees and one of the questions here (Question #4: Are football coaches given bonuses at a time when there are insufficient funds for faculty raises?) is did football coaches get bonuses. She stated that they did and this was not her decision, it was the Athletic Director’s decision to do this using revenue generated by the football program.

Senator Steinhart asked if it is true that maintenance of the stadium has been transferred from the athletic budget to student services. Dr. Gilbert replied that this is not true, there is a maintenance account in the university budget for athletic facilities. Senator Steinhart asked if it is correct that there is no balance in the maintenance account for the coming year. Dr. Gilbert replied that she does not think this is correct, but she will check with Ron Damron who is the account manager who takes care of maintenance for the stadium.

Senator Marks asked if there was a risk of theatre students being supported more than athletes. Dr. Gilbert replied that this is not an issue. Senator Marks stated that he knows of a case where an account manager was waiting to allocate money until a position was funded. The position was for a research assistant. The position was funded and two days later the money was gone. He stated that these kinds of cases probable account for some of the dissatisfaction and explain how rumors get started. Dr. Gilbert replied that a letter was sent in mid-June notifying account managers that unused salary accounts would be swept. Senator Marks replied that he was told this occurred in September. Dr. Gilbert replied that they did not touch any accounts in September so the account manager needs to contact the budget office to see what happened. Senator Held asked if he heard it correctly that a memo was sent in the middle of June to notify account managers that a sweep was coming. Dr. Gilbert replied that the memo was sent to VPs and the Provost on June 16th. Senator Held asked Provost Marcy if he recalls having received that memo because according to the UD you were not aware of sweeps at that time. Provost Marcy replied that he did.
not become provost until August 1st, so he was dean at that time. He went on to state there were two
meeting with all of the deans to discuss budget issues and the memo was passed out at one of those
meetings. Senator Held stated that within Arts and Sciences at some level the notification did not trickle
down to all department head, which caused some hurt feelings. Senator Steinhart stated that it caused
more than hurt feelings. In some cases word did trickle down and accounts were cleared that were targeted
for sweeping to the detriment of other departments that did not receive notification. Dr. Gilbert replied that
she couldn’t speak to this issue because she does not know what kinds of games were played. She stated
that her conversations are with the provost and VP’s and she does not know what goes on after that.
Provost Marcy stated that in the College of Engineering all department chairs and account managers
were called together and notified, but he does not know if all colleges did this or not.

Senator Held commented that he is sure Dr. Gilbert is aware that some Horn Professor accounts were
affected and asked if these were swept before or after the memo was sent out. Dr. Gilbert replied that this
was not a part of the sweep; it was simply elimination of any carry over in these accounts.

Question #3: Endowments and Scholarships-How much of Operating Funds are being used to
Gilbert explained that scholarships are growing at approximately 3 million dollars per year and it is her job
to find money to fund these scholarships. Senator Donahue asked if it is correct that it is faculty salary and
raise money that is going to fund the scholarships. Dr. Gilbert replied that this is not correct; the money to
fund scholarships is coming from cuts in her operation, physical plant and student services. Senator Held
stated that according to her recollection Dr. Schmidly stated that this money could have been devoted to
faculty raises. Dr. Gilbert replied that she and Dr. Schmidly need to talk about that. Senator Donahue
stated that Dr. Schmidly said that if the university could bring in outside funding to replace the 5 million
dollars that is currently being used to fund scholarships this money could be used for faculty salaries and
raises. Dr. Gilbert responded that the 5 million dollars represents the total amount of money that is
currently being used to fund scholarships and the honors program. She explained that this money is being
obtained from a variety of sources, including university reserves that are running out. Senator Floyd asked
how much of the money raised in the Horizon Campaign is being directed to academics. Dr. Gilbert replied that she sees very little to none at this point. Vice Provost Brink responded that Chancellor
Monford stated that 100 million dollars would go to student scholarships, 100 million dollars to faculty and
100 million dollars to facilities, and what your saying is none of that has been allocated. Provost Marcy
interjected that it is the interest on that amount, not that amount. Vice Provost Brink replied that what Dr.
Gilbert is saying is even the interest on that amount is not going into those areas. Dr. Gilbert replied that in
the case of scholarships a lot of the money was directed toward specific majors and colleges rather than
toward the general academic scholarship pool.

Senator Shriver asked if it is true that we are giving scholarships to students based on SAT scores and
some of these scholarships are going to students with SAT scores below the average SAT score of
incoming freshman. Vice Provost Brink replied that it is based on a combination of SAT score and class
standing, but he does not believe this is happening. Dr. Gilbert relied that she thinks some low rate
scholarships were eliminated this year because the general SAT average was approaching the level required
to qualify for these scholarships. Senator Steinhart asked if need is a factor in any of these scholarship
programs. Dr. Gilbert replied that all of these are merit based, but we have two other scholarship programs
that are need based.

Dr. Gilbert stated that she was confused about Question #5 (What was the rationale for the
centralization of budgeting for the colleges and divisions? Was this intended as a cost saving
measure? Was the loss of faculty governance rights taken into consideration?) and asked if we could
clarify the question. Senator Steinhart responded that he understood based on a conversation with a dean
that budgeting functions that used to reside in the colleges were transferred to President Schmidly’s office
about a year and a half ago and consequently decisions about the allocation of funds within the colleges is
now a function of central administration. The Senator asked if this is not true. Dr. Gilbert replied that with
the exception of faculty salaries we a historic plus model, you get what you get what you got last this year
plus or minus what the state gives us this year. Senator Steinhart followed up by asking if there is any
management of funds within a college once the bulk amount has been distributed. Dr. Gilbert responded
that the deans are can make some discretionary choices. Senator Steinhart stated that he understood that
these discretionary choices had been eliminated. Provost Marcy stated that, with the exception of faculty
salary funds, deans have the discretion to move funds from one line item in their budget to another.

Senator Donahue asked if we are still moving towards the ledger based system and for a clarification of
what the system is. Dr. Gilbert replied that in a nutshell it is a performance-based system for revenue
allocation that rewards colleges that exceed their goals. Senator Donahue asked if we are moving in this
direction. Dr. Gilbert replied that this is a question for the provost. Provost Marcy answered that in order
to maintain SAC accreditation the university must develop a system to measure performance against goals.
Senator Donahue responded that what Provost Marcy is describing does not seem to be connected to
funding, but is only an assessment tool for the strategic plan. Provost Marcy replied that the ledger system
would eventually be used to determine allocation of funds above the baseline level of funding from the
previous year. Senator Held expressed concern that the ledger system will be used to compare one
department or program to another department or program, which might not be a fair comparison. Vice
Provost Brink responded that many times President Schmidly has stated that the ledger system was not
designed to pit one department against another, but rather to have a department set goals and then to work
toward those goals and be rewarded as a result of reaching or exceeding those goals.

Question #6: Is there a shortfall in the HEAF allocations available for start-up funds for new faculty?
Dr. Gilbert replied that every year in HEAF allocation there is 2.844 million dollars put aside for the
colleges to distribute for start up funds and this has not changed for many years. Senator Held replied that
he requested that this question be added to this list because he heard there is a problem; in the sciences we
may not be able to hire who we want to hire due to limitations in HEAF money. Provost Marcy responded
that this is a fair statement; typically to hire someone in the sciences requires around a million dollars total.
He went on to say that much of the HEAF money is spent on laboratories, computer equipment, and
maintaining departmental resources. Therefore, if it is an either/or choice between supporting departments,
and hiring ‘fancy faculty’ we must hire the faculty necessary to teach the courses and find some other way
to fund these large start up packages. Provost Marcy further stated that HEAF money was never intended as
a way to fund faculty that are coming in with extraordinary laboratory requirements. Senator Steinhart
asked why it is that the History Department has been told that it can no longer offer computers to its
prospective hires. Provost Marcy replied that this is probably because the College of Arts and Sciences got
approximately 400,000 dollars less than it did last year. He went on to explain that this is due in part to the
fact that many multi-year commitments have been made for start-up.

Senator Held thanked Vice President Gilbert on behalf of the Budget Study Committee for clarifying so
many positions for us and requested that Dr. Gilbert pass along to the development office this problem with
HEAF money. President Blum also extended his thanks to Vice President Gilbert.

V. Old Business. The first item of old business related to post-tenure review, specifically OP 32.21.
President Blum explained that the OP has been in committee twice for rewording. He stated that he
wanted to get a motion to suspend the rules to consider these amendments to the OP without sending it
back to committee. A motion to this effect was made by Senator Floyd and seconded by Senator
Steinhart. The motion was approved unanimously. Senator Howe made a motion to accept the changes to
Op 32.31. Senator Steinhart seconded the motion. Senator Held explained that the section that is new is
on the next to last page and this paragraph details the echelon of appeal; the first appeal is to the Provost,
than to the Tenure Advisory Committee and ultimately the President. Senator Watts pointed out that there
is a typographical error on the fourth line from the bottom; the sentence should read finding instead of
fining. The motion to accept the amendment to OP 32.21 with corrections was approved unanimously.

President Blum read an email message from Marc Giaccardo, President of the TTU chapter of AAAUP,
requesting that the Faculty Senate work with the Provost’s office to ensure that both the original language
agreed to last year by President Schmidly is returned to Op 32.05, which deals with faculty grievances, and
a non retaliation clause is added to the OP, and both changes appear in the next publication of the OP.
President Blum stated that he wants to send the OP back to the Budget Study Committee and have them get
with the Provost’s office to make sure this happens. Senator Held agreed that the committee would take
care of this issue.
VI. New business. President Blum stated that he has asked Chancellor Smith to speak to the Faculty Senate at the January 15th meeting and that Chancellor Smith said he would be happy to speak to us on the 15th if he is back from Austin. President Blum said that he discussed the Presidential Search Committee with the Chancellor and he stated that the committee would be constructed and run much the same as the last one; 20 people with representatives of the Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, Student Government, Board of Regent, etc. The Chancellor stated that some issues have not been resolved; the role of the Board of Regents, if a search firm will be used, etc. President Blum mentioned that the OP simply states that the Chancellor selects the President, and there is nothing in the OP that obligates him to use a search committee. He stated however that Chancellor Smith has assured him that he is going to establish a search committee. Senator Floyd asked what the Chancellor said concerning the timetable, both for appointing a search committee and wrapping up the search process. President Blum replied that Chancellor Smith said that the search committee would be selected sometime in January or February and he expects the search process to be completed by the fall.

Senator Stinespring. Faculty Senate Representative to the Graduate Council, mentioned that paper catalogs will no longer be printed, except for on campus use. In the future the catalogs will be sent out to prospective students on CD-ROM. The Graduate School is trying to decide whether it should produce a separate graduate catalog, or combine with the undergraduate programs to form a single university catalog. Senator Stinespring encouraged members of the Faculty Senate to provide input to the Graduate School on this issue as well as the larger issue of the online concept.

President Blum mentioned that Senator Dolter, who is on the committee for revision of the University Center, has provided an architectural drawing of the new University Center, and there is nothing in the plans that suggest there will be a faculty lounge or anything of that nature.

Senator Kavashny asked that the Faculty Senate Welfare Committee look into the subject of reduction of fees and fee waivers for faculty, staff and their families enrolled in course at TTU. The senator commented that he was surprised that is no mechanism for faculty to take courses with waivers. He went on to state that OP 70.03 suggests that the only means of financial assistance through TTU/TTUHSC is the employee dependent scholarship program, which is only $200.00. Senator Blum responded that he would look into this.

VII. Announcements. President Blum reminded the senators that the Faculty Senate would be meeting in the Langford Laboratory next semester, not in the Senate Room. He also pointed out that commencement is Saturday, December 14th at 9:00am and 1:30pm in the United Spirit Arena, and that the keynote speaker will be John Ryan, President Emeritus of Indiana University.

Senator Held mentioned that Vice Provost Hall would provide an appendix for OP32.31 detailing exactly what should be in the outside letters from the reviewers.

VIII. Adjournment. President Blum adjourned the meeting at 4:33pm.