

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting #263
October 11, 2006**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President James Smith presiding.

Senators present were:

Chance Brooks, David Doerfert, Elizabeth Louden, Matthew Gallegos, James Carr, Lance Drager, Charles Myles, Magdalena Toda, Rhonda Boros, Paul Carlson, Charles Grair, Satomi Niwayama, Lewis Held, Randall Jeter, Scott Hein, R Ritchey, Arturo Olivarez, Mary France Agnello, Joann Klinker, David Thompson, Cherif Amor, Shane Blum, Brent Shriver, Rosemary Dillon, Angela Laughlin, Vaughn James, Jennifer Spurrier, Tai Kreidler, Lynn Whitfield, Jane Ann Wilson, Genevieve Durham, Laurin Mann, Paul Sharpe, Linda Donahue, Audra Morse, James Smith, Christine Alvarado, Lawrence Mayer, Nancy Reed, Ben Shacklette, Gene Wilde, Rosa Hernández Sheets.

I. Call to Order. President James Smith called Meeting #262 to order at 3:16 pm, October 11, 2006.

II. Recognition of Guests. President Smith recognized the following guests: Vice Provost James Brink, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs Liz Hall, Liaison from the Staff Senate President Elect Kathy Nordstrom, Richard Meek.

III. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of Meeting #262 brought forward for approval by President Smith. Minutes approved.

IV. Invited Guests:

Dr. Gil Reeve, Director for Strategic Planning – see attached appendix to minutes on Strategic Planning and Assessment National issues came from a webcast on September 28th, 2006 (CD available from Dr. Reeve). US Dept of Education recognizes accrediting agencies but does not accredit. Broad standards are set and the regional accrediting agencies adopt. SACS is one of 6 regional accrediting agencies. TTU is one of 7 emerging research institute and there are 2 research institutes in TX. Spelling commission report and action plan – Oct 6th Chronicles of Higher Education has first steps. So, there is a push for student learning outcomes and accountability of institution. Regional accrediting agencies are resisting that because federal legislative involvement is not necessary. Regional: several SACS standards (~40) but only 4 are really crucial (CR 2.5, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 3.5.1 as seen in handout). In December 2005, SACSCOC reaffirmed Tech accreditation but asked for additional information on 4 issues (see handout). SACS basically wants the institution to do planning and assessment, it uses it to improve programs and services, and it documents the planning and assessment and improvements are made. The additional information was submitted and SACS is expected to respond. A discussion ensued with clarifications of statements made and responsibilities of SACS.

Dr. John Whitmore, President

Dr. Whitmore reviewed the plans for the year highlights from the Convocation slide show. Financial plans: Raise academic quality by investing in people; raised tuition and fees 4.9% to help with the energy costs; TTU is 5th in the state for tuition costs; A new \$8.2 millions dollars was generated from the tuition raise. The majority of that money was used to pay the energy costs, faculty raises, student services (with a portion going back to financial grants in aid) and a first ~ \$600,000 installment on the new software for managing financial and student records. Facilities: 4 new buildings (human sciences addiction and recovery center and child development center, distance education center, student union restructuring). New buildings and renovations – law school will have its 2nd ground breaking soon, the studio art building has been gutted and being refit, the Rawls College of Business has completed its fundraising (25 million from tuition revenue bonds and 60% raised from private sources), and the Engineering lab is being rebuilt. Several other building projects are in the planning process but funding has not yet started. The Chancellor is overseeing the private fundraising campaign that will start in the Spring. This campaign will work more towards the educational component of the system. The goal is \$100,000,000 school endowment in order to be competitive; The marketing and communications is now handled at the University level instead of the system level and is overseen by Margaret Lutherer, Executive Director from the Office of the President; Legislative Update – this summer to prepare for more money from the legislature, 150 efficiencies were implemented to maintain buildings more efficiently (examples - reduce custodial costs, reduce energy costs, student services are all in West Hall which decreased receptionist cost, trying to get students at least 15 hours per semester to GOT, reducing hours for graduation to 120)which means more money for academic support; The Legislative session is the most important event this year. The largest funding comes from formula funding and maintenance costs. These are usually not negotiable. Therefore, focus will be in the Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF). We are hoping for a \$6 million increase which will remain in place for 10 years; tuition reserve bonds \$57.5 million new for TTU of which 40-45% will be used for the new business college building and to improve classrooms; faculty raises will come from formula funding; need to cur 10% (~\$4 million) special items (mostly infrastructure funding) and may receive some back at end of session; special initiatives include water and wind initiatives, more courses for the hill country area, Ag Eco initiative to develop new products in this area, SBDC funded through the TTU system; There is money in research and graduate education (\$30 million). There are only 2 research

Universities in the state of TX, compared to multiple universities in other states. TTU is considered one of the 7 emerging research university. TTU can leverage some of this money to become a research university. This money will be used for start up, new grad students, and maintenance infrastructure. A discussion ensued about fall break and library funds

V. Old Business

- a. Ad Hoc Committee on Child Care
Senator Alvarado announced that we are looking for a chair of this committee and asked for volunteers.
- b. Electronic Elections, Senator Wilde
Met with the IT and the software e-ballot was chosen. Working to get funds to implement for the spring elections
- c. Fall Break
Task Force established, no meeting yet. President Smith announced that if you are interested in speaking with the task force, please e-mail him.
- d. Tenure Committee Update
No changes since last update
- e. Intellectual Properties Committee
No changes since last update

VI. New Business

- a. Outside Consulting
Senator Alvarado will review last year's minutes and provide feedback

VII. Announcements

- a. President Smith announced
 - i. Patty is improving in the hospital
 - ii. The faculty lounge is available for faculty – no students but feel free to take graduate students there for lunch

VIII. Adjournment. A motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

** Note – the complete tape recording from this meeting is available for anyone interested.