

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting #264
November 8, 2006**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President James Smith presiding.

Senators present were:

Gad Perry, Alon Kvashny, James Davis, Matthew Gallegos, James Carr, Lance Drager, Melanie Hart, Charles Myles, Magdalena Toda, Rhonda Boros, Paul Carlson, Charles Grair, Satomi Niwayama, Lewis Held, Randall Jeter, Scott Hein, Ronald Bremer, R Ritchey, David Malone, Mary France Agnello, Joann Klinker, Nancy Maushak, Gopal Lakhani, Michael Sobolewski, Shane Blum, Brent Shriver, Jennifer Spurrier, Todd Chambers, Jimmie Reeves, 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

- I. Call to Order. President James Smith called Meeting #264 to order at 3:17 PM, November 8, 2006.
- II. Recognition of Guests. President Smith recognized the following guests: Vice Provost James Brink, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs Liz Hall Burns, Special Assistant to the President Mary Jane Hurst, Stephanie Anderson – Enrollment Management, Gerald Myers – Director of Athletics, John Anderson – Associate Director of Athletics, Sean Duggan – Managing Director of Housing and Residence Life
- III. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of Meeting #263 brought forward for approval by President Smith. Gene Wilde was not present. Minutes changed and approved.
- IV. Invited Guests:

Gerald Myers – Director of Athletics

Gerald Myers spoke of the great respect he has for faculty and staff at TTU and how the athletic council is involved and is considered a liaison between athletics and the faculty. In 1995, TTU was admitted into the SW Conference and in 1996 into the Big XII Conference. In 1996, TTU had few athletic facilities and through private sector support now has the top ½ facilities in the Big XII. The goal of the athletic department is to make TTU a good place for student athletes to attend and to finish. Retention rate, GPA, graduation rates are high at TTU compared to other BIX XII schools because of the academic support services, health care and life skills available to athletes. The athletic department works hard to integrate athletes into the student body and coaches are evaluated and hired because of their support in academics not just their ability to coach. Q/A – Senator Mayer questioned why there was no swim team and the response was it was dropped in 1986 because of lack of budget for that program, Senator Held questioned the reasoning behind moving the A&M game to Dallas because the student body is not in favor and it would cause a loss to the community revenue. Response was that TTU would have a replacement game (not yet decided) that would help the community revenue. However, Gerald Myers reminded everyone that the decision has not been made to move the game to Dallas. Stephanie Anderson also added that moving the game to Dallas would be favorable for recruiting and alumni development purposes. Senator Perry asked what majors are athletes. Response was made by John Anderson that there was no cluster effect and the student majors were well rounded. Other discussion ensued.

John Anderson, Associate Director of Athletics

The athletic department tries to involve faculty, mirror the institutions mission and tries to graduate students with a productive and meaningful education. Faculty are needed to input ideas to improve this mission and goal. Even though athletes are busy with practice, training, etc. TTU has a higher graduation success rate than other schools in the Big XII, 4 of TTU athletes were Arthur Ash Scholars, TTU given the Award of Excellence (lifetime award), NBA awarded TTU with the Development Service Award, and John Anderson received the Academic Advising Award. Majors are tracked regularly and reported to the president. Q/A – Senator Malone asked if efforts were being made to push the students toward more rigorous classes. Response was there has been talk of getting more student athletes through the honors college. Senator Held asked about the status of the “do it yourself degree” and was that degree focused on athletics. Response from Dr. Hall-Burns, John Anderson and others indicated it was for transfer students not just athletes and it was in the early planning stages.

Sean Duggan - Managing Director of Housing and Residence Life

Mr. Duggan has 15 years experience at TTU with 5 years as director. There are 18 facilities, 1.7 million sq feet, 5600 students (Fall 2006), 145 staff and 200 student position under this department. There is a Housing, Student, and Staff OP that states there is a housing requirement through 30 hrs completed here at TTU. Students that live on campus have a higher retention rate and better grades. There are also some exemptions in place for students that cannot live on campus. A new service starting Nov 14th is that students can apply online and pick their own rooms online. Suite style dorms have been

added for upper class students. Some questions ensued involving faculty dining options available, the A/C status of some dorms has not been decided yet, and grad student dorms which there is little demand for.

V. Old Business

- a. Senator Perry spoke of the parking advising committee. There will be a $\leq 3\%$ increase in fees for 2007 and the car clinic is now open to faculty and staff.
- b. Fall Break
Senator Held has been appointed to this committee. Discussions have focused on 1st Friday in October.
- c. Library Committee
This committee has not met yet.
- d. Strategic Planning
Senator Donahue asked that Dr. Reeves be contact to re-clarify comments the faculty sent to him before the last meeting. Dr. Smith will speak to Dr. Reeves about addressing those concerns and will appoint a committee to discuss the issue.
- e. Outside Consulting
Senate Study Committee A had several changes to the policy last session and these changes were handed out. However, Senator Ritchey indicated there are still some concerns with the current policy. President Smith will appoint a committee to discuss this issue.

VI. New Business

- a. New OP 70.40 has been distributed to some departments with required immediate action. It was suggested that the faculty not sign anything until the OP has been reviewed by the President's office. President Smith will update us on this issue.
- b. Senator Agnello discussed the issue of problems with online teaching evaluation and diversity classes. President Smith will appoint a committee to evaluate this issue.

VII. Announcements

- a. Patty is improving in the hospital and may be home by Thanksgiving
- b. Senator Spurrier announced the list of nominees for the nominating committee are due at the December meeting.
- c. Senator Blum, liason to the Academic Council, announced there is a debate over what constitutes Academic Good Standing and Probationary status among athletes. Results of this discussion will be announced at the December meeting.
- d. President Smith acknowledged Dr. Hurst for all her efforts in obtaining a National Certification from Phi Beta Kappa.
- e. The faculty lounge has not been used and will either be moved or will be discontinued.
- f. Senator Held thanked President Smith for all his efforts in resolving the plagiarism issue

VIII. Adjournment. A motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.

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