The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President James Smith presiding.

Senators present were: Alon Kvashny, Gad Perry, James T. Davis, Matthew Gallegos, Rhonda Boros, Paul Carlson, Lance Drager, Charles Grair, Satomi Niwayama, Masha Rahnama, Randall Jeter, Lewis Held, Ronald Bremer, Scott Hein, Robert Ritchey, David Malone, Mary Frances Agnello, Joann Klinker, Nancy Maushak, Arturo Olivarez, Terry Collins, Gopal Lakhani, Uzi Mann, Michael Sobolewski, Javad Hashemi, Shane Blum, Rosemary Dillon, Tai Kreidler, Jennifer Spurrier, Lynn Whitfield, Todd Chambers, Genevieve Durham, Jane Ann Wilson, Laurin Mann, Linda Donahue, Lawrence Mayer, Audra Morse, Gene Wilde and Nancy Reed.

I. Call to Order. President James H. Smith called Meeting #270 to order at 3:15 PM, May 9, 2007.

II. Recognition of Guests. President Smith recognized the following guests: University President Jon Whitmore, Bill Marcy, Provost for Academic Affairs, Vice Provost James Brink, Vice Provost Liz Hall-Burns, Kathy Nordstrom of the Staff Senate, Ombudsman; Nathanael Haddox, Barbar Khan, Director of Payroll; Jim Brown, Director of Personnel; Janet May, Asst Vice President of Human Resources; Max Ahmad, Asst Vice President of AFISM.

III. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of Meeting #269 brought forward for approval by President Smith. Minutes approved.

IV. Speaker: Jon Whitmore, President

University President Jon Whitmore thanked all for the support shown after the VA Tech tragedy. He received messages from VA Tech thanking TTU for its support. He then touched on the following items. 1. A committee on safety has been formed which is tied to business continuity planning. They are looking at instant communication, which is how individuals would say how they prefer to receive messages (i.e. text, e-mail, etc). He stressed how strategies for pandemics at TTU must be prepared. 2. Whitmore thanked all involved with Phi Beta Kappa. 3. He spoke about the Carnegie Foundation – TTU research, doctoral granting, and acknowledged as a community engagement school. 4. He then elaborated on legislation and tuition. Regents will be presented with four options on tuition. He discussed several legislative items. (i.e. special items, etc…). 5. He announced the Regents will meet tomorrow. 6. He talked a little about where we are with buildings here on campus. 7. He also reported that the Chancellor is putting together a major funding campaign. We will push for more scholarship money and endowed chairs. We are adding staff to the recruiting effort. He talked about the SACS review we went through a couple of years ago. NCAA review is every 10yrs. Whitmore thanked all for their service this year and presented President Smith with a certificate of thanks. President Whitmore then invited all to the reception after the meeting.

V. Old Business: Administrator evaluations

Senator Wilde reported that evaluations will be reviewed by deans in about two weeks. Libraries’ deans will be included next year.
Electronic elections
President Smith then asked all Senators to please recruit for nominations in the 5 University Standing Committees and for the Faculty Senate.

Regents Policies - Tenure and promotion
Senate endorsed the tenure and promotion document. (Kvashny motioned – Held seconded).

Ombudsman report
Ad Hoc Committee on the Faculty Ombudsman submitted a report (attached). Agnello moved to accept report. Seconded by Held but amended to add sunset and to revisit after 1 year, after a person begins serving. Motion passed unanimous.

Committee Reports
Senator Morse reported for the Library committee. She announced that the first meeting was informational in nature.

Senator Wilde reported on Faculty evaluations, that it had been reported that some students grouped together to *blackball* a professor. Senator Agnello reported that the committee was looking at the invalidity of the evaluation instrument and would work next year on suggesting other measures to supplement current evaluations.

VI. New Business: Faculty pay schedule
Janet May, Assistant VP for Human Resources and Max Ahmad, Assistant VP Fin. Inf. Mgt. spoke to the Senate about the Banner Non-Exempt Pay Frequency Options becoming effective January 2009.

Janet May reported on possible pay change for non-exempt employees tied to the new Banner system. She presented a slide show. The possible change impacts non-exempt employees. Potentially this staff group will be paid on the 10th and 25th of the month. This would require semi-monthly pay and time capture. May said that deductions would be split up. Wilson moved to support keeping exempt pay as is (monthly); Morse seconded. Senators moved to keep exempt pay as is. Report is attached.

New Business

VII. Announcements: Reception

VIII. Passing of the Gavel

President Smith passed the gavel to President-elect Wilde. President Wilde distributed certificates of appreciation.

IX. Adjournment

President's reception in the Faculty Lounge