

**Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting #271
September 12, 2007**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President Gene Wilde presiding.

Senators present were: Safei Hamed, Phillip Johnson, Alon Kvashny, Kris Wilson, James T. Davis, Todd Anderson, Rhonda Boros, Paul Carlson, Charles Grair, Lewis Held, Randall Jeter, Jerome Koch, Satomi Niwayama, Ron Rainger, Lih-Ing Roeger, Aliza Wong, Ronald Bremer, Robert Ritchey, Mary Frances Agnello, Joann Klinker, Nancy Maushak, Michael Giesselmann, Susan Mengel, Mag Brinkley, Malinda Colwell, Mitzi Lauderdale, Rosemary Dillon, Angela Laughlin, James Vaughn, Marina Oliver, Sandra River, Freedomia Paschall, Curtis Peoples, FS Secretary Genevieve Durham, Bill Gelber, Laurin Mann, Renee Sherik, Christine Alvarado, Lawrence Mayer, FS Vice President Nancy Reed, Ben Shacklette, Diane Warner, Jim Williams and Faculty Senate President Gene Wilde. Senators excused from the meeting were Ram Iyer, Miles Kimball, Anna Tacon, Michael Sobolewski, Javad Hashemi, Rose Hernandez Sheets and Jake Syma. Senators unexcused were Uzi Mann.

I. Call to Order. President Gene Wilde called Meeting #271 to order at 3:15 PM, September 12, 2007.

Recognition of Guests. President Wilde recognized the following guests: Invited guests were University President Jon Whitmore, Senior Vice Provost Jim Brink, Vice Provost Liz Burns, President's Assistant Mary Jane Hurst, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian Jennifer Spurrier, Vicki West, John Taylor and Mary Elkins all from Institutional Research Information Management, Staff Ombudsman Nathanael Haddox, Student Ombudsman Kathryn Quilliam, Staff Senate President-Elect Ron Nail, Daily Treador reporter Maggie Kiely. Welcome to all.

II. Recognition of new Senators.

III. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of Meeting #270 brought forward for approval by President Wilde. Minutes approved.

IV. Old Business

1. Ombudsman Committee Report:

- President Wilde summarized the progress of the Committee thus far.
- Senator Held asked for a review of the backlog the new Ombudsperson would address. Nathaniel Haddox responded that, last year, eight faculty sought his counsel on employer related issues, specifically. Mr. Haddox estimated that twenty faculty in total sought his counsel.
- Senator Held voiced a concern that it might not be possible to avoid advertising the position as a one-year contract, as the position is in a trial phase.
- Senator Agnello asked if funding the position was an issue; President Wilde replied that Dr. Marcy stated his office has funding for a part time position, but is not sure about a full time position.
- Senator Agnello asked for clarification on the hiring procedure. President Wilde replied that a position announcement would need to be rewritten in consult with the Provost's office.
- Senator Held asked how we would ensure neutrality in an Ombudsperson. President Wilde replied that, from the reports of Cherif Amor who attended last springs International Association of Ombudsman Conference, neutrality does not appear to be a problem.
- President Wilde recommended that the Ombudsperson be evaluated annually by the Faculty, the Senate, and the Provost. A movement to dismiss the Ombudsperson could be ratified by either the Senate or the Provost.
- Senator Gelber moved that the Senate consider hiring a full time Ombudsperson for faculty; Senator Mayer seconded. The motion carried with one opposition.

2. Electronic evaluations of administrators:

- Senator Dillon asked if there was an available web address for accessing the evaluations. That address is: www.irim.ttu.edu. President Wilde noted that an eRaider ID must be used to access the information.

V. New Business

1. Administrator Evaluations:

- President Wilde noted that there will be some administrators for whom data is not presented. This is due to a lack of a necessary percentage of threshold responses. Arts and Sciences did

not have sufficient responses for their Associate and Assistant Deans; data will not be presented for those positions.

- President Wilde noted that the system still needs some modifications and asked for Senators interested in working on this to meet with him.
2. Faculty Exit Interviews:
 - Gad Perry was asked to convene the committee on Exit Interviews last year and found that most of his committee had left the University.
 - President Wilde assigned the Faculty Exit Interviews to Study Committee A, convened by Senator Peoples.
 3. Travel Fees:
 - President Wilde reminded the Senate of emailed documentation on new policies on travel fees and reimbursement.
 - Study Committee B, convened by Senator Jeter, will review these policies.
 4. Faculty Discounts:
 - President Wilde assigned the research of business discounts for Faculty to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, convened by Senator Hamed.
 5. Operating Policies:
 - President Wilde discussed the need for Senators to be made aware prior to specific OPs being changed. Vice Provost Jim Brink noted that all OPs up for revision, along with their revision dates, are posted on TechAnnounce. President Wilde replied that TechAnnounce usually posts when OPs have changed.
 - President Wilde assigned Study Committee C to look at which OPs the faculty should be made aware of prior to their revision.
 6. Campus Traffic:
 - There is some concern about pedestrians and bicyclists on campus. A member of the Senate will meet with the Head of Traffic and Parking about this issue.
 - Senator Held will represent the Faculty Senate.

VI. Announcements:

1. Mary Jane Hurst announced the Presidential Lecture Series. Dr. Hurst thanked the Senate for its support of the Series last year. Dr. Hurst acknowledged faculty who worked to prepare for the different events.
2. Faculty Senate Office Coordinator, Patty Gisch, announced that there were some mistakes on the new Senators' binders. Ask the Senators to swap "Senate Membership" and "Committee Assignment" indexes in their new red Senate binders to clarify the information in that category.
3. President Wilde announced that he spoke with the President of the San Angelo State Faculty Senate. They discussed an IRS rule referred to as Deferred Compensation. President Wilde announced that he has discussed this issue with Vice Provost Jim Brink. Senator Held asked whether the University is considering making the 12 month pay period mandatory.
4. President Wilde announced the Assessing Learning Spaces web conference on 9/19 and 9/26 from 12:00-1:30 in the TLTC.
5. Mary Jane Hurst held a drawing for free tickets to the Emerson String Quartet performance. Eliza Wong and Lawrence Mayer won the tickets.
6. The Graduate School is working on a research integrity program that is developing a class on research ethics. New faculty and graduate students will be invited to attend.
7. President Wilde announced that the Senate web page is not yet up to date, but it will be soon.
8. President Wilde announced that Provost Marcy, the Speaker for this meeting, was occupied in the Agenda Meeting, which was running long.
9. Senator Held asked whether revisions to the Tenure and Promotions guidelines are on the agenda for the Board of Regents meeting. Vice Provost Liz Burns replied that the revisions are on the agenda, but information from the Health Sciences Center is still missing.

VII. Adjournment. A motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

** Note –the tape recording from this meeting is not available, as the recording system was not working.