Texas Tech University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting #273
November 14, 2007

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President Gene Wilde presiding.

Senators present were: Kvashny, Hamed, Johnson, Davis, Boros, Grair, Held, Jeter, Iyer, Kimball, Koch, Niwayama, Tacon, Bremer, Ritchey, Maushak, Giesselmann, Mengel, Sobolewski, Binkley, Colwell, Dillon, Oliver, River, Durham, Gelber, L. Mann, Mayer, Reed, Shacklette, Syma, Williams and Wilde. Senators excused were: Paschall, Lauderdale, Peoples, Skerik, Wilson, Warner, Alvarado, Sheets, Vaughn and U. Mann. Senators unexcused were: Anderson, Carlson, Rainger, Roeger, Wong, Klinker and Hashemi.

I. Call to Order. President Gene Wilde called Meeting #273 to order at 3:18 PM, November 14, 2007.

Recognition of Guests: Invited guests were Vice Provost Liz Burns, President's Assistant Mary Jane Hurst, Staff Ombudsman Nathanael Haddox, Student Ombudsman Kathryn Quilliam, Staff Senate President-Elect Ron Nail, Daily Toreador reporter Maggie Kiely, Kay Rhodes, Byron Anderson, Cynthia Davis, and Dale Ganus, Student Senate President Michael Moses.

II. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of Meeting #272 brought forward for approval by President Wilde. Minutes approved.

III. Speaker: Kay Rhodes
   Kay Rhodes presented the Senate with the following information:
   - ConnecTech Update: implementation of the Banner system is on schedule. Banner is a replacement for current administrative applications, including TechSis.
   - All student folders in the imaging system are scheduled to conver to Banner next month.
   - Portal is changing: Raiderlink is changing in January. The portal will have the same name and similar operation, but will look a little different. Raiderlink will be your access into the Banner system when Banner goes live next year.
   - Key Banner modules start going live next month. Admissions area goes live in June for Spring 09 admissions.
   - Impact to faculty/students: Banner allows faculty to run student degree audits; Banner allows students to run audits for information on switching Majors
   - Update on Finance/HR: Several Town Meetings have been held to expose operators to new terminology associated with banner programs.
   - Pay frequency for non-exempt employees will change in January 2009.
   - Rhodes' team is trying to test the load balancing and response time issues with the Banner system to ensure that when large loads are on the system at the beginning of semesters, the response time is still efficient.
   Questions from Senators:
   - Senator Mayer questioned why we're moving off the TechSis system. Rhodes replied that our vendor will no longer support TechSis, so we are moving to Banner, the system supported by our vendor.
   - Senator Giesselmann asked if it will become easier to access reports of research funding. Rhodes replied that it will become easier and that those reports will be easily accessible on the web.
   - Senator Giesselmann asked about the vendor's stability. Rhodes replied that there are more than 1000 schools on this system and it is stable.
   - Mary Jane Hurst asked if individual Raiderlink homepages will rollover to Banner. Rhodes replied that she thinks if an individual has a customized Raiderlink page, the individual will have to recustomize the page on Banner.
   - Senator Syma asked if the SAN agreement for TechDrive will transfer to Banner. The answer is yes.

- Senator Iyer asked if Rhodes' office is involved in designing the template for the Departmental webpages. Rhodes' office is not involved. That is handled by IT.
- Senator Held reminded Rhodes about the issue of scantrons.
- Senator Syma asked if Banner will scale better; Rhodes replied that it will.

Speaker: Cynthia Davis (invited by Study Committee B)
Cynthia Davis presented the Senate with the following information:
- Davis identified a concern expressed by some faculty about needing extra documentation of registration fees in order to secure reimbursement for travel.
- Davis mentioned that travel registration fees are complicated. An example is per diem: Travel must know what meals are included in the registration fees and which meals are not.
- A solution is for faculty to provide Travel with a copy of conference registration documentation with the submission of receipts.
- Davis noted that if faculty are paying for trips with State of Texas accounts, there are significant numbers of restrictions that must be complied with; additional documentation is necessary because of this.
- The University is working on allowing anyone purchasing a ticket on Southwest Airlines to charge the ticket directly to a University credit card number; American Airlines has a similar program that will also be implemented soon. Time frame on this change is six months.
- Travel maintains that there is a four day average length of time between when vouchers are submitted and when they are approved.
- Travel is working toward a system in which expenses incurred by bringing guests to the University will be put on the University credit card. Airfare and lodging expenses can already be paid through this system. Contact Travel for more information.
- Davis asked that any suggestions be sent to: cynthia.davis@ttu.edu

Questions from Faculty
- Senator Geisselmann asked if submitting a weblink with a receipt of conference registration would be acceptable; Davis replied that it would.
- Senator Koch had a question about airline reimbursement. He was told he needed to provide Travel with a copy of his personal credit card statement in addition to a copy of his receipt and his boarding pass. David noted this seemed excessive.
- Senator Iyer asked whether graduate student recruits could also be paid for with the University credit card; Davis replied yes.
- Mary Jane Hurst asked whether receipts will still be accepted as appropriate documentation for reimbursement in the future. Davis replied yes.

IV. Old Business
1. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee met on 10/17 to discuss faculty discounts. The committee suggested that this could be a valuable recruitment and retention perk. It was noted that the Senate, which is a changing body, is not an appropriate group to maintain a list of businesses. The Committee suggested that Benefits handle the list. Sandy River researched this issue: a number of other colleges and universities have discount programs that are maintained through the HR offices.
2. Study Committee C: OPs and OP Revisions: Senator Warner met with Dr. Marcy and Dr. Hall-Burns and presented them with a copy of an OP drafter by the Committee regarding the Senate being made aware of OP revisions. The Provost's office proposed creating and publishing on the TTU website a list of OPs with dates for revision and a contact person for each. One suggestion for this is the use of a matrix linked to the Provosts' website. Significant discussion ensued. An audio recording of this discussion is available. This discussion concluded with a motion by Senator Held that the Committee draft an OP that requests Senators be notified when specific OPs are up for revision. This motion was seconded by Senator Davis. The motion passed.
3. Study Committee A: Senator Colwell reported that the Committee has met and will have a full report at the next meeting.

4. Ad Hoc Committee on Administrator Evaluations: Committee was troubled by low participation in the February survey; as a result, the Committee is not comfortable making recommendations for large changes right now. Recommendations for minor changes are as follows:
    - The "No basis for judgment" option should be on all surveys.
    - An open comments box should be added to the surveys.
    - The Dean of Libraries and Associate Library Deans should be included.
    - The Vice Provosts who are most involved with academics should be included.
    - Deputy Directors of the Southwest Special Collections Library should be included.

    A motion to accept the Committee's pursuit of the recommendations passed.
5. Ombudsman Committee: the options discussed at the last Senate meeting are mutually incompatible. With the Senate's approval, a position description will be drafted, submitted for approval, and posted.
6. Fall Break: according to the Senate's motion, we are encumbered to evaluate Fall Break. Senator Held summarized the major concerns of the faculty, which are:
    - There are scheduling conflicts with common finals times because of the Fall Break
    - The date picked for Fall Break must not interfere with the Department of Theatre and Dance's production schedule.

    Student Senate President Moses indicated that the Student Senate is interested in making Fall Break work correctly by working closely with the Faculty Senate to secure an acceptable date.

    Senator Johnson noted that, currently, Chemistry does not hold labs on Fridays. Friday labs may have to be added due to the growth in numbers of chemistry students. If this happens Fall Break would negatively affect the Lab schedule.

    Senator Held requested that the Chair of Chemistry attend the next meeting at which Fall Break will be discussed.

V. New Business
1. President Wilde met with Dean Smith concerning a solicitation for faculty to sit on a committee for evaluation of campus centers and institutes. Senator Giesselmann is already sitting on the committee; he agreed to ask as a liaison to the Senate.
2. TTU AAUP Chapters looked at OP 74.08 and have some concerns about the language and wanted to know if any Senators would be interested in looking at this and assigning it to committee.

VI. Announcements
1. NCAA Self Study document was sent via email for your information.
2. There is a proposal for a new College of Outreach and Distance Education. Information is as follows:
    - This would move Distance Ed and Outreach into a formal College structure.
    - This would require the hiring of a Dean.
    - This College would be structured like the Graduate School. There would be no residing faculty.
    - This proposal is part of the TTU effort to grow enrollment without collapsing the infrastructure of the university.
    - This proposal goes to the Board of Regents in December.
    - If Senators have comments, those comments should go to President Wilde. This is time sensitive.

VII. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:55.

** Note –the audio recording from this meeting is available.