

**Texas Tech University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Meeting #275  
January 9, 2007**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 9, 2007 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President Gene Wilde presiding.

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

- I. Call to Order. President Gene Wilde called Meeting #275 to order at 3:26 PM, December 12, 2007.

**Recognition of Guests.** President Wilde recognized the following guests: Invited guests were Provost William Marcy, Vice Provost Liz Burns, Dr. Juan Munoz, Dr. Mary Jane Hurst, Trent Barnes and Layla Khoshnoudi from the Daily Toreador, Sandi Arnold, Eileen Nathan

- II. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of Meeting #274 brought forward for approval by President Wilde. Minutes approved.

**Dr. Juan Munoz:** Bachelors of University Studies (has been approved and is immediately available)\*

**Major points:**

Some purposes of the degree:

- To prepare students to compete in dynamic and evolving careers multiple areas
- To prepare students to compete in emerging interdisciplinary fields

Some goals of the degree:

- To equip students with the knowledge and skills to effectively function in a global society
- To prepare students to act as a bridge between interdisciplinary fields and to effect constructive social change

Some enrollment issues:

- This degree is comparable to existing programs across the country that are experience an increase in enrollment and interest
- This degree will target students of advanced standing that elect to change majors, students in off campus sites, transfer students

Some incentives for transfer student recruitment:

- Areas of concentration amenable to transfer work
- Flexibility of major requirements
- Professional applicability of degree

There is no change in the required core

There are three areas of concentration at 18 hours each

Three upper division hours are required in each area

Completion of 40 hours at TTU are still required for the degree

**Questions and comments:**

- Senator Held expressed concern for potential of abuse of this program from the standpoint of athletics.
- Dr. Munoz was asked to elaborate on this program's connection with the Law School. Reply: this program could prove valuable to students applying for Law School.
- Senator Mann: how would this program impact courses that are for Majors Only. Reply: there would be no impact.
- Senator Mengel: would departments be able to offer a specialization for this degree, and where would tuition generated from this program go to? Reply: the money would go to the department generating the course.
- Senator Koch: does having a US degree parallel or elevate the need for interdisciplinary faculty research teams? Will there be more incentive for such teams? Reply: Perhaps.

\*Presentation outline was available to Senators at the meeting and will be emailed to all Senators.

**Dr. Eileen Nathan, Student Services: Mental Health EDU**

- This is an interactive computer program that focuses on teaching faculty how to interact with students in distress.
- This program provides faculty with several different scenarios common on college campuses.
- The program is customized to TTU.
- There will be links throughout the program to campus organizations, support groups, and useful numbers.
- All faculty will need an access code to use the program; this will be distributed through TechAnnounce.

**Questions:**

- Senator Geisselmann: What percentage of students are currently taking medications that allow them to function here at TTU? Reply: a large number that is growing each year. Students come to the counseling center at TTU primarily for depression and anxiety; many of these students are medicated.

- III. Old Business

**Study Committee C: OPs and OP Revisions.**

Senator Warner reported that the Committee met with Provost Marcy and Vice Provost Hall and presented them with the language that was approved by Faculty Senate. The Provost's office is very supportive, but did provide a counterproposal as follows:

- The Provost's office would post online all OPs with mark ups for changes for Senate review.
- The Provost's office would then like a reply from the Senate regarding their opinion of the changes.

**Questions/Comments:**

- Senator Held: This plan is not a long term solution as it is not an OP. Reply from Senator Warner: there will still be a new OP, but with revised language.
- Dr. Marcy: when OPs are being marked up, they will be posted for Senators to directly see the changes. Senators can then respond directly to the proposed changes on individual OPs.
- Senator Grair: what is the time frame between when a mark up is posted and when comments must be submitted regarding the revisions? Reply: Provost Marcy reported that the time frame varies with different OPs.

- Senator Warner recommended that a standing committee be formed to review all OPs posted for revision.

#### **Faculty Status and Welfare Committee:**

Senator Geisselmann spoke to HR about monitoring a potential list of businesses who would provide faculty discounts. His suggestion that HR manage such a list was not well received.

#### **Study Committee A:**

Senator Koch reported that the committee has a draft resolution for improving the Faculty Exit Interview Process at Texas Tech University. The draft resolution was available in full at the meeting and can be sent via email by contacting Patty Gisch. The report was recommended for approval and was seconded by Senator Kvashny. The resolution passed.

#### **Ombudsman Committee:**

The committee has three applicants thus far. President Wilde encouraged Senators to make potential candidates aware of this position.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **Resolution of Support for a Child Care Liaison**

- This resolution will be discussed next week by both the Staff and Student Senates.

#### **Questions and Comments:**

- Senator River: where will this Child Care Liaison be housed? Reply: this will be a Staff position, but where this position will be housed is unclear.
- Senator Colwell: has the group authoring this resolution contacted the Community organizations who also provide these services? Reply: not known.
- Vice Provost Hall: is there some way that the Staff person working for the Gender Equity Committee could adopt this duty? Reply: the Gender Equity Committee is developing a web page compiling community and campus resources for women.
- Senator Geisselmann: should we invite someone from the CDRC? Reply: this proposal is independent of the CDRC. Reply: Senator Colwell stated that the CDRC is not, as of now, working with this committee so the CDRC is not equipped to report on this resolution.
- Senator Colwell would recommend that the full name of the CDRC be written out in the resolution.
- Senator Kvashny moved to table the resolution. Senator Mengel seconded. The resolution will be tabled.

#### **Nominating Committee**

- The nominations committee for Faculty Senate Officers has been convened. President Wilde encouraged Senators to think about running for office.

#### **Resolution of Appreciation and Support for Dr. James E. Brink**

- President Wilde presented the Resolution to the Senate for Consideration.
- The standing rules need to be suspended to add this item to the agenda. That was moved and seconded.
- With standing rules in suspension, the Resolution was called into question for a vote.
- The Resolution passed unanimously.

#### **Fall Break**

- President Wilde met Monday with Dr. Shonrock. At that time, Dr. Shonrock indicated that President Whitmore asked him to convene a committee evaluating Fall Break.
- Currently, there is no Fall Break scheduled for the Fall 2008 semester. In order to insert a Fall Break, the university calendar would have to be changed.

### **V. Announcements**

#### **• SACS**

- President Wilde sent electronic information on the SACS Task Force. Their first meeting is Wednesday of next week. Comments should be forwarded to President Wilde.
- Provost Marcy is asking Faculty to set aside one class day in Spring to implement a survey instrument specific to current students of Senior status. Provost Marcy does not think that it will take an entire class period for Senior students to complete the survey. The Provost's office has identified classes with 90% or more Seniors.
- Senator Reed: Arts and Sciences received a memo from Rob Stewart indicating that the survey does not actually have to be completed in the classroom. It can be taken home by students and returned.
- The President's Budget Council Meets next week. President Wilde will report on this meeting next month.
- Senator Koch: you can use your eRaider to access the Health Sciences Library and utilize their databases.
- Senator Held: is there any way to obtain a pass from Traffic and Parking to park in the Band Lot for Senate Meetings?
- Mary Jane Hurst: The Paul Taylor Dance Company of NYC is here this Friday and Saturday for two different performances.

### **VI. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:54.**

**\*\* Note –the audio recording from this meeting is not available.**