

Texas Tech University Faculty Senate Meeting
Meeting # 281, October 8, 2008

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, Oct. 8 in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President Sandy River presiding.

Senators in attendance were: Michael Farmer, Phillip Johnson, Brian Rex, Todd Anderson, Bob Blake, Stephen Cox, Melanie Hart, Lewis Held, Ram Iyer, Randall Jeter, Jerome Koch, Robert McComb, Susan Opp, Masha Rahnama, Lih-Ing Roeger, Cindy Rugeley, Martha Smithey, Barbara Weinlich, Aliza Wong, Kim Boal, Bill Pasewark, Kelly Fox, Comfort Pratt, Michael Giesselmann, Gopal Lakhani, Susan Mengel, Christina Ashby-Martin, Susan Tomlinson, Shane Blum, Malinda Colwell, Rick Rosen, Nancy Soonpaa, Marina Oliver, Sandra River, Alex Ortiz, Curtis Peoples, Bill Gelber, Laurin Mann, Mathew Santa, Christopher Smith, Richard Meek, Nancy Reed, Ben Shacklette, Julian Spallholz, Jake Syma, Gene Wilde.

Senators excused: Mitzi Lauderdale, Diane Warner, Freedonia Paschall, Jim Williams, Stephanie Harter, Joe Claudet, Kathryn Barnes-Burroughs.

Senators not excused: Safei Hamed, Kris Wilson, Glenn Hill, Lance Drager, Ron Rainger, Anna Tacon, Magda Toda, Robert Ritchey, Charles Crews, Bret Hendricks, Michael Helm, Timothy Matis, Michael Sobolewski, Mag Binkley, Elizabeth Sharp, Renee Skerik.

- I. Call to Order: Sandy River, President, at 3:21 p.m.
- II. Recognition of Guests: Interim Sr. Vice-Provost Rob Stewart, Associate Vice-Provost Gary Elbow, Vice-Provost Valerie Paton, President's Assistant Mary Jane Hurst, John Creed from Barnes & Noble, Kay Rhodes, Dale Ganus, Bobbie Latham, Vicki West, Nathaniel Haddox, Parliamentarian Mary Francis Agnello.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Meeting #279, May 7, 2008; Meeting #280, September 10, 2008.
The May minutes were approved as written. The September minutes were approved with two minor corrections: the date of the meeting, and the spelling of Senator Boal's last name.
- IV. Speaker: **John Creed** (Store Manager, Barnes and Noble Bookstore)
 - Faculty can lower the cost of textbooks for students, put more money in the students' pockets, and put more books into students' hands by adhering to the following procedure: If a particular text will be used in the following semester, inform the bookstore of this fact before final exams of the current semester. The bookstore can then pay a higher price for buy-back, and will have more second-hand copies of the book to sell to students in the subsequent semester.
Faced with new-book prices, many students hold off buying a text until well into the semester. This is not conducive to prime learning.

- Senator Gelber asked what measures are in place for texts for courses that are offered once a year.
 John Creed: This is more problematic. Used texts that the Bookstore buys back (for which there is not a guaranteed market) are sent to a wholesaler. Faculty can call and let the Bookstore know that a text will most likely be used again, but it is difficult for the Bookstore to plan so far ahead -- particularly since there is no guarantee that the course will "make" the next year, or that the current professor will be teaching that course.
 Faculty can inform students that a text will be used again the following year, and encourage the students to hold on to the text until "buyback" for that text and course are scheduled. If they are able to do this, students will get more money for their used books--and there will be more second-hand books available.
- Barnes and Noble is selling more used books now than ever before: 36% of books sold. 10% of the profit from the sale of these books goes to TTU Student Affairs.
- Barnes and Noble gets 90% of the used texts it sells to Tech students, from Tech students. The other 10% comes from the wholesaler.
- Concerning the issue (discussed a couple of years ago in Senate) of a direct link from the students' course enrollment site to Barnes and Noble's textbook order site, Senator Held asked if this link is in place and, if so, whether there is any mention of other stores at which students can obtain textbooks. John Creed replied that the link was approved by a university committee and is in place. Students are free to buy their textbooks wherever they like; however other stores are not mentioned on this particular link.

V.

Speaker: **Kay Rhodes**

Kay Rhodes presented the Faculty Senate with an update (and hand-out) on the status of ConnecTech.

She pointed out a few changes from the information given in the May 2008 Faculty Senate meeting.

- The Go-Live Timeline (Primary Banner modules) has been updated, to the following:
 - a. June 2008: Admissions
 - b. Sept. 2008: Finance/Procurement
 - c. Nov. 2008: Student
 - d. Dec. 2008: Human Resources/Payroll
 - e. Jan. 2009: Financial Aid (for 2009/2010 award years)
- New ePAF will begin after Thanksgiving. Available training sessions and information can be found on the AFISM website:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/afism/>
- Student Go-Live Preparations training and information can be found at:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentrecordtraining/>

Speakers: **Bobbie Latham and Dale Ganus**, Registrar's office (Banner update)

- Student information is now in Banner.

- A Student Naming Contest was held to choose a new name for what was Techsis Web for Students. More than 4000 students voted. The new name for the web registration system is "My Tech." There will be a tab in the new portal to take students to My Tech. There will also be a "faculty/advisor" tab and an "employee" tab in the new portal. The faculty/advisor tab will enable faculty to obtain various types of information about the students.
- Banner Basics training is ongoing. Faculty are advised to get training as soon as it is available, since faculty will not be allowed access to Banner until they have been through a training session. The current fall semester is the last semester that student grades will be posted on Techsis.
- Student registration for spring semester (using Banner) will begin the week of Nov. 3. Students who have tested the Banner Registration process, felt that it works well.

Speaker: Kay Rhodes

Kay Rhodes added more details about the ConnecTech status.

- Students will no longer use their SSN for their student numbers. Starting in Spring Semester, all students will receive a new Student Number, which will be an R followed by 8 numbers. This number will have no connection to the student's SSN, and will become the student's permanent number.
- There is no current way to post grades on Banner by student number. Several Senators expressed concern about how to post grades. Kay Rhodes said that there are options, and that ConnecTech will take this issue up with the people setting Banner up.
- There is an established protocol for reporting problems with Banner, and there are people available to help. According to the ConnecTech Status Update hand-out: a) Each functional department has processes defined on their websites to obtain help and report problems, and b) according to the Provost Council Agreement, problems can be reported up through your Dean with a detailed email of the problems. The email will be forwarded to Sam Segran, TTU CIO. He will forward it to Kay Rhodes, TTUS CIO, and the appropriate Functional or Technical department for assistance.
- As of May 09, ConnecTech will end and will be thereafter known as Enterprise Environment.

VI.

Speaker: Valerie Paton, Vice Provost (SACS)

- Valerie Paton assured the Faculty Senate that the SACS Special Committee visit went off "very, very well."
- A letter has gone out from Jane Winer, Interim Provost to the effect that: The University's written documentation has largely met SACS compliance issues. The university is in compliance with 3.5.1 of the Gen.Ed. requirements. A few corrections were made to the document, and it has been sent on.
- We will know by noon of Dec. 9 (after a vote by the full Commission) whether we have been taken off probationary sanctions, or not.

- A follow-up of four areas must be done by 2011. These areas are: core institutional planning and assessment; core quality enhancement plan; comprehensive assessment of all academic programs; and 3.5.1 (Gen. Ed.).
- According to the Second Monitoring Report, there is much more work to be done in these four areas. For program level assessment, there is a new program in place called TracDat that will help with academic assessment documentation. The office of Planning and Assessment will begin training College Deans on this in the spring. They will then set up training for faculty. Departments should look at the program assessments that were set up in 2005, and make sure that the data is being documented. Planning and Assessment is setting up numerous structures to assist faculty to document their assessments.
- The university cannot avoid doing what SACS requires (unless there are changes to the federal government). Federal funds to both faculty and students are attached to assessments.
- In response to a question from Senator Held concerning the content of core courses, Paton replied that the role of the Office of Planning and Assessment is to provide structure and resources. “I would never tell faculty how to assess the outcomes,” she stated. She went on to say that there is a structure in place, made up of faculty and the Core Curriculum Committee to make decisions. 70-80 faculty members are involved in SACS Core Curriculum Committee efforts.
- The university has a new software product called Digital Measures, which is a web-based platform. It will be useful to assist faculty with such documentation as annual reports, and Tenure and Promotion dossiers. It also has the capability to incorporate service and research into the documentation of one’s “workload.”

VII. Old Business

Faculty Ombudsman:

Senator Wilde reported that an offer was made to John Howe to take on this post for the first year, with the understanding that spring and summer '09 will be spent in training, and that the work will commence in the fall semester of '09. The offer has not yet been accepted.

Committee Assignments:

Due to time constraints, President River will send out committee assignments by email.

Mary Jane Hurst reminded faculty of several upcoming events: the Presidential Lecture and Performance Series, and the President's Book Awards.

VIII. Committee/Council Liaison Reports:

Academic Council: Susan Mengel

- The Gen Ed Committee has been dissolved and replaced by the new Core Curriculum Committee. This committee is made up of approximately 70 people, and contains nine sub-committees. The committee reports to the Academic Council.
- Associate Vice-Provost Gary Elbow announced that the Core Curriculum Committee will be reviewing the core curriculum on an ongoing basis.
- The Committee has set up four major criteria for courses in the core curriculum. These are: 1) Junior and Senior-level courses are not recommended in the core curriculum; 2) courses in the core curriculum should be accessible to all students; thus it is not advisable for courses with prerequisites to be included in the core; 3) only courses that can be offered on a regular basis should be in the core; and 4) all core courses must have learning objectives documented in the syllabi, and be assessed according to department and college objectives.
- With regards to the above, courses already on the core which do not fulfill the above criteria will be “grandfathered,” so faculty do not have to remove these courses from the core immediately unless their department decides that this is the best course of action.

Graduate Council: Lakhani

- Senator Lakhani stated that a proposal has been made for a Distance Doctoral Program in Special Education. Senator Lakhani felt that the faculty should be made aware that the diploma for this degree would not state that the learning was done through distance education.

Ad Hoc Committee on Handling of Student Course Evaluations: Syma; Barnes-Burroughs

- A recommendation has been made that faculty be allowed one year in which to challenge the findings of student course evaluations, if it is discovered that there has been an obvious error in the evaluation process. No decision has been presented yet.
- Senator Syma spoke to Vicky West at Institutional Research, who will take the matter up with the Provost's office.

Provost Search Committee: River

- The Provost search is on schedule. In-person interviews of up to eight candidates will take place at DFW before Thanksgiving. Up to five finalists will be brought to Lubbock between Dec. 1 and 10th for on-campus interviews.

Provost Council: River

- Interim Provost Winer asked for proposals for use of the Academic Incentive money. Dr. Steward announced that a number of good proposals have come in, but that no decisions have yet been made.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: River

- The Task Force has met twice. It is looking at institutions that have implemented responsibility-centered management.
- Dean Eibeck is chairing the Task Force, which will meet every two weeks.
- Expect an open process: the Task Force will have a web page on which information will be posted; and members of the Task Force will be available to make presentations to university groups, when requested.
- In response to a question from Senator Held, President River stated that before the Efficiency Task Force was dissolved and reconstituted as the Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force, the impetus of the Task Force was moving away from issues of faculty workload. Although the Task Force is still in its early stages, it seems to be much more focused on issues such as responsibility-centered management.

IX.

New Business

Senators Wilde and Held reported that revisions to the OP on tenure and promotions (32.01) were made in July. The wording in the OP now mirrors that of the tenure and promotions document in the Board of Regents policy that was revised last year.

Senator Stewart noted that the OP no longer contains standards for the various academic ranks. It was also noted that there is also no guidance in the OP concerning practice and procedures for obtaining tenure and promotion.

X.

Announcements

- President River announced that Patty is doing better, but that she may be in the hospital for another week or two.
- A drawing was held for free tickets to the Lecture and Performance Series upcoming concert. Senator Santa won.

XI.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

LMM