Texas Tech University Faculty Senate
Meeting #282, November 12, 2008

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, Nov. 12, in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President Sandy River presiding.

Senators in attendance were: Hamed, Blake, Cox, Drager, Hart, Harter, Held, Iyer, Jeter, Koch, McComb, Smithey, Toda, Weinlich, Pasewark, Ritchey, Crews, Fox, Hendricks, Pratt, Giesselmann, Helm Lakhani, Mengel, Sobolewski, Ashby-Martin, Tomlinson, Blum, Colwell, Sharp, Oliver, River, Paschall, Peoples, Mann, Smith, Meek, Reed, Shacklette, Spallholz, Williams

Senators excused: Anderson, Tacon, Lauderdale, Rosen, Soonpaa, Gelber, Santa, Barnes-Burroughs, Warner, Wilde

Senators not excused: Farmer, Johnson, Wilson, Hill, Rex, Opp, Rahnama, Rainger, Roeger, Rugeley, Wong, Boal, Claudet, Matis, Binkley, Ortiz, Skerik, Syma

I. Call to Order: Sandy River, President, at 3:20 p.m.

II. Recognition of Guests: Interim Provost Jane Winer, Interim Sr. Vice-Provost Rob Stewart, Associate Vice-Provost Gary Elbow, Bobbie Latham, Regristrar, Dale Ganus, Laura Heinz

III. Approval of Minutes: Meeting # 281, Oct. 8, 2008.
The October minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. Speaker: **Associate Vice-Provost Gary Elbow**: Update on the Core Curriculum Committee

- The Core Curriculum Committee, which has replaced the Gen Ed Committee, is organized according to the areas of the core, rather than by Colleges. It consists of nine committees (8 areas, plus Foreign Languages), and a Steering Committee--which is made up of the Committee Chairs and Dr. Elbow.
- Decisions which are made in the Core Curriculum Committee and the Steering Committee now go to the Academic Council, and then to the office of the Provost, for approval. The process is now more involved than previously, with 70 rather than 15 people involved, many of them faculty members.
- To get into compliance with SACS, a number of changes and adjustments have been made to the core curriculum:
  Assessments formerly in place have been utilized; others have been generated. Some external assessments have also been used. The Core curriculum has been restructured: Departments and Colleges were asked to look closely at their courses in the core, and cut where appropriate. To date, 215 courses (approx. 1/3 of the Core) have been eliminated. Currently, the core contains 377 courses, although this number is still in flux.
  Reasons for cutting core courses: Over the years, many courses were added to the core, but few were ever removed, so the number of courses piled up. When studied, it was discovered that many courses in the Core had pre-requisites that satisfied the core requirements.
- Most of the courses that were cut were not serving the Core Curriculum. Many should not have been in the core. Blanket statements that allowed "all courses" from a particular area and level to be accepted as core courses, have been removed. The five- year review cycle for communications, math, and natural history was carried out; many math, several natural science, and a few communications courses were cut.
  Some upper-level courses that had a low demand were also cut. Departments and units were asked to look at their programs and suggest appropriate cuts; much of this has been done. In general, senior level courses should not be in the Core unless their inclusion can be justified.

- Some goals of the Core Curriculum Committee this year are:
  --to emphasize direct assessment, rather than indirect assessment (what students actually learned, rather than what they think they learned);
  --to continue with the five-year review plan (which is being looked at in technology and

applied sciences this year;
--to continue to evaluate the appropriateness of courses presently in the Core;
--to continue cutting the number of courses in the Core

* Core Curriculum Committee Operating Procedures and Philosophy: Courses can still be added to the Core. Departments and units wishing to add courses to the Core Curriculum should check the Provost office website under "Committees and Councils" for the link to the Committee's site, which has information and forms for course approval. Suggested courses will need a justification and a syllabus. Courses looking for approval are generated in the core area and sent through the Steering Committee and the Academic Council. Dr. Elbow is willing to assist any Department or unit that wants to add a course to the Core and is having problems getting the course approved.

- Dr. Elbow reassured the Faculty Senate that no course will be dropped from the Core Curriculum without discussion with the department or academic unit to which it is assigned.
- Reasons for dropping a course from the Core Curriculum may include:
  --courses that are not offered, or are offered very seldom;
  --courses with a low enrollment;
  --courses with prerequisites that fulfill Core Curriculum requirements;
  --courses with content that is not appropriate to satisfy the Core requirement;
  --courses without syllabi

- Guidelines for inclusion/exclusion from the Core Curriculum have not yet been finalized; when this is done, the guidelines will be published on the website. Dr. Elbow is willing to work with units or departments to help them retain wanted courses in the Core.
- Recently, Dr. Elbow looked at the Core Curricula from nine major universities in the state of Texas. The Coordinating Board mandates 42 hours of Core credits. Texas Tech and Texas A&M have 47 hours mandated—which is the maximum number allowed. The number of courses offered as Core courses at other universities run from a maximum of 1374-1104, to a minimum of 49-77. This wide a range is allowed. Texas Tech now has 377 courses in the Core. Some universities also require from 6-24 credit hours beyond the core; Tech has 9 hours added—the multicultural requirement, and 6 hours writing intensive.
- The areas at Tech that have the largest numbers of courses in the Core are the social and behavioral sciences, and the multicultural area.

Senator Koch asked if the Core Curriculum Committee is looking to even the numbers of courses in the core between the various schools. Dr. Elbow replied: "No. Changes like that must be approved by the Coordinating Board."
Senator Iram asked if there is a list of guidelines for Core Courses. Dr. Elbow replied that there is a "general" set of guidelines for core courses, but in the past the university has generally allowed Core area Committees to devise their own guidelines.

Speaker: **Bobbie Latham / Dale Ganus:** Banner Registration

- Registration for spring semester is ongoing. There have been some problems with courses that have prerequisites and corequisites, but most of these problems have been fixed.
- Senator Tomlinson asked if there is any way for professors to check their spring class rosters. Dale Ganus replied that this problem is being worked on, but that faculty cannot get access to much of the information until they have been through Banner training.
- Senator Held stated that his department is having massive problems with registration. Dale replied that there have been problems with set-up, particularly with courses with prerequisites and co-requisites, but that these are being worked on.
- Dale Ganus also mentioned that Banner is very precise, and he suggested that faculty with problems should inform him or Bobbie so that things can be fixed.
- Senator Mengel stated that there have also been problems with grad student registration. Dale replied that there are server problems with the portal for Raiderlink just today, but that this should not continue.

- All grading for this current term will still be done through Techsis. Spring semester grading will be done in Banner.

V. Old Business

- The OP on OP's surfaced in the Provost's Office this week. Vice Provost Winer and Dr. Stewart discussed and approved it, and it will be sent to the OP office to be approved and sent up for final approval.
- Faculty Ombudsman: Dr. Howe has been in conversation with the Provost's office. Howe has presented a list of things necessary to meet standards of ombudsman programs, which is currently being costed out by the Provost's office.

VI. Committee / Council Liaison Reports

Study Committee B: The Committee has been looking at the AAUP proposed revisions to OP 32.03, and will present a recommendation at the December Faculty Senate meeting.

The Survey Committee on Administrator Evaluations (Senator Oliver) recommended that since the Administrator Evaluations survey should be run every fall for a spring response, that they submit the survey instrument to Institutional Research for a fall '09 participation, so that the data is ready for analysis spring of 2010.

- President River reiterated that the survey Committee has been charged with: a) finding ways to increase faculty participation in the future, and b) looking at the questions asked in the survey. She stated that after we have done the survey for several cycles, it will be looked at again to see if it is the best way to evaluate administrators.
- Results from the last two surveys are posted on the Institutional Research site.
- Senator Held asked whether there is any process in place to deal with the results of the surveys. President River replied that there is an OP on the evaluation of select administrators. Senator Held requested that the Faculty Senate revisit this.
- President River asked the Senate if there were any objections to holding off on running the survey until the fall of 2009. After discussion and a show of hands, it was decided that the next running of the survey would be fall 2009.

Committee on Libraries: Senator Weinlich reported that the students negotiated a 9.9% increase in the library fee for the next two years.

- Dean Dyal spoke about a new business model to be implemented.
- Usage patterns have changed; electronic resources are now the most used resources in the libraries.
- A presentation was made on the annual income breakdown, 2007-2011.
- How to close the gap in funding was also discussed. It must be remembered that the $2.00 library use fee was taken to pay energy costs.
- Remote storage plans were discused briefly.

Provost Search Committee: President River announced that the Provost Search is still on schedule, and that there is a large pool of good applicants for the position.

Provost Council: President River announced that 4.4 million dollars were allocated in Academic Incentive money. 120 proposals for increasing student credit hours for this spring semester were received. These proposals have been presented to the President, who will forward them to the Board of Regents.
Interim Provost Winer stated that she hopes we will be able to attract more students and increase the formula funding money. Senator Mengel asked if all of the 120 proposals were accepted. Winer stated that there are several levels of acceptance: first, we must make up for lost moneys; second are those courses that project high enrollments; third are proposals that could be covered with existing budgets; and fourth, proposals that would offer courses that are less likely to generate much formula funding money. The last group was not sent on to the president.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: The Task Force is forming working groups. The Communication group plans to have a web site next semester. Dr. Bailey will meet with the Task Force this week.

VII. New Business

The Child Care Committee: A Resolution was passed previously to support child care in the university, but with the changes in administration, the Committee felt that reviewing the subject would be prudent.
Two Resolutions were formulated:

- To reaffirm our support for the Child Care Liaison position
- To prod the administration to keep the Child Care Centre in mind during the capital campaign.

Senator Mengel read Resolution #1 (for the Faculty Senate's support of the creation of a Child Care Liaison). After discussion, the Resolution was passed.
Senator Mengel read Resolution #2 (for the Faculty Senate's support of the Child Care Center). After discussion, the Resolution was passed.

VIII. Announcements

- Dr. Bailey will likely not be able to visit the Faculty Senate at the December meeting, after all. He will, however, visit once or twice in the spring semester.
- At the December meeting, Dean Eibeck, who is chairing the Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force, will provide the Senate with an update on the direction the Task Force is taking.

IX. Adjournment: The 282nd meeting of the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

LMM