

Texas Tech University Faculty Senate
Meeting #284, January 14, 2009

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with President Sandy River presiding.

Senators in attendance were: Farmer, Johnson, Hill, Anderson, Cox, Drager, Hart, Held, Iyer, Jeter, Koch, McComb, Opp, Rahnama, Roeger, Rugeley, Tacon, Toda, Weinlich, Pasewark, Ritchey, Crews, Hendricks, Pratt, Giesselmann, Lakhani, Mengel, Sobolewski, Tomlinson, Blum, Colwell, Lauderdale, Rosen, Paschall, Peoples, Gelber, Mann, Skerik, Santa, Smith-CM, Meek, Shacklette, Spurrier, Spallholz, Syma, Warner, Wilde, Williams.

Senators excused: Helm, Blake, Harter, Wong, Boal, Sharp, Oliver, Barnes-Burroughs.

Senators not excused: Hamed, Wilson, Rex, Smithey, Claudet, Fox, Helm, Mathis, Soonpaa.

- I. Call to Order: Sandy River, President, at 3:19 pm.
- II. Recognition of Guests: Kay Rhodes, Associate Vice Chancellor, System CIO; Dale Ganus, Assistant Managing Director, Information Systems; Kathy Austin; Gary Elbow; President Guy Bailey (arriving later).
- III. Approval of Minutes, Meeting #283, December 10, 2008. With the minor change of the excusing of Senator Toda, the Minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. Speaker: Kay Rhodes

Options for Posting Student Grades: With the new technology, we have more options for posting student grades. (See attached hand-out **Options for Posting Student Grades**).

Kathy Austin: Posting student grades, SSN, new TechID, or other confidential information in public areas violates state and federal laws, as well as TTU Operating Policies. With the pre-existing, and the new technology, faculty can post grades in the following ways: 1) WebCT (BlackBoard) are still options. 2) On the eLearning module in Raiderlink Portal, grades can be posted, and assignments can be uploaded (for more information, call IT Help Central. 3) Faculty members may post grades in public areas (wall outside of the classroom, etc.) **only** if the faculty member generates and assigns a random number to each student that only the faculty member and the student know. 4) Faculty may elect to distribute grade information in class and discontinue public grade posting. 5) The current Scantron application, OpScan, has been modified to return grade information to faculty. Results will be sent to the instructor, who can then modify the results and email the final file to the data center. The grade information can be posted electronically to the Raiderlink Portal for students to securely see their grades.

Following this distribution of information, there was a short discussion about the necessity to find ways to protect student information that may be in faculty laptops, office computers, etc. This concern will be looked into.

Kay Rhodes: When asked for an update on how the implementation of Banner, with regards to registration, went, Dr. Rhodes replied that the registration problems that had occurred with prerequisites and co-requisites have been overcome, and that more students were able to register in a shorter time than in the past. **Ganus** added that from the students' side, registration went well. **Rhodes** stated that this month's payroll was 98% correct. She added that at present the main

problem with the implementation of Banner is with the learning curve; and that once those using the system have become familiar with using it, it should be very successful.

Following this was a short discussion of student ID privacy issues.

Senator Iyer asked whether the student class rosters can be moved into Xcel spreadsheets and was told that yes, this and other options are available in Banner.

V: Speaker: University President Guy Bailey

Provost: The new Provost is Bob Smith.

VP for Research: A list of strong candidates for the position of VP for Research will soon be narrowed by the committee. The initial pool of candidates (around 50) looks very strong, with at least 12 potential choices. Airport interviews will take place by the end of January. Candidates will be brought to campus in February. Faculty members are encouraged to meet the candidates and provide feedback.

Opening in Administration and Finance: There will be a position opening in Administration and Finance shortly. Dr. Bailey wants someone knowledgeable of both Texas higher education, and finance.

Legislative update: Dr. Bailey stated that it is estimated that there will be less revenue granted to the university than was awarded in the last Legislative session. He doesn't anticipate budget cuts; basic needs will be met, but there will not be much new money. Money will most likely be available for enrollment growth, but not to combat inflation. Dr. Bailey reaffirmed the importance of increasing student credit hour production, particularly with graduate students—grad students bring in more formula funding than undergrads; juniors and seniors more than freshmen and sophomores.

Dr. Bailey allowed that the above is not guaranteed; during the Legislative session, things may change. Also, the state has a surplus that might be able to be used for "one-time money" projects. It is possible that the university can receive state support for its bid to move toward tier one status.

Senator Johnson asked Dr. Bailey what the chance is of the university achieving tier 1 status. The answer: "a pretty good chance." Dr. Bailey went on to state that the university has significant support for this goal. Also, the diversity of the student body (from various parts of Texas) helps. We have a solid student body, and a strong infrastructure. Dr. Bailey sees the fact that Lubbock is not a major city as a problem.

Senator Johnson enquired about tuition freezes. Dr. Bailey stated that tuition deregulation is the issue. Dr. Bailey feels that there may be some regulations put in place, or some pressure put on boards. Dr. Bailey expressed the opinion that our students are a big factor in our success—"Student satisfaction is a big deal with Legislators."

VII. Old Business

Study Committee B will make a report next month.

Study Committee A proposed a revision to the Senate Constitution that we omit the part of Article 3, Section 7 of the Constitution that requires that one third of the Senators from each constituency be elected each year (since this has not been done in recent years). After open discussion, the Senate

decided not to delete this section of the Constitution, but to work internally to balance the rotation of Senators.

Senator Peoples asked whether editorial changes to the Constitution need to be voted on? After discussion, it was decided that Senators should be sent the proposals again and this will be considered at the February meeting.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee / Study Committee C: Members of these two committees were not able to meet during fall semester. President River encouraged the committee members, and expressed hope that they will be able to accomplish some business this semester.

VIII. Committee / Liaison Reports

Student Life Council: (Mengel reported for Blake) The Student Life Council has been formed out of the Enrollment Management Council. They have distributed the following publications: The Economic Impact of Texas Tech on the Community; Campus Life Magazine; The Annual Report for Student Affairs; and the Student Handbook. The charge of this committee is to look at student recruitment and retention, student success, student learning, and student life. The contact person for this Council is Gregory Elkins. Three committees report to the Student Life Council: Orientation, Recruitment, and Retention. The Student Life Council reports to the VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Parking: Senator Lakhani reported that the Parking Committee is proposing a 5% increase in parking fees. This money will be used to pay off the parking deficit (\$160,000 in the last two years) and provide \$70,000-\$80,000 to implement the replacement of staff in entry posts with scanners—which will save money in the long run. It should also be noted that there have been no increases in the university parking fees for two years.

Provost Council: President River announced that the university has brought in a master planning consultant to determine whether the core campus can accommodate a growth to 36,000 students. He will be meeting with Deans in the next few months to discuss how they are focusing for growth. Senator Held noted that the Senate was informed shortly after Dr. Bailey's appointment as university President, that the plan to increase student numbers to 40,000 was no longer an immediate goal. President River noted that whatever Dean Eibeck might have said to the Faculty Senate, she is not in a position to guarantee such a statement. River added that the numbers given to the consultant are: 36,000 more students on the core campus, and 4,000 new distance students.

VI. New Business

President River announced that the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee for Senate officers for the spring elections will be made up of Senators: Wilde (Arts and Science), Shacklette (Architecture), and Sobolewski (Engineering).

Senator Pratt asked that the Faculty Senate send in a formal request that in future, Spring Semester start a week or two later than it did this year. This will allow faculty time for class prep and necessary student advising. An ad hoc committee was formed (Senators Pratt, Meek, Hendricks, Tacon) to check into and report on the university calendar, and to form a resolution, if appropriate, to be presented to the Faculty Senate at the February meeting.

VII. Announcements

President River announced that condolences from the Faculty Senate have been sent to the family of John Bleise, Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies, who passed away recently.

VIII.Adjournment

IX. The 284th meeting of the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:40 pm.

LMM