

**Texas Tech University Faculty Senate
Meeting # 289, September 9, 2009**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 9, in the Senate room in the Student Union Building, with President Richard Meeks presiding.

Senators in attendance: Hill, Rex, Boros, Cox, Drager, Fallwell, Hart, Harter, Koch, McComb, Mosher, Schmidt, Toda, Weinlich, Wong, Davis, Crews, Janisch, Pratt, Helm, Lakhani, Mengel, Tomlinson, Blum, Colwell, Lauderdale, Sharp, Kelleher, Soonpaa, Oliver, River, Chambers, Paschall, Gelber, Skerik, Santa, CM Smith, Tate, Ajlouni, Heinz, Loudon, Price, Spallholz, Syma and Warner.

Senators excused: Johnson, Anderson, McFadden, Rahnama, Tacon, Hendricks, Giesselmann, Laughlin, Peoples and Watson. Senators not excused: Farmer, Iyer, Roeger, Boal, Pasewark, Fox, and Mathis.

1. **Call to Order:** Richard Meek, President, at 3:23 pm. President Meek read out minor corrections to the day's agenda.

2. **Recognition of Guests:** Bob Smith, Provost and Senior Vice President.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting # 288, May 6, 2009. The minutes were approved with no additions or corrections. Motion by Senator Harper; Seconded by Senator Cox.

4. **Comments to the Senate:** President Meek commented to the Senators that President Bailey had been meeting with the College Administrators' and would be meeting with the various Colleges. The meetings were being set to outline Texas Tech's strategic goals of 40,000 students, attaining Tier 1 Research University Status and plans for new buildings. President Bailey hopes were that all Senators would attend one of the upcoming College meetings. Upon conclusion of his comments President Meek introduced the day's speaker Provost and Senior VP Bob Smith.

5. **Speaker: Provost and Senior Vice-President Bob Smith; Topic "Making it Possible: Advancing TTU to National Research Status".**

Provost Smith spoke about the steps required to have TTU become a National Research University. His presentation covered 3 main topics; 1. Once in a Lifetime Opportunity, 2. Strategic Planning and, 3. Moving Forward. Following his introduction, Provost Smith suggested that the Faculty senate invite the new VP for Research Taylor Eighmy to speak. Met with Colleges and plan to meet with College faculty in open forums.

The Provost talked about benchmarks for TTU over the next 10 years and its emergence as a National Research University (NRU). Once in Lifetime comes with the recent passage HB 51. He noted that TTU was in many ways already a NRU in comparison to its Texas peers; U. Houston. North Texas State, and the UT System. He said the State of TX recognizes the need to create additional research universities like other States had done, CA, FL, NY, NC; all having 6-10 research universities. He noted that TX has 23 million people and only 2 public research universities. The introduction of HB 51 to create new research universities was TTU's "Once in a Lifetime Opportunity". He outlined the hurdles TTU faces HB 51 to being named a new TX Tier 1 Research University; having 45 million dollars of expended research funding, an endowment of 400 million dollars, > 200 PhD students graduate per year for 2 years, a high achieving freshman class, high quality faculty for 2 years or Phi Beta Kappa designation or membership in the Association of Research National Libraries designation (Ranked 47th in Nation). He noted that TTU has achieved or is close to achieving HB 51 guidelines. Only research funding lags significantly behind, ~26 million for the last year.

The two major areas to improve are restricted research funding and PhD graduates, by about 10%.

The Senators were told of the 500-1000 million dollar National Research University referendum endowment coming up for a public vote on HB 51 and praised State Senator Duncan for his efforts on behalf of TTU. This fund might provide 50 million dollars per year for the research enterprise.

Provost Smith emphasized that TTU needs a Good Strategic Plan and Mission Statement with a vision. There are 79 measurable markers in the Strategic Plan. He asked the University faculty to review "Who we are". Moving Forward; TTU seeks to join the Tier 1 Research Universities of TX A7M and UT. Provost noted that TTU has a big State and World Mission contribution as most student enrolment reach out 60 % >300 or mile radius. We want comparison to our 54 peer research institutions within the Big 12, the Big 10, the Pac 10, the Big East, the ACC and the SEC. TTU is doing a comparative academic peer analysis in all academic areas. In the end, TTU will not be all things to all people. TTU will have to be selective in what the university can do best. The Provost concluded his remarks with talking about financial distributions to areas by formulas, university and faculty accountability, and the new Digital Measures that will appear on the web.

The Strategic Plan has been presented to all Dean's and Presidential Council and each Dean made a presentation how their unit will contribute to the strategic Plan, There will be campus forms. The Strategic Plan will be completed by 12/31/2009. The plan goes to the Board of Regents in March, 2010.

Noted for his many forehead ties, he concluded with an historical synopsis of the Paisley prints 16th century based upon the date palm frond. He then asked for questions.

Questions: Senator Hill asked how we (TTU) compare to other institutional peers on research money. Answer. Among the 55 institutions mentioned, we may be third up from the bottom.

Senator River asked about the Senate's 2 year effort to have an established Ombudsman. Where does that stand? Answer. There was no provision in the budget for the position. The Provost said he would look to other funding sources.

Senator Ajlouni asked about TTU having provisions more PhD students from outside the United States. Provost Smith praised Dr. Nagy for his international student recruitment efforts and noted that students come from over 120 countries to TTU and that international student enrollment was up by 300 students this year. He addressed the importance of international/cultural educational centers of which TTU has one in Seville, Spain and is looking to add an additional language/culture center Germany and Arabia. He spoke about the TTU High School and American schools around the World and in general study abroad.

Senator Chambers asked if there was a complimentary committee to the strategic planning committee for physical plants, logistic, parking, buildings, etc. Answer. There is a campus master planning committee/plan in the President's office.

Senator Hill asked about the time frame for implementing HB 51. Provost Smith said it was open ended with some people thinking it might be a 2-3 year process or maybe 10 years. To work towards HB 51 implementation TTU would like to hire faculty with large amounts research funding.

President Meek spoke about the need for transparency in the implementation of the attainment of the goals being set by the Texas Legislature, dealing with Banner, Digital Memory, and Graduate data. He further noted that the TTU Law School was ranked in the top 10 of all US Law Schools.

I. Old Business:

Senator Blum reported on the activities of the Committee on Committees and submitted a list of Senators and their Committee assignments 2009-2010. He called for a vote of approval and it was affirmed. Senator Drager made the motion. President Meek asked the Committee on Committees to look at the appropriateness and constitutionality of the members on other University Councils and Committees.

II. New Business:

Study Committee B- Laura Heinz convener, to look at Open Access in the Library. Committee members were asked to work with Dr. Dyal to get publications on the net.

Budget Study Committee-CM Smith-convener, to report on the University Budget, working with last year's Faculty Senator Lewis Held.

Study Committee C- Diane Warner convener, to look at student evaluations of Faculty and how they are used for faculty evaluations.

Study Committee A-Sandy River-convener, to work with the AAUP, their President Gad Perry on the wording of OP 32. Senator Drager noted there were 3 areas of OP 32 to be worked on.

Senator Drager addressed the older and newer IP problems with Banner; posting of syllabi and the need for faculty input into the process. Digital posting of syllabi has formatting and time lines for posting. Difficulty in posting grades had been discussed with the people in charge of IT and should have faculty input. Meek: This is to be the Digital Measures format to take effect next year.

Senator Drager raised concerns at the recent hiring of Alberto Gonzales and noted the faculty petition in opposition to the hiring. He suggested the Faculty Senate might want to look into the manner in which the appointment was made. Meek: Noted many emails on the appointment President Meek commented on the recent loss of First Care Health Insurance and resignations of members of the Board of Regents. There have been concerns on Tech not having any particular organization involving our retired professors and some questions were brought up about the original master plan calling for retired professor housing and the building of housing on the Rawls Golf Course we need to check into the status on that.

Senator Marina Oliver, report of the Administrators Evaluation Survey will go out September 22 and run through Oct 13th.

III. Announcements: (President Meek, Patty Gisch)

The Faculty Senate Website is being updated with a better search engine.

The date for the December Faculty Senate Meeting had been move to December 9th.

All Faculty Senators on the current FS roster that hold a Tech parking pass may park in the Band Lot (as long as it is not reserved for an event) and in any area reserve parking(not the same as spot reserved) anywhere on campus. If you should have a problem contact Patty Gisch, Office Coordinator.

The Senate has lost 6 faculty Senators. Jim William-HESS; Susan Opp-POLS; Bob Blake-CHEM; Teresa Lightner-BA; Mag Binkley-HS; Safei Hamed-AG. Susan Tomlinson from Honors will be leaving after the Fall semester. There will be new balloting for replacements likely by paper ballots in January or sooner if Patty can manage it.

The University has a \$445,000 State charity goal this year for the SECC.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the 289th meeting of the Faculty Senate was made by Senator Hill, Seconded and the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:28 pm.