

**Faculty Senate Meeting #296
April 14, 2010**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, in the Senate Room in the Student Union Building, with **Faculty Senate President Richard Meek** presiding.

Faculty Senators in attendance were: Anderson, Cox, Drager, Hart, Harter, Koch, McComb, McFadden, Mosher, Wong, Boal, Pasewark, Ritchey, Crews, Hendricks, Janisch, Pratt, Mengel, Blum, Colwell, Fowler, Kelleher, Soonpaa, Oliver, River, Chambers, Peoples, Gelber, Santa, CMSmith, Louden and Watson. Senators excused were: Farmer, Sharp, Tate, Fallwell, Heinz, Weinlich, Lauderdale, Schmidt, Giesselmann, Paschall, Warner, Tacon, Matis and Toda. Senators unexcused were: Johnson, Boros, Iyer, Rahnama, Roeger, Davis, Darwish, Helm, Lakhani, Laughlin, Skerik, Ajlouni, Price and Syma.

I. Call to order – The 296th Meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by **Faculty Senate President Richard Meek** at 3:15 pm Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

II. Recognition of guests: **Faculty Senate President Richard Meek** recognized guests; Dr. Brian Shannon, Law School and Faculty Athletics representative; Felicia Martin, Athletic Dept.; Nathaniel Haddox, Ombudsman Office; H.R. Karlsson, Geosciences; Jack Becker, John Hufford, Dean Dyal from the Library; Lewis Held, Biology, Vice-Provost Gary Elbow; Matt McGowan, Lubbock Avalanche Journal and Joeann Bon-Jorno from the Daily Toreador

III. Approval of minutes: **Faculty Senate President Richard Meek** called for any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting #295 of March 10, 2010. Hearing none he called for approval of the minutes which were approved by acclamation.

IV. Speaker: Brian Shannon, Faculty Athletics Rep gave his annual report, detailing academic successes, challenges, and then took questions. A copy of his Power point presentation is available through the FS office.

Academic successes: Last year nearly 500 student-athletes made the Honor Roll, Dean's list, President's list, or were Academic All-Americans. The football team was fourth in the nation among BCS teams in the number of early graduates or those seeking a second degree. Student-athlete GPAs are nearly 3.0 on average and slightly above the TTU general student average. All teams are now in compliance with APR standards. Graduation rates: Federal rate for all TTU students = 57%; Federal rate for TTU student-athletes = 50%. Accounting for transfers in and out, Tech student athlete rate = 67%; and for those who complete their eligibility, Tech student-athlete graduation rate is 93%, second in the Big 12 only to Nebraska, at 94%.

Challenges: Process needs continuing vigilance such that student-athletes who are recruited have a good chance to graduate. Also – financial matters: Increasing pressures relating to escalating coaches salaries. NCAA is examining cost-containment measures. For example, UT football coach's salary is \$5 million a year. Also – Rules Compliance: TTYU now working on resolving a compliance issue regarding text messages and cell phone use. Investigation is ongoing. Also – Faculty reps meet regularly to, among other things, monitor the extent to which games conflict with things like final exams.

Questions: How many scholarship student athletes do we have? About 429 student athletes are on some type of scholarship.

V. Speaker: Donald Dyal, Dean of the Libraries. Deal Dyal gave a summary of highlights and challenges.

Highlights: 1.5 million digital images now posted by the library - 3 years ago, none. Library has a 3-D and animation lab. Library has been given two Cray super-computers. They are testing doing super-computing at a distance. Many possibilities for linking networks across the country and world. Our national ranking has improved from 80th out of 102 to now 55th out of 124. There is a system-wide electronic journal archive under development. We are developing an institutional repository. Donations of over \$6 million in software has been donated in light of the Cray computer gifts. There has been in the last three years a 20%: increase in serial subscriptions. Electronic downloads have increased 350% in the past three years. Everything online gets used; 30-40% of books are never checked out over a 5 year period. Matches usage rates nation-wide. Efforts ongoing to make everything in the library electronically available to faculty and students. Students coming into the library keep increasing. Last year, nearly 3.5 million people came into the buildings.

Challenges: As everywhere, finances. TTU library budget is \$18 million. UT and A&M have budgets of \$37 and \$41 million. A&M is #2 in the country in serial acquisitions. TTU funding model has strengths and weaknesses. It is flexible; no state money in it. That is also a challenge. No state money. Salaries and fringes paid from budget.

HEAF money has been re-directed away from the library. Changes are in the offing about the way library fees are defined and collected. Will soon be a flat fee that should provide a slight increase in the library budget.

Questions: Cray super computers to be networked with other servers on campus? Work is ongoing and cooperative. Question regarding process of ordering books and inter-library loan. Referred to Arlene Paschal. Discussion regarding difference in budgets at TTU, UT, and A&M: Fee raises are shouldered by students out-of-pocket. Students downstate are far more likely to be on full scholarships and can more easily absorb a fee increase. We need more scholarships. Question regarding online access by alumni and retired faculty. Access is limited, but under review. Much is available even to the general public. Question about the number of people using the library: Why? It is the hottest internet spot on campus. It is also centrally located. The student Union also shuts down at 10 p.m. Library is open much later, and there is a push to go 24/7. Often 10,000 people in the library and only 3900 seats.

VI. Speaker: Provost Robert Smith - speaking to us regarding the publication of the new Strategic Plan.

Book is available, and will be distributed to all faculty in the next few weeks. Book speaks to the five strategic priorities for the future and sets goals for the next decade.

Provost Smith also reported on his recent (privately sponsored) trip to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's leadership is very interested in investing in higher education. They are re-developing their universities. This represents partnership opportunities for us, and other US colleges and universities. There are many similarities between the climate and water challenges in Saudi Arabia and the Texas Panhandle.

Questions: The closing of Copy-Tech? Cost-effectiveness is the issue as compared to out-sourcing. Efforts are being made to re-hire those whose jobs have been lost. And severance packages have been made to those who can't be accommodated. Also – the facility needs to be converted into a research facility for strategic hires.

VII. Committee Reports:

Nominating committee: Sandy River presented a slate of three nominees for Senate Office: President – Richard Meek; Vice-President – Tim Matis; Secretary – Michael Farmer. Voting commenced and the nominees were elected.

Serious concern was raised regarding the increasing pressure on faculty to do things other than University Service in the allocation of their time and the advancement of their careers.

Consideration about issues of continuity was raised. Perhaps using the “Past-president” and/or seeking a VP as essentially President-elect.

VIII. Liaison reports and Old Business:

Core Curriculum Council: Senator Melanie Hart: Changes in the offing regarding the manner of defining and reporting the nature and content of Core Curriculum courses. Transfer students are among those on whom these changes relate. State does not mandate the Technology component of the Core, and changes may be made that effect faculty teaching in those courses.

Question: Phi Beta Kappa requirements are different than Core with reference to the Math requirement. Better communication may be helpful and the matter was referred to Senator Hart.

Marina Oliver – Administrator Evaluation Survey: Responded to concerns raised regarding the reporting of respondents' academic rank. Faculty in small departments could have their anonymity compromised. Respondents can choose not to answer that question. A handout containing revised language in the survey instructions was distributed. Question: Response rate? Not yet available. Blame Banner.

Committee members are “rolling off.” Significant effort being made to have all info ready for the next group and three people are needed.

Bret Hendricks – Retirement Options.

Modifications to the existing Optional Retirement Program at Texas Tech:

First, Texas Tech is now going to participate in Self Directed Brokerage Accounts. Texas Tech staff and faculty will learn more about this program, including how to participate in the program, when the information is distributed this summer via the new web platform "Retirement Manager."

Second, the new web platform "Retirement Manager" is going to ready for faculty and staff to view during July 2010 (projected). "Retirement Manager" will have many new capabilities, including but not limited to, enabling participants to view their personal retirement accounts and allowing participants to make transfers between and among retirement accounts. Additionally, with the new system, participants may modify retirement planning regarding additional contributions.

Mr. Brown stated that he would like to make a presentation to the Faculty Senate during September or October of 2010 to present the Retirement Manager Program and answer any questions that the Faculty Senate might have.

IX. New Business: Faculty Senate President Richard Meek gave a brief report on the most recent **Regents meeting**. Many items discussed. No students currently on Library council. Regents are considering increasing fee for library support. A consortium is being considered to make journal subscription costs more cost effective. A tuition increase was approved. \$7 million was approved to finish the Stadium addition.

There were no other reports. There was a request for faculty to volunteer to fill vacant and retiring Faculty Senate seats. Senators are needed from A&S, Engineering, Human Sciences and Law. The Administrator Evaluation Survey Committee has no returning Faculty Senators to work on this committee, a Senator is needed ASAP, please contact either Patty or Senator Marina Oliver if you are interested.

X. Announcements; Senator Sandy River. There is a special Senate meeting Friday, April 23, to hear an advance report from President Bailey on RCM. There will be a Town Hall on meeting on May 4, 2010. The model has serious implications for how faculty time and performance evaluations. The model also focuses very heavily on the level of the department.

Question was asked of the Provost to comment on future plans for the Honors College. The Provost commended Dean Gary Bell and indicated the Honors College was "at the heart of much of what we're doing." He will follow the OP in appointing an interim Dean (not disclosed) and plans are underway for a search for a permanent replacement for outgoing Dean Gary Bell.

Question raised as to the availability of one of the Regents to speak to the Senate. Provost Smith indicated that could be arranged through the Chancellor's office and would be welcomed.

Budget study committee will meet following the Senate meeting.

Other notable achievements: Texas Tech Debate team won two national championships. Smithsonian magazine had a feature on TTU graduates conducting cattle research on behalf of the beef industry. A TTU Saxophone Professor won second prize in an international competition in Paris. A new graduate student in Harp performance is also a member of the US Women's Kayak and Polo team.

XI. Adjournment: Hearing no other items of business, a motion to adjourn was made by **Faculty Senate President Richard Meek**, so made and carried by acclamation. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Koch, Secretary Pro-Tem