

## Texas Tech University Faculty Senate Meeting # 298, September 8, 2010

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building, with **Faculty Senate President Richard Meek** presiding.

Senators in attendance were: Farmer, Mills, Loudon, Davis, Perl, Cox, Drager, Weinlich, Boros, Fallwell, Lodhi, McFadden, Rahnama, Biglaiser, Borshuk, Cristina Bradatan, Held, Nathan, Rice, Stodden, Surlis, Pasewark, Ritchey, Bremer, Crews, Janisch, Darwish, Lakhani, Matis, Bayne, Wang, Costica Bradatan, Blum, Sharp, Collier, Ross, McArthur, Callender, Syma, Chambers, Bradley, Santa, CM Smith, Tate, Chansky, Duffy, Kelleher, Heinz, Spallholz, Dodds, Kucera, Awal and Whitfield. Senators excused were: Kvashny, Harter, Mosher, Schmidt, Durband, Hendricks, Watson, Helm, Fowler, Gilliam and Wood. Senators unexcused were: Leslie and Ajlouni.

### I. Call to Order:

**Richard Meek, Faculty Senate President**, called the meeting to order at 3:18 PM.

### II. Recognition of Guests:

**Faculty Senate President Meek** recognized our guests: Gad Perry; faculty member and AAUP President. From the Provost office: Provost Bob Smith, Valerie Paton, Rob Stewart and Gary Elbow. Matt McGowan from the Avalanche Journal, Bruce Bills from the Staff Senate, Nathaneal Haddox; Staff Ombudsman and Sandy River, the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

### III. Approval of Minutes:

**Faculty Senate President Meek** called for any corrections or changes to the minutes to meeting #297 held on May 5, 2010. Senator Held corrected page 2, paragraph 3 to alter text "Senator Lewis" to Senator Held and one grammar mistake in the former section. With those changes **Faculty Senate President Meek** asked for a motion for approval of the minutes of Meeting #297 as corrected. **Senator Elizabeth Loudon** moved to accept the minutes as corrected and the minutes were accepted as corrected by unanimous voice acclamation.

A change in the order of the agenda moved **Senator Shane Blum's** two committee reports forward.

**Senator Shane Blum** is liaison to *Student Union Building Advisory Committee*. They are considering expansion but appears years away. Preliminary Stages and no resources immediately identified. **Senator Blum** is also a member of the *Academic Integrity Task Force* that met over the summer. A report preparing for the Board of Regents is largely complete to review the academic integrity policy. With consultation with senators the material is ready for the Provost review. The hope is to present the material in October Faculty Senate Meeting for vote in November and presentation to Board of Regents in December. **Senator Blum** called for volunteers to review the document for the Faculty Senate in October.

### IV. Speaker: Bob Smith, Texas Tech Provost and Senior Vice President

**Provost Bob Smith** presented an overview of recent news and trends across Texas Tech at large and, in particular, those initiatives originating from the Office of the Provost.

**Dr. Bob Smith, Texas Tech Provost and Senior Vice President**, thanked the Faculty Senate and current officers; Richard Meek, Tim Mathis and Michael Farmer as part of a conversation that has been reactivated after lapses last year. **Provost Smith** notes a commitment to maintain this communication.

**Dr. Bob Smith, Texas Tech Provost**, expressed a desire to seek improved communication with the Faculty Senate and faculty generally. Dr. Smith also offered to provide a Provost Report at each Faculty Senate Meeting if the Senate so votes.

The Provost Report addressed four primary initiatives, supported by a slide presentation. In Order:

- i. *Integrated Scholars Recognition*. 12 scholars from across the campus were recognized for balanced high performance in each of the areas – teaching, research and service.

Mimics the “triple threat ball player or entertainer” as all around scholars. Scholars from the following Colleges were recognized: CASNR, Education, Architecture, Law, Business, Engineering, Music, Arts and Sciences, Honors and Human Sciences.

Current plans underway are to Video each of these scholars by Mid-September. Recruitment of **Katie Alan**, journalism and an MS in Ag Communications at TTU for these and other tasks in *Communications and Marketing* should improve visibility on and off campus for notable faculty and TTU initiatives, Provost Smith concluded. Appears on “*All Things Texas Tech*” (ATTT).

- ii. *Budget Working Group (BWG)*. Formed by **President Guy Bailey**. The campus budget working group is composed of 40 members, included are three Faculty Senators. Provost Smith reported that progress and announcements from the group can be tracked on “*All Things Texas Tech*” that can be reached from the Provost’s TTU website.

Notes: Statewide 184 billion in revenue with current shortfalls of \$10-18 billion likely to balance budget. General revenue stream reductions expected.

Also noted TTU is a \$600 million budget. General Revenue from the state is about \$140 million where possible shortfalls are likely for TTU.

BWG is charged by **President Guy Bailey** to put together a white paper by December 31 on the budget response. Priorities and recommendations of the white paper will supplement the strategic plan and identify management tools, such as Responsibility Centered Management, to meet budget goals and address any shortfalls or enhance other revenue streams.

**Provost Smith** noted the plan to conduct multiple “Community Forums” around campus starting in October, especially Deans and Administrators.

- iii. *P&T matters and Tier I aspirations*. Noted the Strategic Plan and encouraged faculty read the plan. The Provost Office identified 55 Peer Institutions and noted the relationship between great universities and athletic conferences.

We benchmark against these universities and rely on these for letters.

Use these universities for letters. Checked with **Donald Haragan** and found precedent for high quality reviews. Of 63 cases reviewed last year, some were from friends, colleagues and outside of academe.

**Provost Smith** discussed with Deans in spring, 2010, the intention to seek unbiased reviewers as referenced in the faculty handbook. The charges that this is “new”, Smith considers this an extension of current policies.

**Provost Smith** noted that this year there would be some consideration for those receiving letters under the old regime.

There is also a request conveyed to the Deans to convert these materials to electronic form.

- iv. *Faculty Fellowship Initiative*. Incentives led by **Taylor Eighmy, VP for Research**.

The awards are designed to compete in rankings in the move to Tier I in the State and see improvements in National and International Reputation.

Proposed incentives include: \$5,000 salary boost one time for faculty obtaining such awards as Guggenheim or Fulbright, awards a cost of living support if the faculty member goes off campus of \$25,000. **Provost Smith** marked a plea to inter-act with the Vice President of Research (VPR) office, especially the Office of Research Services.

Provost Smith ask individual faculty applicants to work with or inform their Dean's Offices to keep administration broadly informed to make resources available.

Questions for the Provost Smith that were taken from the floor were:

**Senator Julian Spallholz** inquired into detail of the budget priorities?  
Identified generally the reviews note Faculty, Students and programs as the key priorities.

**Provost Smith** noted about 50 priorities that emerged from all day retreat in August in terms of what might be possible for budget savings and earnings.

**Provost Smith** again drew attention to the Provost Web site and blog for the BWG and other issues of interest in general.

**Senator Julian Spallholz** then inquired about budget priorities concerning University staff.

**Provost Smith** responded that the potential advantage TTU has to generate new revenues by expanding research and by increased enrollment. Both Austin and TAMU have limits to their growth in terms of administrative scale or physical space.

We are increasing enrollment and are in a more advantageous position to grow to offset budget shortfalls.

**Senator Lewis Held** suggested the need to increase faculty if we grow in student enrollments.

**Provost Smith** noted that the strategic plan chose not to specify faculty growth target numbers but noted that growth could not sacrifice quality.

We... *"have to maintain quality;"* and .... *"You cannot maintain quality if you do not have faculty hires commensurate with numbers of students."*

**Provost Smith** thanked the Faculty Senate for its attention.

**Senate President Meek** added that the two Senators working along with him on the BWG are **Vice President Tim Mathis** and **Faculty Senator William Pasewark**.

## **V. Old Business and Committee Reports:**

*Committee on Committee:* **Faculty Senator Robert Ritchey** delivered for a vote a proposed list of committees and membership as it stands.

**Senator Stephen Cox** inquired if the new list supersedes the prior list; and **Senator Robert Ritchey** indicated that it did.

**Senate President Meek** noted that an ad hoc committee met over the summer to review rules concerning OP 32.01 and 32.16 in responding to pending shifts from the Provost Office and review as oversight whether other running administrative direction changes also constitute de facto OP changes.

This ad hoc committee is a role-over of the **Faculty Status and Welfare Committee**.

**President Meek** noted that this committee would continue into the school year. The goal is to seek more **clarification and standardization, especially with respect to promotion and tenure**.

**Senator Robert Ritchey** moved to appoint that Committee and **President Meek** called for a voice vote.

- **The committee structure was accepted by unanimous voice vote.**

**President Meek** noted an on-going concern and Faculty Senate activity to review the means to use Student evaluations and also to publish those results.

**V. New Business. None presented.**

**VI. Liaison Report:**

*Research Advisory Council Liaison:* **Senator Daniel Nathan** notes this is chaired by **Dr. Michael San Francisco**.

The Council has monthly meetings; and there was a retreat in August involving 100+ persons. The focus was on Funding for Research, and there is some interest in how to enhance or support unfunded research on campus.

**Senator Daniel Nathan** raised concern that very few faculty participated though open to participate.

**Vice President Tim Mathis** reported no update on *Academic Council*.

**VII. Announcements from the Faculty Senate President, Richard Meek.**

**President Meek** reported the *Child Care initiative* of President Guy Bailey regarding faculty welfare and Dr. Eighmy as it affects recruitment of faculty and graduate students. There will be a standing committee formed to participate in this initiative.

There is interest in looking to an outside owned and managed facility given the experiences of other universities who have inaugurated centers recently.

*Student Evaluations:* Concern for compliance with Texas house bill (HB 2504). **President Meek** appointed this to Faculty Senate Study Committee C for review and to work with VP Valerie Paton on internet postings.

*Communications Gap:* **Senate President Meek** expressed desire for more direct faculty mailings to communicate Faculty Senate Business and for the Senate to structure more formal linkages to mirror TTU Presidential Initiatives as they arise.

*Faculty Senate Office:* There will be a move of the Faculty Senate Office as fall-out from the asbestos abatement in the Administration Building. **Senate President Meek** is currently working with members of the Provost's office, Chief of Staff Grace Hernandez and Karen Hopkins in Planning and Administration on finding adequate and proper office space to hold the Faculty Senate. When the office is moving is not known at this time.

Final Notes and Discussion: **Senate President Meek** noting that TTU is not an AAU institute and that member institutes have several advantages added to **Provost Smith's** comments on the Peer Institutions as connected to athletic conferences. Membership in some prominent athletic conferences require AAU membership and that there is a surprising link between athletics and academics.

**Senator Lance Drager** commented that Athletics and athletic associations are not structured as academic institutions and athletic conferences are not academic structures and questions their role in defining Peer institutions.

**Senator Lewis Held** asked **Provost Smith** about calls from students blocked from needed classes.

**Provost Smith** commented he had not seen this problem or other reports of students blocked from required classes. Dean of Arts and Sciences provides funds to put together a registration process to prevent these concerns and suggested the number of concerns was surprisingly small for a new registration processes.

**Senator Lewis Held** asked **Provost Smith** about infrastructure for new students.

**Provost Smith** commented that the *Plant Planning* was planning for new capital; but any plans need to go through the Board of Regents; so a public announcement of plans has restrictions. Mike Molina is the new Vice Chancellor for physical infrastructure. "There will be significant Investment."

Guest and President of Texas Tech AAUP chapter- **Dr. Gad Perry (former Faculty Senator)** questioned. Should administrator evaluations be subject to the same public reporting as faculty student evaluations.

**Dr. Valerie Paton** replied that those evaluations of administrators belong to the faculty. It is up to the Faculty Senate if those are to be made public in a similar fashion.

**Senate President Meek** commented that there is a standing committee on administrator evaluations will report on the subject. Intention is to get the next round completed by the end of the calendar year. He noted new protections for anonymity have been added by hiring an outside entity to compile the report.

**Senator Todd Chambers** asked about the press appeal and advertisement of faculty success that might be coming through ATTT. Directed to Provost Smith was a query if this Press was providing a broader dissemination.

**Provost Smith** answered that he didn't have the number of 'hits' for the specific website where ATTT resides. Yet he submitted there are new opportunities to review and for the Faculty Senate to vet initiatives broadly across the university over a range of management programs in a more public setting.

**Senator Lance Drager** queried if anyone in politics would 'listen' to that electronic conversation.

Faculty Senate guest and AAUP President, **Dr. Gad Perry** noted that Fox TV never aired a report-interview-discussion on HB 2504 in which he participated as AAUP representative.

**Senators Lewis Held and Todd Chambers and Provost Smith** discussed expanding the media initiatives from several sources. **Provost Smith** noted possibilities to use videos at football games of integrated faculty scholars and other more professionally completed highlights of the university. **Dr. Rob Stewart** noted new engagement of KTXT.

**Senate President Meek** concluded with announcements that Jim Brown, from Human Resources, would visit the Faculty Senate on delineate retirement options and that there would be an update on the Rawls golf course.

With NO additional business brought forward, a move to adjourn was called by **Senate President Meek**.

**Senator Elizabeth Loudon** entered a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. **At 4:23 PM a move to adjourn passed by unanimous voice acclamation.**

**Respectfully submitted to the Faculty Senate by Michael Farmer, Faculty Senate Secretary for 2010-2011.**