

**Texas Tech University Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting # 311, January 18, 2012**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building, with **Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan** presiding.

Senators in attendance were: Ballous, Kucera, Kvashny, Mills, Perry, Ajlouni, Davis, Loudon, Perl, Biglaiser, Cristina Bradatan, Durband, Held, Lee, McFadden, Mosher, Nathan, Rice, Schmidt, Stodden, Stodden, Surles, Weinberg, Wilde, Wong, Coward, Janisch, Todd, Bayne, Darwish, Watson, Youn, Costica Bradatan, Collier, Gilliam, Loewy, Ross, Callender, Heinz, Monroe, River, Whitfield, Bradley, Martin, Tate and Wood. Senators excused were: Borshuk, Boros, Fallwell, Lee, Lodhi, Rahnama, Boal, Buchheit, Valle, Awal, Wang, Fowler, Syma, Chambers, Chansky, Duffy, and Marks.

**I. Call to Order:**

**Daniel Nathan, Faculty Senate President**, called the meeting to order at 3:21 PM.

Due to technical difficulties with the projector, the agenda items were taken out of order.

**II. Recognition of Guests:**

**Faculty Senate President Nathan** recognized our guests: From the Provost office: Provost Bob Smith, Gary Elbow, Rob Stewart. Other visitors were Adrien Bennings from the Staff Senate, James Hodgins from HR/ Communications & Marketing, Sam Oswald from TTUISD and also in attendance was Past FS President Richard Meek, representing TTU AAUP Chapter.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

**Faculty Senate President Nathan** called for any corrections or changes to the minutes of meeting #310 held on December 14, 2011, minutes were approved.

**IV. Speaker: Dr. Bob Smith, Provost and Senior Vice President.**

Provost Smith handed out the 2011-2012 TTUISD catalog, which is available here:  
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/uc/k-12/pdf/K12%20Catalog%202011-12.pdf>

- a. Discussed the origins of the TTUISD.
  - i. Originated from laws that allowed institutions of higher education to serve children of faculty and staff
  - ii. TTUISD founded in 1993
  - iii. Sam Oswald is the executive director and reports directly to the Provost.
- b. TTUISD has partnered with Brazil, the world's 7th largest economy with 180 million people and a 5% economic growth
  - i. In 2000, there were 43 students, 30% of whom dropped out after first semester.
  - ii. From 2001-2008, there were 140 students annually at Anglo Leonardo da Vinci in Brazil.
  - iii. In 2009, authorization was given to expand to new schools
  - iv. By 2011, there were 1,106 students in 18 schools
  - v. By 2012, there will be about 1,500 students in 24 schools in 19 Brazilian cities.

- c. Teachers are native speakers of English, and the curriculum involves student immersion in English language. The school day runs from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a Portuguese-based curriculum for math and science. Class sizes are 20 or fewer, and classrooms feature modern audio-visual equipment.
- d. Students must pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) exam in order to graduate. They average an 85% pass rate, compared with 76% statewide in Texas.
- e. Provost Smith visited in October 2011 and recently gave a commencement address, the text of which was provided to senators.
- f. Provost Smith outline these primary benefits of Texas Tech's involvement with the TTUISD-Brazil partnership:
  - i. Developing leadership
  - ii. Building international understanding
  - iii. Democracy building
  - iv. Future extension of program, possibly to Argentina and Chile.
  - v. Recruitment of TTUISD graduates to Texas Tech Undergraduate programs.
- g. In response to a question from **Senator Lewis Held**, Provost Smith reported that there is no cost to TTU. TTUISD is 100% self-sustaining and employs 49 people and between 80 and 85 certified teachers.
- h. Part-time and supplemental TTUISD curricula are used in 40 other states and 15 other countries. The full-time curricula are used in 33 other states and 8 other countries.
- i. In response to a question from **Senator Lewis Held**, Provost Smith indicated that there is at present no faculty involvement in TTUISD, but he added that they "welcome faculty involvement" and that the new dean of the College of Education is working to integrate faculty into the program.
- j. In response to a question from **Senator Lewis Held** about the recently announced faculty raises, Provost Smith said that it was his edict that the raises be merit-based and that 0% raises be possible for faculty members who are not performing. This edict came from a "covenant" with the Board of Regents that the raises would be genuinely merit-based. Provost Smith also announced that he had an additional fund to supplement those raises to be requested by the dean for strategic retention.
- k. **Provost Smith** indicated that TTUISD does turn a profit and that plans were under way to redirect revenues in excess of costs into scholarships to encourage well qualified TTUISD graduates to attend TTU.
- l. **Senator Marshall Watson** shared that his daughter graduated from TTUISD and that it is a phenomenal school.
- m. **Senator Arnold Loewy** revisited the notion of the mission of TTUISD, adding that the operation involves, A) no cost; B) provides resources; and C) things that give us benefits with no costs."

- n. In addition, **Senator Gad Perry** added that TTUISD and the collaboration with Brazil offered a great research opportunity that fit well with the university's drive toward "Tier One" status.

**V. Reports from University Councils/Committees & Liaisons:**

**Senator Donell Callender** gave a report of the Bookstore Advisory Committee. The report focused on State of Texas House Bill 33, which amends the Education Code. [The bill was signed into law on June 17, 2011, and went into effect Sept. 1, 2011]. Specifically the bill requires each institution of higher education for each course and each term to disseminate a list of required and recommended textbooks that specifies, to the extent practicable, each textbook's retail price, author, published, most recent copyright date, and International Standard Book Number, if any.

Further, House Bill 33 requires textbook publishers that provide information regarding a textbook or supplemental material to a faculty member or other person in charge of selecting course materials at an institution of higher education to provide written information relating to textbook prices, copyright dates for the current and three preceding textbook editions, and substantial revisions made since the most recent preceding edition, and alternative formats available.

**President Daniel Nathan** asked whether this information had to be provided to the Barnes & Noble at Texas Tech. Discussion ensued. **Senator Callender** indicated that Barnes & Noble won the campus bookstore contract in a bidding process. She further indicated that any concerns regarding this or any issue regarding Barnes & Noble at Texas Tech be directed to Shelley Barba, of the Bookstore Advisory Committee, at shelley.barba@ttu.edu. Questions also can be directed to bookstore manager Cole Johnson [store telephone number is (806) 742-3816].

There was discussion on the floor regarding when the information must be disseminated. According to H.B. 33, this information shall be provided, "... as soon as practicable after the institution has compiled the schedule and list but not later than the 30th day before the first day that classes are conducted for the semester or other academic term ... ". House Bill 33 will be posted on the Faculty Senate webpage: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/senate/>

**Senator Laura Heinz** gave a report on the Administrator Survey Committee-The survey was originally scheduled to be available November 1-18. The deadline was extended to December 9 due to the low response rate. Multiple reminders were sent to encourage participation. IRIM will post results in the next 10-12 days to and that link is: <http://techdata.irs.ttu.edu/SurveyonWeb/index1.asp>

Final response rate:

Admin Eval for Chairs-44.90%-Admin Eval for Deans-38.89%

Admin Evals Part 2 13.70%

**VI. Old Business: Tenure & Promotion Update-OP 32.01**

In April 2011, the senate suggested revisions to tenure and promotion OP 32.01 and OP 32.xx (since renamed OP 32.02). After being voted upon by the faculty at large, the OP's were forwarded to the Provost. In early January, the policies were examined by the general council and system staff, who suggested some changes. At the time of the faculty senate meeting, suggestions to 32.01 had been returned to the senate, but 32.02 had not yet been returned. **President Nathan** referred the set of recommended changes to both 32.01 and 32.02 to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee.

**Senator Lewis Held** said that an initial inspection of OP 32.01 indicated that the changes were "benign."

**President Nathan** noted that the Board of Regents would like to vote on the policy this spring.

**Provost Smith** said that **President Guy Bailey** had seen the document as it has evolved. **Provost Smith** added that, "we were all satisfied with it." Referring it back to the Senate, **Provost Smith** said, "We're erring, Senator Held, on the cautious side."

**VII. New Business:**

**Senator Carolyn Tate** inquired whether the university as a whole or the Graduate School was considering implementing university-wide admissions software, especially the online handling of letters of recommendation. **Provost Smith** indicated that this was a high priority for Dean (Peggy Gordon) Miller and that he expected such a system would be implemented in calendar year 2012.

**Senator Aliza Wong** asked about the efficiency of the online hiring system with respect to postponed positions, which can require a manual override to reactive previous applications. **Provost Smith** indicated that Human Resources is working on the issue.

**Senator Gad Perry** noted that data were in from the administrator evaluations and asked what would happen with that data and whether the data will affect merit raises for administrators. **Provost Smith** said that the data will go to appropriate supervisors and would inform merit raises.

**Senator Lewis Held** asked whether the university had begun – or when it would begin – to fill new faculty vacancies rather than fill existing positions. **Provost Smith** indicated that at a recent meeting with the deans, about half of the deans indicated that they already were attempting to fill newly created lines.

**VIII. Announcements: None**

**IX. Adjournment at 4:45pm.**