

**Texas Tech University Faculty Senate  
Meeting # 312, February 8, 2012**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, February 8, 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, Davis, Loudon, Perl, Biglaiser, Borshuk, Durband, Fallwell, Held, Lee, McFadden, Nathan, Surles, Weinberg, Bremer, Boal, Buchheit, Coward, Janisch, Todd, Valle, Bayne, Watson, Wang, Youn, Costica Bradatan, Fowler, Ross, Callender, Monroe, Syma, River, Whitfield, Bradley, Chambers, Chansky, Duffy, Marks, Martin and Tate. Senators excused were: Ajlouni, Cristina Bradatan, Lodhi, Mosher, Rahnema, Rice, Schmidt, Stodden, Wilde, Wong, Awal, Darwish, Collier, Gilliam, Loewy, Heinz, and Wood.

**I. Call to Order:**

**Daniel Nathan, Faculty Senate President**, called the meeting to order at 3:19 PM.

**II. Recognition of Guests:**

**Faculty Senate President Nathan** recognized our guests: From the Provost office: Provost Bob Smith, Gary Elbow, Rob Stewart and Valerie Paton. Other visitors were James Hodgins from HR/Communications & Marketing, Brittany Hoover from the AJ. John Howe, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

**Faculty Senate President Nathan** called for any corrections or changes to the minutes of meeting #311 held on January 18, 2012, minutes were approved.

**IV. Speaker: Dr. Peggy Miller, Dean of the Graduate School.**

The Texas Tech strategic goal is to enroll 10,000 graduate students to support the Tier One.

Major Changes in the Graduate School:

1. Change in the technology that enables the graduate school interactions with faculty and colleges to become paperless.
2. Graduate Faculty Council has passed and you have approved Graduate Faculty status for all tenure track faculty unless they request to be removed or the departments ask them not to serve.
3. Providing competitive financial support for students who hold GA, TA, and RA positions. Beginning this fall, doctoral students who have assistantships will pay only \$600 per semester plus the fee for any elective service they might like.
4. Recognizes the growth in the graduate school numbers and their increasingly international profile and responds to the legal requirements of Homeland Security which will no longer allow a non-accredited English training program for non-English speakers. ELS becomes our exclusive provider on June 25 of this year and has leased a building on Broadway which is being redesigned for classrooms and offices.
5. Re-established the Graduate Student Advisory Council and added a Director of Graduate Student Life.

Other initiatives:

1. Hosting a virtual hub site for the Lonestar Graduate Diversity Colloquium
2. The Graduate School will provide \$3,000 scholarships for those graduate students who have no other summer support and will require enrollment in six credit hours.
3. The Graduate School will move to the east side of the third floor of the Administration Building.

Dr. Peggy Miller responded to questions related to the scholarships and ESL program.

**V. Reports from University Councils/Committees & Liaisons:** No reports

**VI. Old Business:**

**Faculty Senate Vice President Sam Bradley:** House Bill 33 (a link is provided on the Faculty Senate web page). The bill states all textbooks must be posted 30 days prior to the beginning of class with the price, title, author, ISBN, etc. New issues must provide written information regarding the price, the copyright dates, three preceding editions, and all substantive changes since the previous edition.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the bill and the impact on faculty and students.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** Recognized Senator Held to discuss the amendments to OP 32.01 and 32.02.

**Faculty Senator Lewis Held:** There were five amendments, amendments 1-4 were pro forma (grammatical errors, but no substantive changes) and amendment 5 related to the Law School. Recommended by Professor Shannon (Law School) in order to be consistent with OP 32.01 Section 2.g. (3) on tenure (on page 4, paragraph 3), where a similar exclusion is stipulated. **Faculty Senator Lewis Held** moved to accept the amendments. **The motion passed with Faculty Senate's unanimous approval.**

**Faculty Senator Lewis Held:** Asked Faculty Senator Sandy Rivers to review the history of the process.

**Faculty Senator Sandy River:** Study Committee A (was A and not C) was charged in fall, 2009 with writing draft revisions to the tenure OP. We did so breaking off the section on tenure revocation for a separate OP, and the following spring, the Senate voted its approval. The drafts were sent to the Provost Office. The suggestions of the Provost and his staff were returned to the Senate during the summer, first an ad hoc committee and then the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee worked with those suggestions and submitted another draft to the Senate last spring.

**Faculty Senator Lewis Held:** The Board of Trustees turned the policy over to the General Counsel. The GC made 61 edits which make up the new OPs.

Discussion ensued regarding the edits and the impact on colleges and departments.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** The department can have higher standards than the University, not lower standards.

**Faculty Senator Lewis Held:** Current faculty members can choose to be judged under the same tenure and promotion policies in effect as of initial appointment or previous promotion.

**Faculty Senate Vice President Sam Bradley:** Asked if OP32.02 revocation of tenure was being also being discussed.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** Yes, since there were no substantive changes in either OP32.01 or 32.02, there is no need to bring these two OPs back for a vote to the faculty as a whole.

**Faculty Senator James Davis:** Called for the question.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** There being no objections, **Asked for a vote on the policies for OP 32.01 and 32.02 as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.**

**Faculty Senator Lewis Held:** Recognized members of the Faculty Status and Welfare committee; Faculty Senators Carolyn Tate, David Weinberg, Gad Perry, James Davis, Jonathan Marks, Sandy River and former Faculty Senators, John Howe, Richard Meek and Michael Farmer.

#### **VII. New Business:**

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** Announcement of Nomination Committee for Faculty Senate Officers Election: The officers will be Todd Chambers, Carole Janisch and Murkaddes Darwish. Brian McFadden declined to serve due to other commitments.

The Faculty Senate is still seeking nominees from the Honors College for the 2012-2013 Faculty Senate.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** Potential amendment for FS bylaws to include the option of e-balloting. Asked Faculty Senator Marshall Watson to make a formal statement and asked for discussion to follow.

Discuss ensued regarding the potential issues related to e-balloting.

**Faculty Senator Marshall Watson:** Discussed the use in professional organizations and the potential need related to issues needing a quick response. Stated the option was advantageous in some situations.

A few concerns were voiced:

- That this e-balloting would be supported only in extreme, emerging conditions.
- E-balloting would be a good option when this body could not meet.
- Should not be a tool to bring multiple issues to the table via email.
- Problems associated with too frequent emails and the pressure related to quick response.
- This is a deliberative body and needed an e-forum as well for potential votes on e-balloting.

**Faculty Senate Parliamentarian John Howe:** Stated the parliamentary process still had to be followed and also only items approved by the agenda committee (FS officers) could be voted on by the body.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** Asked Senator Watson to prepare an amendment to be presented at the next meeting.

#### **VIII. Announcements:**

**Vice Provost Valerie Paton:** In regard to NRUF, TTU met five of the six qualifications for FY 10 and FY 11.

**Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan:** Asked if there would be still need to be an audit of these reports by the State Coordinating Board.

**Provost Bob Smith:** Stated in a few months there would be, but the data has been accepted and, in any event, we will still meet the standard of compliance of four of six even if one of the five is found to have failed.

#### **IX. Adjournment** a motion moved to adjourn at 4:45pm.