

**Texas Tech University Faculty Senate
Meeting # 314, April 11, 2012**

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building, with **Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan** presiding.

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

I. Call to Order:

Daniel Nathan, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:22 PM.

II. Recognition of Guests:

Faculty Senate President Nathan recognized our guests: From the Provost office: Provost Bob Smith and Rob Stewart. Other visitors were James Hodgins from HR/ Communications & Marketing, Newly elected Faculty Senate for 2012-2013 academic year, Amy Mondt from the Vietnam Center, Huazhong Shi from Chemistry and Biochemistry and Mitzi Lauderdale from PFP in Human Sciences, Chris Taylor from Architecture, John Howe, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian, Brittany Hoover from the AJ. Guest speaker Brian Shannon and AAUP President Richard Meek

III. Approval of Minutes:

Faculty Senate President Nathan called for any corrections or changes to the minutes of meeting #313 held on March 21, 2012, minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. Speaker: Brian Shannon: Faculty Athletic Representative

The President of the NCAA is moving the NCAA forward on several fronts including retooling the bylaws, student welfare issues, and academic reforms. At the NCAA Retreat, President Bailey represented Texas Tech. Some of the changes:

- (1) Two-year transfers: Requirements stepped up beginning for athletes entering two-year schools in August 2012. Student athletes must have a 2.5 GPA and enroll in certain core courses to be eligible to transfer.
- (2) General requirements to be a student athlete will take effect in three years (current ninth graders). The NCAA developed a sliding scale of GPA in core courses and ACT/SAT scores. The previous sloped line included a minimum GPA of 2.0 and 820 (SAT), the new scale has moved to a minimum GPA of 2.5 and 1000 (SAT).
- (3) Academic Progress Ready. This is a numerical formula which has increased to 930 rate over a rolling average. All TTU sports met the rolling average. The penalty for not meeting the rolling average includes ineligibility for bowl games and post season conferences.

Institutional Transfers: The University traditionally gives the Athletics Department \$2.5 million to fund non-revenue and Title IX sports. There were no transfers this year from core academics. Instead \$1 million of the marketing contract with companies such as Coca-Cola was allocated to athletics. The Athletic Department transfers back to the University \$2.959 million in the form of scholarships and housing to TTU.

The fall GPA for 11 of the 17 teams was 2.97 or better, women's golf was 3.73 and football 2.44. The graduation rate is 62%, whereas the overall TTU rate is 63%. If the transfers out are removed the rate is 70%, the highest in the Big 12.

The floor was opened to discussion: Topics included: (1) sovereign immunity in regard to individuals suing the University, (2) student athletic fees being mandatory rather than optional, (3) policy regarding chaplains (the policy is posted on the Athletic Department website).

V. Announcement:

Vice Provost Rob Stewart: OP 32.01 and 32.02 were sent to the General Counsel following the unanimous vote by the Faculty Senate, they will then pass to the Academic Sub-Committee and are on track to be placed on agenda of the May Board of Regent's meeting. There are currently no changes.

VI. Reports from Councils/Committees & Liaisons:

Nominations Committee: Faculty Senate President Nathan ceded the chair to Senator Janish for the election. Senator Janisch presented the slate of officers:

President:	Daniel Nathan
Vice President:	Samuel Bradley
Secretary:	Sandy River
	Carrie Syma

Senators Janisch and Chambers passed out the ballots, collected the ballots, and counted them. The results of the officer election are:

President:	Daniel Nathan
Vice President:	Samuel Bradley
Secretary:	Sandy River

VII. Old Business:

E-Balloting-Faculty Senator Marshall Watson:

Amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws regarding electronic deliberation/discussion and voting. As a point of order the criteria to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws was discussed. There must be a simple majority of the senators meeting quorum at the meeting. In addition, a paper ballot must be completed by the senators, of which a 2/3 majority of the total number of Faculty Senators must vote in the positive.

Senator Watson: Announced the change to the previous amendment which included a move to discuss the amendment. The new amendment is stated below:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

As a member of the FACULTY SENATE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, please vote on the following change to the Bylaws, which is intended to allow for correspondence to be via electronic mail (e-mail) under emergency circumstances where a quick vote is critical. Passage requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Faculty Senate.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment:

The following section will be added to the Bylaws, with the current Section 10 (Adoption and Amendment) becoming Section 11.

“Section 10. Methods of Communication

If a vote of the Faculty Senate is urgently required for an important matter which, in the opinion of the Faculty Senate President, cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting of the senate, then the Faculty Senate President may, with the approval of the Agenda Committee, poll the Faculty Senate by electronic mail (e-mail), including scanned documents or facsimile attachments relevant to the issue in question. Such a vote shall only be taken after the Faculty Senate President provides to all Faculty Senators (1) an explicit justification for the need for requesting an electronic vote, (2) pros and cons of the issue at stake, and (3) an opportunity for e-mail deliberations among Faculty Senators for at least one week prior to the official vote. Given the impossibility of establishing that a virtual quorum exists over a period of time, the e-mail proceedings will be considered to have met the quorum requirement if a majority of the Faculty Senate membership participates in the electronic vote by returning either a vote or an abstention when the vote is called. The resulting vote will be made public by posting the final tally on the Faculty Senate webpage. Minutes summarizing the main points of the email deliberations shall also be prepared and posted by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

Senator Monroe: Second

Discussion ensued regarding the determination of a quorum and the use of email by faculty during the holiday seasons and/or summer vacation.

The proposed amendment passed and will be forwarded via campus mail to all Faculty Senators for an official vote.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements:

Faculty Senate President Nathan: At the May 9th meeting John Kirby of KTTZ will speak.

VI. Adjournment: A motion moved to adjourn at 4:30pm.