The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building, with Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan presiding.

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

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: Gary Elbow, Rob Stewart. Other visitors were Amy Mondt, from Vietnam Archive; Nathaneal Haddox from HR Relationship Management, James Hodgins from HR and Communications Marketing and also in attendance was Past FS President Richard Meek, representing TTU AAUP Chapter, and Professor John Howe as the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

III. Approval of Minutes:
Faculty Senate President Nathan called for any corrections or changes to the minutes of meeting #308 held on October 12, 2011 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

IV. Speaker—Gary Elbow, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs-Core Curriculum, reporting on impending changes in core curricula, state-wide:

By mandate from the State Coordinating Board a new core curriculum must be adopted by November 11, 2013 and implemented by fall 2014. The state mandated curriculum is based on six behavioral objectives (see “Core Objectives” below). The new curriculum has a floor of 42 student credit hours and a ceiling of 42 hours as well, while TTU has 47 hours presently in its core. Tech will definitely be eliminating the Technology/Applied Science requirement from its core. No senior level courses will be allowed to satisfy the new core, and the junior level courses probably will not be accepted either. There will be a limit to the number of courses from any one discipline to satisfy a particular core area. In the state’s core there is a focus on the following:

- Emphasis on freshman/sophomore level courses, upper-level courses discouraged or disallowed
- Core will be more focused
  - Integrated courses
  - Courses developed as core courses
  - General rather than focused on narrow topics
  - Accessible to all students, not for majors only
  - Emphasize life skills and knowledge

There are nine identified core areas:
A. Communication (6 SCH)
B. Mathematics (3 SCH)
C. Life and Physical Sciences (6 SCH)
D. Language, Philosophy, and Culture (3 SCH)
E. Creative Arts (3 SCH)
F. American History (6 SCH)
G. Government/Political Science (6 SCH)
H. Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 SCH)
I. Component Area Option (6 SCH)

Core Objectives:

A) Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

B) Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

C) Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

D) Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

E) Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

F) Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Associate Vice Provost Elbow responded to questions from the floor, and Faculty Senate President Nathan thanked Gary Elbow for his report.

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

Faculty Senate President Daniel Nathan had some additional information on KTXT-FM issue since the last Senate meeting: He met with Clint Barrick, Unit Supervisor for KOHM and KTXT radio stations. Mr Barrick clarified that KTXT was not actively requesting to broadcast Faculty Senate meetings so much as offering the opportunity for such live broadcasts. When the offer was made KTXT-FM had some available air time that they were seeking to fill with University related programming. There is little pressure to do so now and, given the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Senate to seek live broadcast of our meetings, President Nathan suggested the issue be dropped for the time being, but invited senators to raise it again at some future date.

VI. Old Business- Faculty Senate Academic Programs Committee-Senator Stodden reporting.

Senator Stodden reported that a meeting with the FS Academic Programs Committee and the Academic Council, about the academic calendar, will be held within the week.
After a brief discussion on the academic calendar and what option the Faculty Senate preferred, a motion was made.

Parliamentarian John Howe stated a motion could not be made at this time since it was not advertised on the agenda, but a straw poll could convey the Faculty Senate’s sentiments.

**Straw Poll:** Senator Tate offered the motion that it is the sentiment of the Faculty Senate to move the Carol of Lights to one week earlier so as not to interfere with the regular scheduling of final exams. The informal motion was seconded by Senator Held. The motion passed. Senator Stodden and FS Vice President Sam Bradley agreed to convey the sentiment expressed in the motion to the calendar committee at tomorrow’s Academic Council meeting.

Faculty Status & Welfare Committee-Senator Held reporting on the Graduate Council Resolution that was discussed at the October FS meeting.

Senator Held expressed the concern that the FS&W Committee members had that Rule #4 of the proposed guidelines for graduate faculty places power to suspend Graduate Faculty status directly in the hands of the chair or deans. The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee proposed the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**

The intent of the proposal as a whole, as expressed in the "Issues" Section of the Minutes* from the 9/1/11 meeting of the Graduate Council, is to shift the burden of decision-making to "colleagues [who] are best prepared to evaluate the candidates’ contributions to graduate education, research/creative activity and service," and

**WHEREAS**

Point #4 of the proposal** undermines this intent insofar as it transfers decision-making power from a candidate’s peers (i.e. members of the Graduate Faculty within his/her unit), to a candidate's administrative superiors (i.e. his/her chair or dean),

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee of the Faculty Senate urges the Graduate Council to reword Point #4 to conform with the proposal's intent and with due process rights as follows:

1. Any request must first be voted on by members of the candidate's unit who are on the Graduate Faculty (i.e. his/her peers).
2. Any request for suspension must be presented with evidence of just cause, with the burden of proof on the chair or dean.
3. The candidate must be informed of the vote and allowed to provide a rebuttal (in writing or in person) before any decision.
* "The Faculty Committee is comprised of five Graduate Council members. These members represent only a small portion of the disciplines of TTU Faculty. They are not qualified to evaluate the quality of faculty scholarly production in many fields of study outside of their area of specialization. ... The most careful scrutiny of a candidate’s scholarship occurs at the department and/or college level where colleagues are best prepared to evaluate the candidates’ contributions to graduate education, research/creative activity and service."

** "4. That a department chairperson or dean may request that a faculty member or members may be placed in indefinite suspension from the Graduate Faculty. Such requests will be reviewed by the Academic Program Committee or a subcommittee thereof. The suspension will remain in effect until such time as the dean or department chair requests that the faculty member be reinstated as a member of the Graduate Faculty."

After a brief discussion, Faculty Senate President Nathan called the question, and the resolution passed

VII. New Business: Michael Farmer-report from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.
The Texas Council of Faculty Senates is a federation of faculty senates, councils and assemblies at Texas public senior colleges and universities. An independent organization, the Council meets twice annually in Austin to share faculty governance experiences and problems and to exchange ideas on higher education with members, agents of state government, and others. All faculty governance organizations at state senior colleges and universities are members of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.
TCFS is an organization that has been around in the state for about 37 years. It is made up of officers from different institutions across the state that are made up of Senate officers and organized by regions.

Institutions Round Up reports are on the table by the door. Common themes in these reports were:

- Faculty Evaluation of Administrators
- How to handle & respond to Tenure & Promotion questions
- How to handle frozen positions
- What is the role of faculty in the budgeting process?
- What is the role of your faculty in hiring administrators?

Dr. Farmer was surprised to find out that Texas Tech has the lowest representation of faculty in Dean’s searches in the state this year.

TCFS had an over view of the Legislative session. There were a lot of new legislators this session. And the projection is that we will have about 40 percent either first or second session legislators, which has drawn concern.
Another meeting of the Texas Councils of Faculty would be in the Spring 2012, in Austin.

VIII. Announcements: None
IX. Adjournment at 4:35PM.