

ITTU Faculty Senate Minutes
Senate Room in the SUB Matador Room
January 14, 2015
Meeting #338

Senators present were: Senators present were: Cox, Farmer, Buelinckx, Canas, Cargile Cook, Carter, Elbow, Grair, Held, Juan, Milam, Morgan, Morales, Nite, Shi, Arnett, Ritchey, Koricich, Patrick, Richman, Colette Taylor, Bayne, Dallas, Ghebrab, Morse, Caswell, Blum, Gilliam, Spallholz, Cochran, James, Metze, Becker, Cassidy, Hidalgo, Ortiz, Peaslee, Donahue, Meek, McKoin, Ankrum and Tate. Senators excused were: Brashears, Chris Taylor, Pongratz, Batra, Hawkins, Hom, Qualin, Rahamamoghadam, Ramkumar, Skidmore, Smith, Surliuga, Swingen, Matis, Soliman, McGinley, Yuan, Heinz, Weiner, Brookes and Lastrapes.

I. **Call to Order** at 3:18 p.m. – Dr. Michael Farmer, Faculty Senate President (FSP)

II. **Approval of minutes**, Meeting #337, December 10, 2014. Move to accept: Gilliam, Seconded Collette Taylor. Unanimously approved.

III. **Recognition of Guests:**

Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, University Provost; Dr. Rob Stewart, Senior Vice Provost (SVP). Dr. Diane Warner, President of AAUP

III. **Speaker:** Dr. Mark Sheridan Vice Provost for Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs & Dean of the Graduate School.

Since 2008, TTU grad school enrollment increased 26% compared to a nationwide graduate enrollment increase of 5%. Nevertheless, increasing the size of programs and the quality of students allows competition for graduate fellowships, top faculty hires, increased R&D funding, and an expanded economy.

Strategy: Grow with purpose. Aim to be known for academic excellence, professional success of graduates, an expanding global outlook, and increasing diversity and inclusiveness vis-à-vis students and faculty. We have made progress in most of these areas.

Initiatives: 1) generate comprehensive enrollment management plan; 2) offer more competitive packages for students; 3) offer more dissertation completion fellowships; 4) offer Presidential fellowship program for the best students; 5) develop new programs, including accelerated BA+MA programs; 6) enhance the Graduate Center, to include a writing center, career services, financial consulting, and concierge service for international students; 7) make a more effective procedure for application processing and degree monitoring; 8) increase the number of post-docs and provide appropriate training policies.

Discussion:

Senator Baker: Will you open a new Grad Center?

Dean Sheridan: It's open now, in basement of West Wing of Admin building, Open 24/7 with key pass. Includes social, career, professional development events. Nearly 70% of PhD grads are going into fields other than academics. Will be tracking the careers of alums.

Senator Held: Is a statement I've heard correct? Do you intend to de-emphasize MA and emphasize PhD education, and have undergrads assisting with labs? We need a large Masters' population to cover labs.

Sheridan: No, a premier research University needs to enhance PhD programs. AAU universities have proportionally more PhDs than we do.

Senator Richman: I suggest adding data paths for undergrads and faculty to the chart you presented, "Graduate Education Fuels TTU R & D Enterprise." Are we keeping up with new graduate faculty hires as graduate enrollment increases?

Provost Schovanec: This depends on how you count it. Our current ratio is 23:1 according to TX Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Richman: Are specific dollars earmarked to research assistantships? It's hard to recruit without knowing how many RA, GA lines to expect each year.

Sheridan: We realize that this has been a problem.

Schovanec: We have put more dollars in graduate student funding. Last year we allocated a \$2M increase. This was in response to the Deans' requests for graduate support, infrastructure, and faculty lines. We took graduate tuition money and distributed it to colleges according to their graduate student population. Beyond that, the Deans and Chairs must make decisions about how to use this money.

Sheridan: Hopes that the monies that were given to colleges would be used to support graduate assistantships.

FSP Farmer: Communication will be essential to coordinate these efforts in the colleges.

Sheridan: We don't just process papers anymore, but we do coordinate a lot of efforts.

Senator Spallholz: Do you track faculty publications?

Sheridan: We try to track scholarly productivity, National Research Council Study on Graduate Programs may rank 30 of our programs. We want to move our programs up a quartile.

V. Old Business: Review of Committees & Liaison Reports

Grievance Policy update - Ad Hoc Committee,

Senator Held: Our revisions are still in the hands of the Provost's and President's office.

SVP Stewart: They are under review.

Tenured Women Leaving Tech-update, FS President Michael Farmer

Some surveys are completed.

Senator Ankrum: It's difficult to get contact info, but Cassidy says he will help.

FSP Farmer wants to link this into Juan Munoz' diversity profile.

Graduate Council update, Senator Morse

- Last year was a record for PhD graduations.
- Reviewing proposal for MS in Chemical Biology
- No update on SACS moratorium on accelerated BA+MA programs.

Discussion:

Senator Held: Is it true that only one graduate school staff member is reviewing the format of dissertations?

Senator Collette Taylor: There's a bottleneck for doctoral students getting IRBs back on time so they can graduate.

Senator ? says they are four months out.

Senator Patrick says we need to know this; this has just impacted several doctoral students in my department, who won't graduate this semester for lack of the IRB.

FSP Farmer suggests we ask liaisons to send monthly reports on the processes of applying for research permits and funding, IRB, IACUC, safety, animal care and use, all of which are administered through the VPR.

Held: This is not an issue of communication but functionality. We need to spotlight how dysfunctional this process is.

Senator Richman: I had to wait six weeks for feedback on what was supposed to be a one-day turnaround. I made the changes and had to continue waiting.

Provost: We pay the salaries of those offices.

Taylor: If we are trying to increase grad enrollment, we need to have a functional staff in IRB. This needs to be corrected now. People are leaving.

Senator Spallholz supported Senator Taylor and gave examples.

Farmer: We did a survey and learned that faculty says they are just not applying for grants because of the backlog and overwhelming paperwork.

Spallholz: The IRB tries to alter the projects instead of just approving projects where no one will be harmed. It should be faculty-driven.

Farmer: IACUC is better now. The Senate needs volunteers for a research committee that involves non-faculty as well as faculty, to look at research services. I will talk to Alice Young this week.

Held: Asked the Provost how we can fix this quickly.

Provost Schovanec: Asked Farmer to convey this concern to President Nellis and stated he would also discuss it.

Farmer: I will speak with Dr. Duncan next week. When these offices are faculty-led and driven they seem to work better. If we have senior members who can function as faculty reviewers, please volunteer to help out IRB immediately.

Child Care Center update, FS VP Richard Meek

At their December 17 meeting, HSC and TTU representatives determined that there was enough financial assistance to have 24/7 child care for staff, faculty, and graduate students without asking Covenant Hospital for funding. HSC thinks it is so important that they will consider underwriting a facility. In the interim, we might be able to start a cooperative child care facility. The committee is waiting for the completion surveys that should help them assess the needs, and its report should be done in March. FS President Farmer is concerned that the report cover needs, especially for graduate students who have limited funds, not just finances

Funded Research Group update, FS President Farmer

OP 74.02 will be coming to Faculty Status and Welfare Committee. It should provide a TTU policy based on Regent's Rule 10, Intellectual Property Rights.

Issues include 1) Ownership of lectures for distance education. We want to make sure these rights are held by faculty, in accordance with recent laws. 2) Exceptional resources—Political Science has 1800 students a year in certain courses. If faculty are putting in exceptional effort, how can pay reflect that? A suggestion has been made that the University pay a faculty member one month's salary for each year of rights to use faculty-generated material.

Our OP on Intellectual Property Rights will be the model for others in the system.

The OP will have to be approved by Provost, President, and Faculty Status and Welfare committee

The ad hoc committee on Funded Research has three overworked members. Farmer asks for additional Faculty Senate volunteers as well as feedback from Senators on the flow of research in SPAR after post-funding. IRB, contracting. There is not a lot of work on this, but sporadic need. Right now, due to new personnel, it is likely that our voice will make a difference. It is important that the Faculty Senate inform the administration about the problems in the process.

Benefits communication, FS President Farmer

Is there anyone interested in working with HR to have input about benefits, particularly health insurance?

VI. New Business:

Resolution to nominate Timothy Cole for an honorary degree.

The nomination was drafted by Senators Elbow, Peaslee, Meek, and Tate, with ex-officio members Wong and Farmer. While we suggested that the award be an honorary doctorate of Laws and Social Justice, University officials prefer that Faculty Senate not specify which degree so that this can be discussed with the family. Plans are to award the degree at a private ceremony and announce it at Commencement in May 2015. Once a nomination is received, the President forms a committee to decide on how to implement the nomination.

We are voting on a resolution to send a nomination to the President for his deliberation.

TIMOTHY COLE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Mr. Timothy Cole, a student who had been enrolled in Texas Tech University, was wrongfully convicted of rape and served 13 years in prison before he died;

WHEREAS Mr. Cole exemplifies the lines from the TTU fight song, "Strive for honor evermore" because he refused to plead guilty to a crime he did not commit to become eligible for consideration for parole;

WHEREAS Timothy Cole's progress toward a degree from Texas Tech University was ended by his wrongful conviction;

WHEREAS Mr. Cole's tragic history led to the passage of the Timothy Cole Act in the Texas legislature, which provides for financial compensation, personal and family counseling, and waiver of college tuition for prisoners who have been exonerated of the crimes for which they were convicted;

WHEREAS Mr. Cole never lost faith in the justice system nor exhibited open resentment at his wrongful conviction and incarceration,

WHEREAS even from prison Mr. Cole encouraged his family members to pursue their education at Texas Tech University, and

WHEREAS Timothy Cole's life presents an example for Texas Tech University students of honor and courage in the face of insurmountable odds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate calls upon the university administration to recognize Mr. Cole's impact on the university, Lubbock community, and the State of Texas by awarding him a posthumous degree of Doctor of Law and Social Justice *honoris causa* at the May 2015 commencement in recognition of his adherence to principle in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Motion to accept, Senator Peaslee; seconded, Senator McKoin
Vote in favor of resolution: unanimous.

Faculty Summer Workload Compensation, Senator Shane Blum

Different colleges handle compensation for faculty who work with graduate students on theses and dissertations during summer differently. The ad hoc committee recommended that faculty be paid for the theses and dissertations they handle during summer. Questions: What constitutes getting paid? How much work are faculty members actually doing? If you have total of 9 hours of student credit hours, you should get paid for a full summer course. If less SCH, proportional payment.

Discussion:

FS President Farmer: We need to get past the formula and figure out a way to implement a policy. Of course we must determine how to make a distinction between those who are really doing work, and those who are simply having students register. The colleges of VPA and Education might be good test cases.

Provost Schovanec: We have not given adequate attention to the matter. We are already planning summer 2015 now so we can plan for next year.

VII. Adjournment.

Moved by Senator Ankrum, seconded by Senator Collette Taylor.
President Farmer adjourned the meeting at 4:28 pm.