

**TTU Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Senate Room in the SUB Matador Room**  
**March 11, 2015, # 340**

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

**I. Call to Order** at 3:17 p.m. – Dr. Michael Farmer, Faculty Senate President (FSP)

**II. Approval of minutes, Meeting # 339, February 11, 2015.**

Senator Held suggested corrections to the minutes. Senator Ramkumar, Seconded Senator Gilliam. Unanimously approved.

**III. Speaker: 3:25pm to 3:35pm Catherine Parsoneault, PhD, Associate Vice Provost, SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison**

- The SACSCOC on-site visit happened Feb 24 – 26, and went well. The team was unable to physically visit the Junction campus due to snow but did accomplish a visit via Skype
- To be reaffirmed on schedule, we must have no concerns on our first set of standards (core requirements). We anticipate that all issues with core requirements are resolved. So we think we will be on schedule.
- We do think there will be recommendations for improvement vis-à-vis the Comprehensive Standards.
- These include separating the Institutional from System-wide fundraising activities and three standards concerning institutional effectiveness. We have already taken steps to remedy these concerns and will prepare six responses for SACSCOC's December 2015 consideration.
- On Tuesday March 17, 2015, the reaffirmation will advance to the SACSCOC Collegiate Delegate Assembly.
- Institutional effectiveness is the systematic, explicit, and documented process of measuring performance against mission in all aspects of the institution. We need to be more intentional in communicating how well we are doing and how.
- Darryl James will now head up the initiative for institutional effectiveness. He will be working with Parsoneault and Jennifer Hughes to gather input about how the Provost's office can help faculty and staff to achieve this goal.

*Discussion.*

Provost Schovanec congratulated Catherine and Jennifer for the excellent effort they demonstrated and reported that the SACS team said it was the most effective they had encountered.

The institution recognizes that the use of TracDat, which is difficult and not friendly, has created some issues. We are looking to modify how it maps the relationship between what programs and their relevant goals.

He also thanked the faculty, saying that many were involved in writing the 96 narratives. He thinks that the QEP was fabulous and meaningful, and this was derived from faculty input.

**IV. Old Business: Review of Committees & Liaison Reports**

***OP 32.05 Faculty Grievance Procedure-Revised OP.***

Senator Lewis Held, chair Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, advised that the standing committee moves to accept the procedure as revised.

*Discussion:*

Senator Richman: Did the new ombudsperson review this OP?

Held: The OP that regulates the Ombudsperson specifically prohibits her from framing the OP on Grievance Procedures, because the Ombuds is a neutral party.

Seconded: Ramkumar. Passed unanimously.

**Guns on Campus – Resolution.** FSP Michael Farmer provided the text of a resolution that was approved by the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) at its Spring 2015 meeting. It addresses the fact that for the third time, a bill that would not allow local control of a policy on carrying licensed concealed weapons at State colleges and universities has been introduced to TX legislature. The bill is called “Campus Personal Protection Act.” Farmer reported that our Chancellor takes a neutral stance, saying that we will live with the bill if it passes. He proposes that we ratify the TCFS resolution. If we do, we are not saying we don’t want guns on campus. We are saying we want to retain local control over the issue.

*Discussion:*

FSP Farmer: Reporting of crimes on campus has been improved due to the Clary Act. The table I provided compares the crime reports of campus crime to the crime reports from general population. Public Universities have lower crime rates than private universities. For every time murder or violent crime occurs on a campus, it occurs 40 – 45 times in the US in general. Why then change the State regulations, which provide, in Texas, for local control? Unfortunately, rape statistics are not on this table. Rapes of people between 15 – 25 account for 40% of all rapes recorded in US. This is the campus population.

Senator Tate: Current law in Texas allows Universities to retain local control of the handgun issue. However, we have no published local policy at Texas Tech.

Moved to approve: Farmer. Second. Ortiz. Unanimously supported.

**Nomination Committee -- Update.** Faculty Senate Vice President Richard Meek.

Candidates will make 40-second statements before the elections in April.

Candidates for President: Michael Farmer, Laura Heinz

Candidates for Vice President: Ron Milam, David Richman, Seshadri Ramkumar

Candidates for Secretary: Quinn Ankrum, Carolyn Tate

**Child Care Facility – Update.** Faculty Senate Vice President Richard Meek.

The Demand Study is still in process.

A faculty member will volunteer to coordinate a co-op for child care until such time as we have a child care center.

**Student Retention Committee -- Report.** FSP Michael Farmer.

Farmer thinks the policy on Student Retention that the University generates will be good, but that the Senate will have to consider how it will impact the faculty. The Committee is considering new methods for taking attendance, especially in large freshman classes. They note that Mid-term grades and absences need to be easier to report.

*Discussion:*

Senator Held: I teach freshman classes of 200 – 300 students and have no TA. I won’t require students to buy clickers in order to report their attendance. Furthermore, the *Faculty Handbook* explicitly gives faculty the right to decide an attendance policy.

Senator Solomon: It is important to take attendance but it should not be tied to grades.

Senator Heinz: I’m on the Assessment and Accountability Committee. We are tracking attendance-taking requirements and want to make recommendations on how to track attendance across campus. We want to look at other institutions and come up with best practices. We should

be aware of two terms relative to continuing students. "Persistence" refers to students continuing Fall to Spring. "Retention" refers to Fall to Fall.

Senator Ortiz: How is attendance tracked with retention?

Senator Heinz: Can we identify an order of courses that doesn't allow students to be successful? What are success factors of first year experience?

Senator Morse: Electronic attendance methods seem to be easily subverted.

Senator Dallas: Banner has a manual tracking system. You have to input the data, which takes a few minutes for 40 students. Is this information accessible to other interests on campus?

FSP Farmer: No, because this would violate FERPA regulations.

Senator Held: Asks that the recommendations of the task force on assessment and accountability come to the Faculty Senate so that it can be discussed among faculty with a diversity of opinions. We are serving two masters. One is the AAU-like institution. The other is making sure we document everything so that we are like a glorified high school.

Senator Rahamamoghadam: I have the same concern as Dr Held.

Provost Schovanec: When this retention initiative was announced, taking attendance was never discussed. Perhaps the committee has arrived at taking attendance as a possible factor.

However, please don't think of the Provost's office as the instigator of this "taking attendance" issue. Also, when you talk about being AAU-type institution, it is not about faculty only, it is also about graduation and retention rates. We've been at about 56% for about ten years.

FSP Farmer: We see that there are lots of technical issues and also faculty-prerogative issues involved in requiring attendance so I doubt that it will be mandatory.

#### ***Student Conduct Committee -- Report.*** Senator Trisha Patrick.

There have been some changes to the policy:

- 1) When students are off-campus on University business, they have to follow student code of conduct.
- 2) Students will not be allowed to smoke e-cigarettes in buildings.
- 3) If a faculty member has to remove a student from a class, there must be another section for the student to take. It may not be exactly the same course. This has not been resolved, because we see these problems.
- 4) A student may object to the membership of a grievance committee formulated to hear cases of that student's conduct, if there is a legitimate reason for such objection.

#### ***Discussion***

Senator Collette Taylor: That committee is writing policy to cover the practices they already do.

Senator Morse: What if there is only one section of a certain class? There is no policy for removing students due to misconduct?

Senator Taylor: if students are deemed violent within the parameters of a course, we are trying to make arrangements for the student to take the course outside a classroom.

Senator Patrick will report to Faculty Senate on the final report of the committee.

FSP Farmer to Provost Schovanec: The FS does not get to weigh in on this report. If we don't like the student conduct committee's final recommendations, what should we do?

Provost Schovanec: You should bring the issue to the Provost's office.

Senator Cargile-Cook: If a faculty member thinks a student is dangerous or disruptive, that person should contact the behavioral intervention team (BIT), for help with determining how to manage students before problems get severe.

Senator Taylor: Contact Amy Murphy or Cynthia Chapman.

## **V. New Business:**

### ***Texas Council of Faculty Senates in Austin -- Report.*** FSP Farmer.

We had a session on academic bullying and an update on legislative matters. It looks like there will be money for funding buildings, renovations, Hawthorne Act, etc.

Guns on Campus was also discussed. One State representative, a Republican, had ideas about how we can retain local control. People who care about economic development also care about how their university performs.

**Request to create two task forces in Faculty Senate.** FSP Farmer.  
These would not be decision-making but “recommending” bodies:

*1) Task Force on Funded Research.*

For concerns about contracting, SBIR grants, and post-award administration. The Task Force should include senior faculty with funded research as well as deans and chairs. A related issue is the IRB Task Force—an initial report indicates that we are seriously understaffed in IRB. The final report is expected at the March meeting.

*2) Task Force on Appointment, Evaluation and Mentoring*

There are concerns about how colleges make appointments, especially those outside the traditional range of assistant, associate, professor. We want to inquire about appointments such as “Professor of Practice.” Questions might include the following: Is this an appropriate title for your actual duties? How are you evaluated? Are you involved in faculty governance, are you given the support to do your jobs well, have you devised effective research strategies?

*Discussion*

Provost Schovanec: This is necessary.

**VI. Announcements:**

***Grad Council report.*** Senator Morse.

Dean Sheridan has asked for feedback on a policy change. Right now, the grade of “I,” when assigned to a graduate student’s performance, stays forever. Dean Sheridan proposes to change the Graduate “I” policy to be in line with undergrad “I” policy, which is that after one year, if the student does not complete the requirements, and if the faculty does not replace the grade of I with another grade, the grade rolls over to an F. The intention is that faculty could request an extension.

*Discussion*

Senator Carter: Would old I’s be grandfathered?

Senator Morse: Not sure; although grades for those who have completed their degrees would not be altered. If student is enrolled, maybe.

The registrar would notify the student that if they do nothing, the grade will roll to an F after a certain date.

Senator Ramkumar: Do policy changes from Grad Council need to be approved by the Faculty Senate?

FSP Farmer: No, unless we are changing an OP that affects Faculty, there is no requirement that the Faculty Senate approve any changes in policy. We are asking liaisons like Senator Morse to report on actions occurring in other committees and councils so we can have feedback through other channels.

Senator Shi: Research Advisory Council activities will be reported at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

**VII. Adjournment.**

Move to adjourn: Ramkumar. Seconded: Brooks  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.