

Faculty Senate Minutes
Senate Room in the SUB Matador Room
October 8, 2014
Meeting #335

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

- I. **Call to Order** at 3:16 p.m. – Dr. Michael Farmer, Faculty Senate President
- II. **Recognition of guests:** Provost Lawrence Schovanec and Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart; Dr. Ralph Ferguson-Ethics Center; Brenda Bullard-Director from Operations Div. Engineering Services; Mike Henry-Assistant Director from Student Resolution Center; Ben Montecillo from Staff Senate, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian Allison Whitney.
- III. **Approval of September minutes:** Motion: Ramkumar, Second: Ankrum. Approved.

IV. Speakers.

Brenda Bullard, Operations Division Engineering Services Director.

Her division includes grounds maintenance, building maintenance and renovation, Lock Shop, sign shop, business administrative services, Mail Tech, Utility billing and cost forecasting. Also marketing, construction zone alerts, construction and renovation estimates, asbestos compliance office, green plant maintenance service, facilities audit, space planning, transportation for students, emergency maintenance (24/7) and more! A new sustainability committee is in the works. They have a new website www.depts.ttu.edu/operations. See also Facebook and Twitter accounts. *Discussion:* Senator Ankrum relayed some difficulties with van rental via the website. Ms. Bullard said she appreciates feedback on how the website is working, particularly for things like van rental. Comment: Senator Held offers his thanks for the lift in employee morale since the new administrative team took over.

Dr. Ralph Ferguson, Director for TTU Ethics Center.

Dr. Ferguson's goals for the Ethics Center include responding to student desire that the Ethics Center capture more of their activities, and getting more involved with faculty via forums, discussions and interviews. A day-long discussion, collaboration with the Carnegie Council, was held October 16. He has teams who speak with student organizations about ethics at their meetings, and who work with faculty to integrate ethical examples into their professional development.

Discussion: Senator Held asks, in response to recent fraternity-related ethical problems, what the Ethics Center can do to acquaint freshmen with the idea that “no” means “no”?
RF: We hope to change conduct by promoting dialog. We are already involved in Raider camps for freshmen and sophomores. We all have to accentuate the issues of personal accountability and respect. Dialog with both male and female students.
Senator Ramkumar asked about how to promote knowledge of ethical practices in academic writing.
RF: We are conducting workshops on paraphrasing and proper use of sources.

Michael Henry, Student Resolution Center, an extension of Dean of Students Office. Investigates and adjudicates all Title IX issues—gender-based discrimination, expanded to include all forms of sexual harassment. Also teams up with EEO to investigate faculty complaints. Under Title IX, *any* agent of the institution is a “responsible employee,” including, for example, maintenance workers. If a student reports any sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination to a faculty member, the faculty member must report the incident to the Dean of Students, even if the student requests that the faculty member not tell anyone. The “responsible employee” must tell the student that they have to inform the Dean of Students, but the employee does not have to reveal the name or identity of the student, just the event. Tell the student that the administration wants to help them resolve the issue by informing them of options and resources available to them. The report can be via email and faculty obligation stops at relaying the incident to the Dean of Students.
The Dean of Students won’t necessarily make students initiate a report.

Please see the website <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/sexualviolence/>—there’s a faculty and staff page that informs faculty about what to advise students in terms of resources, remedies, and options.

Discussion:

Senator Held: Would it help to have a hotline for 24/7 contact?

MH: We have a good working relationship with Voice of Hope. But we might institute a hotline.

Senator Spallholz: Asks about the number of cases the office handles.

MH: 1 of 4 women is assaulted during college in US; we have nowhere near that many *reports*. In past year, 15 – 20 sexual misconduct cases.

Senator Ankrum: Do you handle same sex abuse? MH: Yes.

Senator Ramkumar: Faculty are concerned that voluntary service on student hearing committees puts us in a potentially fraught situation.

MH: It is an institutional process. So no reference is made to individual committee members; you aren’t expected to have expertise but to render a decision based on University policy.

Senator Dallas gave an example of an incident. He told the student of resources available and gave that person 48 hours to decide whether Dallas or the student should make the report.

Senator Stephen Morse gave an update on recent activity in Graduate Council. It is setting forth guidelines for new 150-hour Master's degrees (combined with Baccalaureate). It is also revising OP 64.10 Graduate Faculty to eliminate inconsistencies with other OP: 32.34 and OP 10.10. It is discussing changes to the requirements and privileges of graduate faculty, including retired, tenure track, and outside experts who serve on graduate committees.

V. Old Business

1. Senator Todd Brashears went over the Administrators Evaluation Survey content and process. A link on the Faculty Senate website contains the results of the past year. He wants to dispel the notion that it is possible to determine the identity of the respondents to the survey. Responses are not broken down by rank. Only 3 persons have access to the data. Senate President Farmer reminds faculty that a higher response rate means safety in numbers and we should encourage all faculty to complete the evaluation.

As to how the results are used, the surveys are conducted in November so that results are available to the Provost as he evaluates Deans in January. Similarly, Deans can use results as part of their evaluation of department heads.

Discussion:

Senator Richman voiced concern that there are incidents that certain deans have directed college IT persons to get names on "anonymous" polls.

TB: Not on this one run by Faculty Senate. He realizes that faculty can get nervous and avoid participation, but those three persons who have access to data are not answerable to the academic deans.

Senator Held asked Provost Schovanec how bad the evaluation of a Dean has to be before a situation is actionable.

The Provost responded that he looks at situations in context but that these evaluations can guide discussions.

In response to additional discussion, FS President Farmer stated that he will instruct the committee to administer the survey in November, to add associate deans this year and to add a N/A or "insufficient evidence" choice among the responses.

2. FS President Farmer updated the Senate about the Survey of Tenured Women Leaving Tech since 2008. Basically, he seeks additional members for the ad hoc committee that will call those who left. A list of names is forthcoming from the Provost's office. He made the point that gathering relevant data is an important function of the Senate and a way that it can assist the administration in improving the quality of faculty life.

3. FS President Farmer updated the Senate on the Ombuds Search. There were 14 applications, all distinguished. At the present the list has been narrowed to five and by Monday the committee's aim is to have a list of three finalists who will be interviewed by the search committee, the Provost, and President. Once appointed, the Ombuds will attend Deans Council so that s/he will be familiar with those individuals.

Discussion:

Senator Spallholz asked if the FS can meet the candidates.

MF: Unfortunately, we don't think it will be possible this time. We want to have someone in place soon, so that the person can take advantage of training programs in November and December. Furthermore, because the job will be created largely by the first Ombuds, there is really no context to which to compare the candidates. If there are serious objections, however, contact Farmer.

4. Revised Student Evaluation of Courses and Faculty Form.

The new form has only three questions. Chairs still need to know that there will be a new form this fall. So do faculty! With fewer questions, scores will probably be lower. Of course this should be factored in to the Annual Evaluations of faculty.

Discussion:

Senator Ankrum: In her department the comments aren't typed but scanned.

Senator Elbow: This is a problem with the department policy.

Senator Surliuga: Suggests that the request for comments should ask for teaching issues.

Senator Elbow: There won't be paper copies in the future. All evaluations will be online. This will eliminate handwritten comments -- and may reduce response rate.

5. Report on OP Revisions by the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, Senator Held, chair.

OP 32.06 Faculty Responsibility.

OP 74.02 Conduct of Research and Scholarly Activity

Senator Held stated that the FS&WC has reviewed the changes to these two OPs that were submitted by the TTU Administration (and sent to senators prior to this meeting). The FS&WC moves that the Senate approve these revisions, pending (1) the submission by the TTU Administration of all documents that are currently only earmarked as web links in these OPs and (2) the formal approval of such ancillary documents by the committee.

After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously. This motion (to conditionally approve the revisions to these two OPs) did not require a second because it was coming from a committee.

VII. New Business

1. Fall 2015 schedule. A proposed December 5 date for a football game poses problems for Fall schedule.

Senior Vice Provost Stewart stated that the Associate Deans devised the following plan: Start Classes on Friday August 21, last day of classes December 1, no classes

December 2, Final exams Dec 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, grading day Dec. 10, Commencement 11, 12. Other models were more problematic. One problem with this one is that the last day of Intercession is August 21. He also noted that those involved with the game will be distracted from final exams. He said that the Athletics Division is willing to be flexible.

2. FS President Farmer reports that we should consider revisions sent from Chancellor's Office attorney Huffaker on Regent's Rule 10 on Intellectual property. The Regents' Rules govern the TTU system. This rule stipulates that 30% of all profits above certain thresholds go to the Office of Commercialization, currently located in the Chancellor's office.

Discussion:

Senator Soliman: This [retaining in the Chancellor's Office the control of 30% of profits above a specified threshold] is not being done in any other university. It will kill innovation; no one will want to apply for a patent. It should be in office of VP Research.

Provost: Discussion is occurring about relocating the Office of Commercialization out of the Chancellor's Office, and moving it to the University.

FS President Farmer: Related to this, what is our copyright protection in online classes? Faculty has copyright. University has use rights.

VIII. Announcements: Faculty Conversations with Michael San Francisco
Flyer at the door
Open Teaching Concept-flyer at the door

IX. Adjournment. Motion: Ankrum, Second: Hawkins.

The Senate was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.