

**TTU Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Senate Room in the SUB Matador Room**  
**September 9, 2015, # 343**

**Senators present were:** Cox, Farmer, Sharma, Buelinckx, Zugay, Brittan, Canas, Calkins, Cargile Cook, Carter, Grair, Held, Hom, Kaye, Mayer, McChesney, Milam, Morgan, Morales, Nite, Nokken, Qualin, Ramkumar, Skidmore, Surluga, Wilde, Arnett, Dass, Fleischman, Ritchey, Siwatu, Bayne, Dallas, Nejat, Zuo, Williams, Parkinson, Gilliam, Kalenkoski, Whiting, Yuan, Henry, Metze, Cassidy, Hidalgo, Weiner, Gring, Keene, Langford, Ortiz, Ankrum, Brookes, Donahue, McKoin, Orfila, and Wascoe-Hays. **Senators absent were:** Adams, Rahamamoghadam, Crews, Patrick, Richman, Ghebrab, Morse, Soliman, McGinley, James, Litsey and Heinz,

**Guests were:**

Jean Pearson Scott, Faculty Ombudsperson; Provost Lawrence Schovanec and Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart. TTU President, Dr. Duane Nellis, AAUP President Diane Warner, Joel Velasco from Philosophy

**I. Call to Order** at 3:15 PM by Michael Farmer, President.

**II. Approval of minutes, Meeting #342, May 13, 2015.**

Motion to approve: Senator Carter

Motion seconded: Senator Ramkumar

**III. Speakers: 3:18 -4:22**

1. President Duane Nellis 3:18 to 3:45

- a. Outlined his goals as we move into a "new era" for the University, discussing four areas in detail:
  - i. New strategic plan to transform TTU into an innovative and national research University;
  - ii. Enhance quality and success of undergraduate students;
  - iii. Enhance quality and success of graduate programs;
  - iv. Engage in a new era of competitive research funding and creative activities;
- b. Closing remarks: commitment to Shared Governance.

Questions/discussion (3:38pm):

Senator Held: What about eliminating course fees and differential tuition?

Pres. Nellis: Fees are restrictive; hoping to move away from course fees to designated tuition so we can use the revenue and be more flexible as well as to recruit more first generation college students to TTU. Yet We don't want differential tuition to take us out of the ballgame with UT Austin and Texas A & M.

Provost Schovanec: There are currently 1700 different individual fees tied to courses. We would like to compute the average fee in each College and then distribute that to the College as tuition to be distributed by the Dean. We are expecting to add new resources above the average course fee so that the college overall comes out ahead. We want to help individual colleges as well as keep our student fees low and competitive. In three Colleges we have done an extensive study, but need to do more analysis before we decide to raise tuition in those colleges. Extra money generated would be used to hire new faculty, which is necessary for accreditation.

Pres. Nellis: we are trying to get any tuition or fee increases out of the cycle with the legislative session, so we have a 2-year plan.

Senator Held: Chairs are worried, not Deans; what guarantee do Chairs have that the equivalent amount of tuition will be returned with distribution of course fees?

Pres. Nellis: good point, we don't want to hurt any of the Chairs ...

Senator Held: further concern about budgets, dates of delivery of money to the Chairs so they can budget accordingly.

2. Provost Lawrence Schovanec, 3:46-4:04

- a. Personnel/changes in the Provost's office
  - i. Pam Roberson retired after 19 years; September 1, Sharon Pigg hired.
  - ii. Darryl James – Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness (due to SACS recommendation)
    - a. Have moved institutional research into his office.
    - b. Renewing license with Academic Analytics, demonstrations campus-wide this fall, giving us the opportunity to compare TTU with peers
  - iii. Genevieve Durham – Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, hopes to have electronic curriculum assistant online to help provide transparency
  - iv. Rob Stewart – still Sr. Vice Provost
  - v. Melanie Hart – World wide E-learning for TTU
  - vi. Juan Munoz, still in office – student success initiative
  - vii. TTU – one of 4 regional winners of WK Kellogg Foundation for engagement Office of Int'l Affairs – same officer in charge
  - viii. Mark Sheridan – Dean of Grad School, Vice Provost of Grad Affairs
- b. Further information
  - i. Graduate enrollment is up.
  - ii. There has been an increase of greater than 11% in the number of faculty (tenured and tenure-track) in the last three years to about 1400.
  - iii. Enrollment is up over 10/10.5% since (year unknown ... 2012?)
  - iv. Addition of 45 professors of practice, 30 research faculty
    - a. How do we appoint, what is the pathway toward promotion, to be discussed at departmental level
  - v. Department budget hearings
    - a. Healthy process; first year, Deans asked for \$33 million, University gave \$13 million; this year, Deans asked for \$22 million, University gave \$13 million in new money to be used for new lines, grad support, infrastructure, etc.
  - vi. Campus Carry
    - a. The University System appointed a committee to address how this is to be implemented, Provost Schovanec represented TTU; announcement will go out soon.
    - b. Questions to be discussed:
      - 1. Universities are provided flexibility in how to implement; deciding on what focus groups should University committee need to consult to get a good idea of how to implement policy?
      - 2. Adoption of exclusion for a premise must be justified – must show that concealed weapon will present a particular danger.
      - 3. What buildings/types of spaces within buildings should be off limits? Not specifically prohibited in living facilities, but in which dorms should they be prohibited, and which dorms should have storage facilities?
      - c. A person must be 21 to have a CHL, and we currently have only 600 students living on campus who hold a CHL (1% hold CHL). Could play into the discussion.
    - v. Ombudsperson Dr. Jean Pearson Scott attended training workshop, this resource is available. She meets with Provost Schovanec and FS President Farmer regularly.

3. Michael Farmer – 4:04 –4:22

- a. 2 things to pass: Intellectual property
  - i. Regents rules, OPs

- a... Faculty passed OP 74.04 in May, then amendments happened after it passed
- ii. . Try to pass Regents Rule 10 – gave overview (sent out previously)
  - a. Intellectual Property – concerned with Copyright.
    - 1. Exception: work for hire, can't find brevity to define restrictions.
- iii. Talked about Amendment to Regents Rule 10 – patents
- iv. Talked about working toward rule on Fair Use that will become a new OP (if someone leaves, how long can TTU use their materials?)
- b. Accomplishments last year:
  - i. Hired Ombudsperson, Completed Task Force on IRB, Completed study on Tenured Women Leaving Tech, Faculty Driven Administrator Evaluations
  - ii. Liaisons on almost every committee
- c. Future goals/desires for Faculty Senate, and announcements
  - i. Program and course approvals go through Senate (we currently don't approve new programs) but are going to work with academic council to transition some approval authority to the Senate.
  - ii. Faculty form a majority on Dean's searches, higher numbers in Provost searches; largely already happening.
    - (Provost Schovanec: there are currently 2 Dean's searches – Architecture and CVPA: both with majority faculty)
  - iii. Regular presentation to Board of Regents
  - iv. Take control of composition of Faculty Handbook, with input from Administration
  - v. See more internal constraints on mid-level admins. (Chairs don't trust Deans ...) OPs are not behaviours!
  - vi. Eventual revision of By-Laws and Mission Statement
  - vii. Announced TASK FORCE on FUNDED RESEARCH, focus on post-award process (headed by Noel Sloane)
  - viii. Announced TASK FORCE ON APPTS, POSITIONS, and MENTORING
    - a. Compare disciplinary actions on mid-level admin behavior from a sample of AAU universities
  - ix. Future goal: Follow through on initiatives (summer salary, child care, safety)
  - x. Prepare pathway to Senate Authorization of Academic Programs
  - xi. Overview of Ad hoc Committees

Senator Held – OP74.04, Regents Rule 4:23

- Minor changes over the summer
- Dallas – small typo
- Committee – FSW approved changes, passed as presented
- Unanimously passed

Introduction of new officers (Ankrum and Milam) 4:26

Naming of committees – 4:28

1. Academic Programs, Senator Ramkumar
  - Goal: to have good interaction with Academic Council of Provost Office
  - Ram and Milam, chaired by Dr. Stewart during transitions to Faculty Senate roles
2. Senate Study Committee B – Task Force on Funded Research, convener M. Farmer
  - Post-award funding; success on IRB task force a mini-test
3. Fair Use and Work for Hire (Distance Learning and Fair Use), convener Robert Cox
  - Language to define University's ability to use electronic courses produced by faculty, faculty's retainment of those rights (intellectual property)
  - Faculty must be notified that they ARE on work for hire.
  - Needs to be disclosed and not abused.

4. Senate Study Committee A – Task Force on Appts., Positions, and Mentoring, convener M. Farmer (already discussed) – Ad hoc committee, not standing committee
5. Traffic and Safety. Chair: Senator Ankrum
6. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee (FSWC). Chair: Senator Held

New Business – Senator Held: Potential Violation of Academic Freedom -- 4:38PM  
Addressed by Senator Arnett

Discussion: Senator Arnett: Grade changes in College of Business

Senator Farmer: Provost has charged a committee to investigate  
Chaired by Chris Smith

Looking for electronic material right now, and sworn to confidentiality  
Committee is all faculty, along with Rob Stewart. It is taking time  
because it is faculty. Hard to schedule all members. Committee is  
advising Provost.

Senator Arnett: what will the process be?

Senator Farmer: 1. Was OP violated, 2. Are there aggravating circumstances,  
committee will write a report, Provost will act from there. This brings up  
a Long-term goal: how do we work this process; there are some holes in  
the structure, where disciplinary measures can get bottlenecked at the  
College; Dean almost has to report on him or herself to move something  
forward, or stop something from moving forward; also, there is a focus on  
changing the culture – this is why the committee on Appts, Position, and  
Mentoring is in place.

Senator Held: Gave details surrounding the issue; Academic Freedom: what  
does a professor have the freedom to do and not do. Raised concern for  
potential for SACS consequences, and beyond

Senator Farmer: At the moment it is difficult to comment, until the advisory  
committee does its work we risk biasing the process.

On these Matters: We can't even send a letter directly to the faculty.  
One of the things the Senators can do is take the information back to  
home department and college. Weakest point is at the College level  
right now. Senate can no longer afford to be a petitioning body. We  
have real work to do with the University, we need to be able to do that.

Adjournment -- 4:48PM

Motion – Senator Greg Brookes, Seconded Senator Ramkumar