

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016 #349

Senators present were: Arnett, Bayne, Brittsan, Brookes, Buelinckx, Canas, Cargile Cook, Crews, Cox, Dallas, Dass, Fleischman, Farmer, Ghebrab, Grair, Gring, Held, Hidalgo, Keene, Langford, Litsey, Mayer, Metze, Milam, Morales, Nejat, Nite, Nokken, Ortiz, Qualin, Ramkumar, Ritchey, Sharma, Skidmore, Weiner, Whiting, Williams, Wilde, Yuan, and Zugay.

Senators absent were: Ankrum, Adams, Calkins, Carter, Cassidy, Donahue, Gilliam, Hays, Heinz, Henry, Hom, James, Kalenkoski, Kaye, McCheney, McGinley, McKoin, Morgan, Morse, Orflia, Parkinson, Rahamamoghadam, Richman, Siwatu, Soliman, and Surluiga.

Guests were: TTU Chancellor Robert L. Duncan, Interim TTU President John Opperman, Provost Lawrence Schovanec, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Athletic Representative Brian Shannon, Liz Karam from BA, working on MIDP OP, Andy King from the Review Board (IRB), Ombudsperson Jean Scott, Staff Senate Liz Inskip Paulk and Richard Meek, recording meetings.

Call to order – Dr. Michael Farmer, Faculty Senate President **3:18pm**

Introduction of Guests **3:18pm**

- Introduction of newly elected Faculty Senators; Clifford Fedler from CE, Matthew McEniry from the Library, Richard Meek from Music, Alan Barenberg from History, Shirley Matteson from Education, Erick Bucy from Media & Communications, Rich Rice from English, Jeffrey Mosher from History, Robert Forbis from Political Science, and Christopher M. Smith from Music.

Approval of minutes, Meeting #348, March 9, 2016. **3:20pm**

- Moved: Senator Ramkumar
- Seconded: Senator Brookes
- All in favor, motion carries

Speakers:

- Robert L. Duncan, Chancellor **3:20pm**
 - Veterinary School at Amarillo campus;
 - This program will collaborate with the HSC, and will meet the needs of the industry (rural large animal and mixed animal practices);
 - It will be 3-6 years before the program begins;
 - This is a prestigious program for TTU, and will be another opportunity for advanced research.
- **QUESTIONS:**
 - Senator Dallas: What will the program cost?
 - Chancellor Duncan: We are still doing studies; it will be formula-funded; won't throw out a number yet.
- Brian Shannon, Faculty Athletics Representative **3:31pm**
 - The NCAA requires this presentation once per year;
 - Reporting on academic-related successes to TTU's athletics programs;
 - We have 415 athletes on campus; 115 are first-generation college students;
 - Examples of student success:
 - We have rising graduation rates for our athletes: 2008, 50% rate; in 2014-15 our rate is 66% (compared to 59% for the rest of the campus);
 - We have some of the highest academic performers in Women's Tennis and (Men's) Baseball;
 - Toddrick Gotcher (mid-court proposal) has earned three academic degrees in five years, including two Masters degrees.
 - A new academic misconduct policy recently passed by a 64-0 vote:

- If you have a concern with a student athlete, please go through the judicial process;
- Must apply the process even-handedly;
- Process can be expedited for a student athlete if approved at the level of the President's Office.
- **QUESTIONS:**
 - Senator Dallas (comment): Hattie Shunk (track/field, cross-country), 2016 Goldwater Scholarship recipient;
 - Senator Nite: Can you explain the process of athletics taking over part of the Rec Center?
 - Prof. Shannon: This is a temporary solution; the roof on the Athletic Training Center collapsed in the winter snowstorm, the SGA was involved in the decision.

Old Business: Review of Committees

- **OP 32.XX Modified Instructional Duties Policy (MIDP) 3:50pm**
 - See form attached to email with April meeting agenda;
 - Easy application process;
 - To go into effect immediately (September 2016);
 - Faculty member does not have to take sick leave or disability for up to a year;
 - Intended to last for two consecutive semesters per event.
 - Several concerns raised:
 - 1. Senator Zugay: What is the application process? What if a Dean or Dept. Chair chooses not to support a faculty member's application?
 - Senator Held: There is no approval process at the departmental or college level -- the application must go to the Provost (at department level: "shall review and submit"). The Provost makes the decision.
 - Senator Ramkumar: Will the applicant receive a copy of what the Provost recommends?
 - Senator Karam: This was not discussed.
 - Senator Held: If rejected, assume the faculty member can request information.
 - 2. Senator Dallas: Will there be any need for the documentation of life events, other than the form?
 - President Farmer: The OP looks very clean, and it is safe to assume that faculty can be trusted. If there is a breach of faith in the future, we can amend.
 - 3. Senator Crews: In a worst-case scenario, a Department Chair or Dean might sit on the application; do we need to establish a timeline for the application to move forward to the Provost?
 - Senator Litsey: Propose friendly amendment (near the end of Section 4), must be moved forward "within three business days."
 - Friendly amendment approved by committee.
 - 4. Senator Held: After the year of modified instruction is over, there is nothing to prevent a department chair from penalizing the faculty member by increasing his or her load. Propose adding to 6. b. "Retaliation in any form is prohibited."
 - **DISCUSSION:** the faculty member could file a grievance, but that would take too long and could have negative consequences. Various suggestions were made to soften the word "retaliation", but were not general enough to apply to all situations. A concern was raised that the word "retaliation" might discourage a junior faculty member from taking advantage of Modified Instructional Leave; Senator Brookes stated that he would feel encouraged and supported by the language, not discouraged.
 - Friendly amendment proposed by Senator Held: "Retaliation in any form (eg. an arbitrary change in instructional duties) is prohibited."
 - Friendly amendment approved by the committee. **4:18pm**

- 5. Senator Litsey: Librarians are on a 12-month contract, but are tenure-track with instructional duties. Does this OP apply to librarians?
 - No, HR and EEO have advised that those on a 12-month contract benefit from HR policies already in place.
- The language in this OP will be among the most supportive for work-life balance in the country.
- Motion made to accept the OP with the friendly amendments (see above); passed unanimously.

- OP 74.04 Work for Hire Language **4:23pm**
 - Senator Held called attention to changes on pp. 6 and 8, issued a call for concerns (none);
 - President Farmer made a brief statement about TTU's faculty-supportive intellectual property policy and called for a vote to approve the amendment to the OP;
 - Motion made to approve amendment as presented; passed unanimously.

- OP XX.XX Emerging OP for Guns on Campus **4:27pm**
 - President Farmer: This has not been presented formally yet; the intention is to vote on the OP at our May mtg;
 - Discussion and objections to the non-inclusion of local option (faculty cannot declare their own offices gun-free zones, it is illegal); the President is the only person who may declare an area a gun-free zone; the local option was deemed not in accordance with the law by the Attorney General;
 - Senator Nokken: Concerned that language keeps talking about the "spirit of the law"; why are we so worried about this? We were led to believe at one point that faculty would be able to prohibit guns in their offices, then the memo we received stated the opposite;
 - President Farmer: We will have many opportunities to amend the OP when then law says we do; President Opperman has indicated this and supports it; the issue at hand is, do we support the President and the possibility of what we can do in the future, or do we object to the law? We are better off supporting the OP so we can have the ability to amend it in the future.
 - Senator Litsey: 3.f. allows for no guns where there are children present. There are minors in the library all year, but the library is not a gun-free zone.
 - Provost Schovanec: This issue was also raised by the Museum Director; it went to Huffaker, and we are trying to find a way to deal with it. It is a valued point. A committee will hear requests for exclusions. This one may fall under the general rule, as guided by the law, that there will be no guns where children are present;
 - Senator Milam: 3.e., that allows for the the creation of the new committee to deal with issues related to campus carry, is very important.
 - Predicted that 3 lawsuits will come out of Austin once the Board of Regents approves the recommendations of UT Austin's President. The decisions made in these lawsuits will not apply to the TTU system; however, once a precedent is set, we can go back to work. Everything hinges on 3.e.
 - President Farmer: The law is still being adjudicated.
 - Senator Held: We can save ourselves trouble by suggesting some amendments now.
 - 3.c. Kent Hance Chapel -- add libraries, museums, and other venues open to minors.
 - President Farmer: Will run past Huffaker. Suggest tabling discussion until next month. Will go back to the Committee with the Senate's concerns.

Old Business: Liaison Reports

- Graduate Council Report, Senator Dallas (for Senator Morse) **4:38pm**
 - There have been issues with the recruiting process this year; we are losing potential students; the Provost has been working with the Graduate School;

- Provost Schovanec: I am concerned about the rate at which applications are being handled. If you are aware that names are being held back, if you are not getting information in a timely manner, come to my office or write to your Dean.
- President Farmer: I will send a letter out to faculty.
- Academic Council Report, Senator Ramkumar **4:53pm**
 - Academic Council meetings are always open; Chairs were given sufficient time to discuss with their faculty, and ask for a vote on changes. If there is a modification in programs, Chairs are always free to go to the Council.
 - **DISCUSSION:** How would the Chairs know they are able to attend Academic Council meetings? The fact is, the agendas are always published, and the meetings are not closed. Concerns were raised that chairs were not aware they could attend the meetings; Vice-Provost Stewart stated that information can be distributed to Chairs in the future.
 - Senator Ramkumar: It is understood that Deans and Associate Deans will pass on information; it is assumed that they must inform;
 - President Farmer: Faculty Senate input was requested in this case; we saw a good, clear process. It was open and well-vetted. It may have helped that we requested votes; this gave us some modest oversight;
 - Senator Held: Initiative needs to be taken to notify Chairs;
 - President Farmer: We need to be able to have representatives come back and consult us to see if we want to vet further.

Open Forum: 2 minute open topic from the floor **4:59pm**

- Senator Dass: High Performance Computing Center
 - Currently, there are three researchers clogging the entire system; there have been studies waiting in the system for more than a month. Question: may we request that a researcher uses only a certain number of processes at one time?
 - President Farmer: Will take issue to the appropriate parties, will respond at our next meeting.

Adjournment **5:01pm**

- Moved: Senator Ramkumar
- Seconded: Senator Gring