

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**February 10, 2016 #347**

**Senators present were:** Ankrum, Arnett, Bayne, Brittsan, Brookes, Buelinckx, Canas, Cargile Cook, Carter, Cassidy, Cox, Dallas, Dass, Farmer, Fleischman, Ghebrab, Grair, Gring, Heinz, Held, Henry, Hidalgo, James, Kalenkoski, Kaye, Keene, Litsey, Mayer, Metze, Milam, Morales, Morgan, Morse, Nite, Nokken, Qualin, Ramkumar, Richman, Ritchey, Siwatu, Wilde, Williams, Yuan, and Zugay.

**Senators absent were:** Adams, Calkins, Crews, Donahue, Gilliam, Hays, Hom, Langford, McCheney, McGinley, McKoin, Nejat, Orflia, Ortiz, Parkinson, Rahamamoghadam, Sharma, Skidmore, Soliman, Surluiga, Weiner, Whiting, and Zuo.

**Guests were:** TTU Interim University President, Dr. John Opperman, and Provost Lawrence Schovanec, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Andy King from the Review Board (IRB), Ombudsperson Jean Scott, Staff Senate Liz Paulk and Richard Meek, recording meetings.

- Call to order – Dr. Michael Farmer, Faculty Senate President **3:17pm**
  - Approval of minutes, Meeting #346, January 20, 2016.
    - Moved: Senator Kalenkoski
    - Seconded: Senator Ramkumar
  - Introduction of Interim University President, Dr. John Opperman **3:19**
    - Remarks from the President, call for questions from the Senate.
      - QUESTIONS:
        - Senator Held: What do you think the drop in oil prices will do to the state budget, specifically in our funding?
        - President Opperman: This could be a concern in FY18-19 if oil prices stay down.
      - Further from the President: Campus Carry: anticipate recommendations will come out in March, Board of Regents will not take the issue up at their February meeting but at a later point in time. I have been looking at the Task Force recommendations, they serve as a good guide. Will work through the issues with Michael (Farmer) and Ron (Milam). Senate Bill 11 is the law, we have to deal with it, and will do the best we can with our recommendations. We know that if people don't like them, there are people waiting to sue. We are hoping UT Austin goes forward with theirs first.
  - Introduction of Guests
  - Speaker: Noel Sloan, Chief Financial Officer and VP Administration Finance **3:28**
    - CFO since 2014;
    - Presentation: 900 million dollar budget, overview of finances, differential tuition.
      - Power Point Presentation attached, please see for details.
    - A few from CFO Sloan's presentation:
      - Board of Regents approves operating budget in August of each year;
      - There has been a more collaborative process with the Colleges since 2014;
      - We function within a modified version of Responsibility-Centered Management;
      - Graduate tuition allocation: no longer held in Provost's office;
      - FY16: tuition increase generated additional \$\$ that we invested in 2% merit pool (2.4 million dollars), QEP (Qualified Enhancement Plan, SACS), and we used the money to retain top faculty
      - Our primary recommendation going into the next legislative session: we would like to restore our formula funding rate (that existed prior to 2010), and we will ask for its implementation over a period of 3 years;

- Our undergraduate students take an average of 13 credit hours per semester, we would like this to increase this to 15 per semester (30 per academic year) to keep up with our peer institutions;
- Regarding transparency/ease of understanding: students will be able to see online how much their bill will be when they select their classes per college. The bill is based on where each course is taught (different fees per College/course).
- **QUESTIONS 3:55**
  - Senator Held: How competitive are our graduate stipends compared to UT and A&M?
  - CFO Sloane: We have no information specific to UT/A&M, but based on a study Dean Sheridan used which compared National and Texas averages as well as considered Department classification, that some were above the average and some were below.
  - Senator Held (follow-up question): I thought we were trying to increase graduate enrollment faster than undergraduate enrollment. How are we allocating our money in that regard? Can we play the game more prudently?
  - Provost Schovanec: Now, growth is not the first priority. Now we are considering where we need to raise salaries to be competitive? Typically we are 2-4K below our peers. We are catching up.
- Old Business: Review of Committees
  - *Funded Research Group-report on Post Award 3:58*
    - Michael Farmer: Making a list right now. We are working on listing tasks faculty do, and the different tasks they encounter.
  - *Guns on Campus Report* (Note: Resolution attached to email that contained the agenda to the February meeting) **4:01**
    - Discussion of attached resolution, call for outside faculty to comment; no comments made;
    - Vice President Milam: expressed thanks to the Committee; stated three goals the committee wanted to achieve in writing the resolution: 1. we wanted to keep this short; 2. recognize that our community has ambivalence or support in some ways for the idea of guns; and 3. recognize the administered survey indicates the faculty is very much against guns in classrooms, laboratories, and offices;
    - Senator Litsey: many universities approached the topic as if guns will run rampant on campus, but we approached from a perspective of accidents/safety, took a more practical approach, might provide an alternate explanation rather than reiterating tried and true rhetoric.
    - DISCUSSION:
      - Three general topics:
        - The resolution does not reflect the sentiments of the minority of faculty who would like to see guns on campus, and should be amended to reflect accurately the minority opinion;
        - The resolution should reflect strongly the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the faculty;
        - The language in the resolution should contain no unproven statements (i.e. opinions).
      - Other information/points of discussion:
        - The results of the survey, with 235 pages of comments, are posted online on the Campus Carry Website (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hr/CampusCarry/Survey.php>);
        - The purpose of the resolution is to respond to Senate Bill 11 with a faculty voice, not to debate its general perceived merits or perceived problems.

- There was much discussion regarding Senate Bill 11 itself, and its implementation at Texas Tech; discussion came back around to the resolution itself, and 4 amendments were proposed:
      - 1. President Farmer called for a friendly amendment from the committee, to include the faculty minority voice:
        - Senator Gring: ... I would like the resolution to state the dissenting voice of faculty who would like to see guns on campus.
        - President Farmer: that is fair; while percentages are overwhelming, opinions varied. Will the committee take a friendly amendment?
        - Senator Litsey: perhaps we can publish the percentages to reflect the diverse opinion.
        - Senator Gring: yes, I think that would be fair.
      - 2. Senator Gring: motion to amend (**4:27**): remove 3rd sentence. Seconded: Senator Carter  
Vote: only 3 in support; motion fails.
      - 3. Senator Litsey: motion to amend second sentence, add "potentially." Seconded: Senator Kaye. Vote: 27 in favor, 6 opposed (President Farmer among abstentions). Motion passes.
      - 4. Senator Ritchey: motion to add "concealed carry guns" to second sentence. Seconded: Senator Gring. Vote: 4 in favor, 24 opposed, 2 abstentions (President Farmer among abstentions). Motion fails.
    - FURTHER DISCUSSION:
      - Senator Hines: in reference to the statement with guns not in faculty offices, does that take away a faculty member's right to have a gun of their own in their office?
      - Senator Litsey: we talked about this, were not able to get an answer. Catch22: can you declare your office a gun-free zone and still carry a gun?
      - Vice President Milam: TTU (Provost Schovanec mentioned in his newspaper interview) talked about local option on your office, own signage, verbal statement. Don't know if that will hold up. We went further than other places had gone.
    - Vote taken for amended resolution, with new language, and finding a way to include the minority faculty opinion (survey results). 29 in favor, 5 opposed (President Farmer abstains).
  - *Nomination Committee for 2016-2017 Fac. Senate Officers*- Senator Nite **3:59**
    - 3 nominees: Litsey (Secretary), Ankrum (VP), Wilde (President);
    - Vote planned in March.
- Liaison Reports:
  - *Graduate Council Report* -- Senator Morse
    - Feb 4 last meeting, next March 3;
    - Grad school poster competition March 25; last year there were restrictions on posters accepted (due to funding for costs such as printing); this year, as many as want to participate may;
    - Looking for judges, need critical assessments;
    - Who votes as liaisons: most are not Senate-appointed, but are volunteered by chairs of committees;
  - *Traffic and Safety Report* -- Senator Ankrum **4:45**
    - Much progress has been made, Operations is beginning to implement changes recommended by the Committee; continued work to forge lines of communication between all branches of the

University population and the Traffic and Safety people on campus.

- Open Forum: 2 minute open topic from the floor
  - Raise Concerns
    - Senator Richman: A faculty member handed over personal financial information to a Dean who demanded the information, even though the Dean was told he/she could not ask for that information. There was no consequence for the Dean in this situation.
    - Provost Schovanec: not aware, don't know enough about this. Was never aware that anyone was asked to provide personal information.
    - President Farmer: she communicated via email with everyone, explained the situation.
    - Senator Held: she should follow the grievance procedure.
    - Senator Richman: she doesn't work here anymore.
    - Senator Held: was this raised openly, or solved?
    - President Farmer: will follow up next month, as well as am able. We will continue to bring up concerns until they are resolved.
  - Forum Response-Duty Point **4:48**
    - Pres. Farmer: OP is clear, as far as it goes, duty point can be changed only by President, probably shouldn't be using the words "duty point", the question is not a duty point concern. Clarify: duty point application?
    - Richman: duty point evaluated, made at level of Dean, someone is upset, don't know why.
    - Cargile-Cook: restate: If teaching assignment is online, and faculty member is assigned to online teaching for programmatic reasons, then the faculty member may hold office hours online, and is meeting his or her point of duty?
    - Pres. Farmer: yes, moot on this point (where your office hours are and what that means). Want to clarify with Deans.
    - Provost Schovanec: met with the Dean, shared different situations in different disciplines, also met with fac. member in Education about their duty point.
- New Business:
  - Captioning, Anthony Kaye
  - Next month
- Announcements: Jean Scott (Ombudsperson): please go to TechAnnounce, find Workplace Bullying Survey, please take the survey. It is safe and secure. If you have someone you know who would prefer to do it on paper, I have paper copies. It is anonymous either way.
- Adjournment: **5:01**
  - Motion to adjourn: Senator Morales
    - Motion Seconded: Senator Fleischmann