

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2015, #344

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

Guests were: Provost Lawrence Schovanec, Senior Vice-Provost Rob Stewart, Ombudsperson Jean Scott, IRB Rep Andy King, Staff Senate Historian Liz Paulk and AAUP President Diane Warner.

- I. **Call to Order at 3:18PM** by Michael Farmer, President
- II. **Approval of minutes, Meeting #343, September 9, 2015**
Motion to approve: Senator Kaye
Motion seconded: Senator Donahue
- III. **Introduction of Guests**
Listed above.
- IV. **Old Business: Review of Committees & Liaison Reports, 3:20-4:03**
 - *Academic Council* (Ron Milam -- reported on by Michael Farmer)
 - Notes on Program Approval
 - Academic programs: nothing to report yet (Rob Stewart)
 - Trying to work toward Senate approval of academic programs; currently approved by Academic Council
 - *Faculty Status and Welfare* (Lewis Held) 3:23PM
 - No business to report
 - *Report on Committee for Grade Change* (Michael Farmer) 3:26PM
 - A Committee of seven senior faculty over half with administrative experience in administration, and Senior Vice Provost (ex officio) was formed; the committee is pursuing its charge independently. The committee has largely completed its charge. I am not at liberty to say any more.
 - **COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION:**
 - Senator Arnett: After they are finished deliberating, will they make a recommendation to the Provost?
 - President Farmer: Yes.
 - Senator Held: What form will the advice take?
 - Provost Schovanec: I will have to see the report.
 - Senator Held: The report will be in writing?
 - Provost Schovanec: Yes. The Committee has done a lot of work. It is an investigation. Please, be patient.
 - President Farmer: The reputation of the faculty could be at stake. The Committee was formed, they will deliver the product and must maintain internal confidence. Thank you for your patience.
 - *Committee on Campus Carry* (Ron Milam) 3:32PM
 - The campus carry task force was authorized on Sept 10, 2015. It met on Sept 24. It consists of 15 members, 3 of which are faculty (including Michael Farmer). Since that meeting, Umpqua, NAU, and TX Southern shootings have happened, plus the murder of Ethan Schmidt (former TTU professor).
 - A survey was put together by the committee and sent to the faculty.
 - Committee received comments that things were missing from the survey.

- As of 9:30PM Oct. 13, 2015: 2,241 responses received from faculty, staff, and graduate students.
- Faculty input has been significant
- There will be add'l survey questions asked in the next few days.
- The Committee will attempt to collect all information by Oct., analyze by Nov., send report to President Nellis by Dec. 1.
- Community interest is strong.
- Those who are pro-gun or anti-gun solidify their positions when events occur; it will be a challenge for the Committee to come up with a report that reflects the feeling on the campus, but that will also be something that goes to the Board of Regents in February that they can act on within the letter of Senate Bill 11.
- We must accomplish all of this as soon as possible because we MUST have signage for everything that we do, and there are regulations to follow

• **COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION (Campus Carry) 3:37 - 4:00**

- Provost Schovanec: Focus groups will happen, one campus-wide forum is already scheduled; deans and chairs will have a meeting, as well as governing bodies and special operating circumstances directors; we'll have more fora if one is not enough; Senate Bill 11 allows some discretion in how it can be implemented.
- Senator Milam: the report will not be empirically based; expressed opinions will show up in the report, even if not reflected in the multiple choice portion of the survey. Committee will read all the comments.
- Senator Milam: Student survey written by SGA (18-22 year olds)
- Senator Donahue: how was the survey developed?
- Senator Milam: 1. First draft was written after the first Committee meeting; 2. It went to every member of the Committee for comments; 3. Everyone shared everyone else's comments; 4. A deadline was set for its completion; 5. It went live.
- President Farmer: not a scientific survey; more like check and pulse-taking; couldn't do focus groups first as we normally would
- Senator Milam: we looked at other surveys from elsewhere in the state.
- Senator Ritchie: will signs actually repel shooters instead of attracting them? Maybe we need some way to check for weapons on people coming in to the classroom.
- Senator Milam: this is everyone's question: does gun-free make it a soft target? The Bill is really meant to put someone else in the area with a gun to help. There has been discussion about Marshalls, metal detectors.
- Senator Litsey: (question for Provost Schovanec about focus groups): can we include the library? It is a unique bldg, with unique circumstances
- Senator Orflia: What about training? What to do in the case of an active shooter? I have never had training like that here. I don't know what I would do. We are not trained. There are other ways of saving lives than finding someone with a gun who can kill the person with a gun.
- Senator Milam: active shooter drills have been held on a lot of campuses; now, this Bill raises the issue that there must be training for those who do have CHLs. Further, 8-hr licensing does not deal with it on a campus specifically. We are not supposed to even have an opportunity to know who has CHLs on our campus ... they can remain anonymous. Yes, training does need to take place.
- Senator Dallas: there is an active shooter video on one of the sites, provided by university. Question: do you have an estimate for the number of guns on campus right now?
- President Farmer: Police have idea of illegal carry: 900-1000
- Senator Dallas: are we expecting delta? Is there an estimate for the legal number of guns on campus once they become legal?
- Senator Milam: we talk about numbers in percentages. Will that number go up a lot if students know that once they turn 21, they can carry their guns on campus? Sure it will go up.
- Senator Nokken: are there programs or assistance for faculty to acquire a license to be as well armed as our students?
- Senator Milam: We will be interested in seeing how many people on the survey say they plan to get a CHL.

- Senator Zuo: How? What are the requirements?
 - Senator Milam: A person must be over age of 21, and must submit to a background check.
 - Senator Zuo: must the person be a U.S. citizen?
 - Senator Litsey: International students can obtain a gun.
 - Staff Historian Paulk: The National Wind Institute initiated active shooter training through the Texas Tech PD; they will do it for free. On another note, there is one loophole about buying guns: no background check is required if you buy one at a gun show. This is significant.
 - Senior Vice Provost Stewart: Active shooter training is excellent, and they will also do a physical space assessment, show you the best place to barricade or get out.
 - Senator Donahue: I have an issue with survey. In Theatre and Dance, didn't know if to check or not to check Maedgen Theatre because of repercussions. It is hard to attract an audience, will they be searching for guns on the audience members on entry into the theatre?
 - Senator Milam: This is a great question. There is a school of thought that says a gun free zone is a soft target and attracts a shooter. But, most of the shootings so far have ended in suicide, and the shooter would like the challenge of knowing someone would take them on. Psychologists come down on both sides of the issue; further, it has been acceptable that we have signage at bars.
 - Senator Fleischman: In the VA Tech, rampage, shooter wanted to inflict as much damage as possible, and the obvious point is to minimize that. Suggest plain-clothed Marshalls: not marked, in a crowd, dressed as everyone else.
 - Senator Milam: on the other side of the argument, deterrents and a uniform helps. Maybe we need the protection of Marshalls at places like the CDRC.
 - Senator Kalenkoski: what about faculty shooters? We don't want to forget that those are the people who are mostly licensed.
 - Senator Dallas: Do we have Marshalls now?
 - Provost Schovanec: There are people in place at football games already, but beyond that, I'm not aware of any.
 - Senator Milam: metal detectors work. If we get to that point, we can do that at Jones Stadium
 - Senator Parkinson: over the last 15 years, I have always locked my classroom door, as a habit. Students must knock on the door to get back in.
 - Senator Milam: anyone can tell a story about students who could have caused a problem. Those people were not able to convince the state senate, the legislature, so we will have to deal with it (Senate Bill 11) as best we can.
 - President Farmer: I passed this off to Ron after working with the state legislature in the last few years. The Bill was passed by a majority, but a very large margin of folks were forced into it. Will not be overly harsh, probably, when looking at exclusions. On the issue of general violence and active shooter questions, no longer allowed the Campus Security Act; active shooters are responsible for 5% of the murders on campuses, the rest of the world [off campus] is 40 times more dangerous; the population between 18 and 25 [off college campuses] is 17 times more dangerous on average. We are doing exceptionally well. Our environment is so safe to work in, we can't answer the questions we're asking (in some ways).
 - Senator Milam: Every state is looking at this issue. Every time there is another campus shooting, they take it up again, and both sides solidify their positions.
 - Senator Farmer (4:02PM): There was recently a campus-wide announcement from the Provost: CAMPUS CARRY WEBSITE LAUNCHED. People can search there for background information. Thank you to Jody Billingsley, Grace Hernandez.
- *Committee on Pedestrian Safety* (Quinn Ankrum) 4:00PM
 - The committee has had one meeting, and is waiting on input from Sean Childers before continuing the work done by former Senate Secretary Carolyn Tate in 2014-15.
 - We have set both short- and long-term goals, with the objective of working with the University to create a safer environment for pedestrians as the student body continues to grow.
 - Over the summer, the Senate received a letter from Mr. Childers asking for a response/vote on the closure of a portion of campus

(proposed in May 2015). Our response was that no vote would be taken until further assessment of and discussion about the issues at hand.

- *Ad Hoc Committee-Fair Use/Work For Hire* (Rob Cox) 3:24PM
 - No text to present right now, will have it next month
 - Text will represent fair use of academic property, then will move on to work for hire issues.

V. Open Forum: 2 minute open topic from the floor. 4:03-4:38

(Topics read in order by Michael Farmer)

- Senator Kalenkoski (Human Sciences): **Faculty Approving Programs**
 - Overwhelming negative response from department
 - Don't want Faculty Senate involved in approving courses, probably extends to programs)
- **Discussion:**
 - Senator Dallas: another college, said same thing. Faculty don't want someone from an "un-favorite" department commenting on what they're doing.
 - Senator Kalenkoski: the process works, why involve someone not from your program or field.
 - President Farmer: this issue came up earlier in the year, I am concerned about whether information was completely presented or left out of the presentation of a program. Over the last five years, a number of programs have been approved, but the number of faculty that testified was extremely small, and the faculty vote was not recorded. All but 5 AAU institutions have the Faculty Senate approve programs (not courses). Ohio State approves programs. Smaller universities approve all the way to individual courses. Not trying to imply that Academic Council is not a good group. One thing that will have to happen with real governance, is that FS will have to govern. Hopefully senior faculty will find themselves not having time to not be senators. Concerned to see this go right.
 - Senior Vice-Provost Stewart: faculty testimony and representative proposals are always acceptable, people are always advocates of their programs. There is faculty opportunity for input. In August: made point, struck home, there is a need for indicating what faculty response should be, and now that is part of the process.
- Senator Nokken: **Big 12 Fellowship** 4:11pm
 - Some time ago, there was a "fellowship" of the Big 12, and funds were made available for traveling to other institutions with the conference to collaborate. What happened to this funding? Other institutions of the Big 12 still have it, and it is prominent across the Conference. Can this funding be made available again? It is a valuable thing, to help our faculty and other institutions. Further, their impression of TTU is always higher upon having visited.
- **Discussion:**
 - Senior Vice Provost Stewart: there is no reason this funding can't come back, other than expressed interest. During the 2010 budget entrenchment, Provost Smith saw the removal of this funding as a way to save money. It's just a matter of reinstating.
 - Provost Schovanec: will follow up.
- Senator Cargile-Cook: **Faculty Senate Responsibilities** 4:14pm
 - How do we communicate with colleagues in our colleges? Am in my second year in Senate, and what I am supposed to be doing remains unclear.
- **Discussion:**

- Senator Kalenkoski: agreed with Senator Cargile Cook.
Question: How do we get on committees?
 - President Farmer: provided clarification (speak with the chair of a committee if you wish to volunteer and assist).
 - President Farmer: issues of governance become an issue when there is no established system within a department/college. This is an oversight in terms of how we're structured. There should be better structures at the local level to handle certain kinds of problems. Arts and Sciences has a good system, people get heard. Where I feel something isn't working, I intervene because there's no process. Jeanne (Faculty Ombudsperson) helps, but her role is limited. At least bring it to your department.
 - Senator Cargile Cook: is it possible to include names of all senators in emails?
 - Patty Gisch: used to do this, send bcc now because of pushback.
 - Senator Arnett: I send an email to College of Business after every meeting.
 - Senator Brookes: one issue for School of Music is that it has four representatives on the Senate. It would get redundant if we all sent a message.
 - President Farmer: we will send a list of Senators to each College.
- Senator Brittsan: **Gun Legislation 4:23pm**
 - Response seems largely reactive. In the event that a consensus emerges from the survey, has there been/would there be any discussion about how the University approaches making its voice heard in legislative process in the future? Has that been discussed?
 - **Discussion:**
 - President Farmer: Council of Faculty Senates has been very aggressive on the issue. Agendas have been extremely timely, they are interested in how TTU will implement the Bill.
 - Senator Milam: interesting that Senate Bill 11 was kicked around all through June. Only now has it gotten attention. The Question will be, what will happen in August 2016 when this kicks in? In January 2016 open carry will pass. Question: is anyone going to pay attention as we get closer to the implementation date? All campuses will have to deal with activism issues. As a side note, the Texas Senate not in session next year.
- Senator Sharma **Funding of Research Activities 4:27pm**
 - The faculty is heavily encouraged to engage in research activities, but every month now there are new restrictions imposed on where we can obtain office supplies. I have paid hundreds of dollars out of pocket for international shipping, because I was told I couldn't use Mail Tech. It's getting to a point where there are a lot of hurdles. Perhaps this seems so exaggerated because I work with other Universities, and they are amazed at why I cannot use my P-card to pay for genetic analyses but have to use a PO. I am spending a lot of time on things I shouldn't be spending my time on.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Senator Dallas: the regulations are insane.
 - Provost Schovanec: I had an email yesterday. In accordance with pcard guidelines, required to provide end-report of p-card infractions. Infractions are things like ribbon. Followed up with business manager. Originates in Noel's office (purchasing). Need better communication with VPR.
 - Senator Farmer: Funded research committee will address these issues.

- Provost Schovanec: the office is probably not aware of these issues that affect faculty
- President Farmer: Encouraged because Noel Sloan is competent and cares about getting things done. She cleaned up Operations last year. Task force will identify and point in the right direction.
- Senator Kaye: problem with setting up a lab in a room filled with trash. Purchasing came to train, had never been in lab before, once they saw the problems, it magically all worked out.
- Senator Sharma: perhaps the problem is staff training. Lack of awareness is the biggest problem. NAU, Yale, use p-cards, don't even know how P.O.s work.
- Senator Ankrum: Issue with contracts and performing/visual arts commissions. Wanted to spend startup funds on a commission, was told that I had to contract out to the lowest bidder. This is a big problem.
- President Farmer: One point: related to concerns for research. Hope we can think about ways to be a voice (need more local voice). Don't know how useful Senate can be. Open to the concept. Afraid intended flexibility will be misunderstood if we start to suggest structure. At times, business is hampered by lack of communication that would be solved at local level.

VI. Announcements 4:38pm

- Senator Held: Dean of Arts and Sciences stated that all votes on all dossiers must have ballot comments; THIS IS NOT THE CASE. Votes will count without comments.
 - Senator Schovanec: had seen correspondence of this kind in Math; called the Dean, clarified that this would be in violation of the OP. This did not come from the Provost. Will take it up at the next Dean's Council.
 - Senator Parkinson: was told these were optional in the College of Human Sciences.
 - Senior Vice Provost Stewart: NEVER implicated these were a requirement.

VII. Adjournment at 4:41PM

Motion to adjourn: Senator Kaye
 Motion seconded: Senator Nejat