

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2016 #354**

Senators present were: Cox, Sharma, Barenberg, Brittsan, Canas, Couch, Grair, Forbis, Held, Ireland, Mayer, McCheney, Rice, Rider, Singh, Still, Thacker, Wilde, Arnett, Fleischman, Crews, Matteson, Richman, Fedler, Ghebrab, Nejat, Hodes, Blum, Gilliam, Kalenkoski, Whiting, Henry, Cassidy, Hidalgo, Litsey, McEniry, Bucy, Gring, Langford, Ankrum and Brookes.

Senators absent were: Boren, Verble, Zook, Zugay, Adams, Calkins, Cargile Cook, Kaye, Lavigne, Legacey, Morales, Mosher, Ramkumar, Surliuga, Dass, Siwatu, Hernandez, Morse, Zuo, Williams, Ivey, Metze, Keene, Meek, CM Smith, Stetson and Hays.

- **Call to order – Dr. Gene Wilde, Faculty Senate President – 3:15pm**
- **Approval of minutes, Meeting #343, November 9, 2016 – 3:19pm**
 - Motion to accept Minutes – Senator Cox
 - Second – Senator Sharma
 - Minutes approved unanimous
- **Introduction of Guests:**
 - **Guests were:** Interim Provost, Michael Galyean, Vice Provost, Rob Stewart, Staff Senate, Liz Inskip-Paulk and Parliamentarian Gary Elbow.
- **Speakers – 3:22pm:**
 - Dean Mark Sheridan, Graduate School
 - Update on the events happening concerning the graduate enterprise
 - There is a new updated strategic plan passed in the summer of 16
 - Making steady progress in elevating stipends
 - What drives research university innovation is graduate research enterprise
 - Vibrant graduate enterprise accomplishes the following
 - Increases intellectual capacity
 - Increase PhD production
 - Recruit top quality faculty
 - Enhance teaching and learning experience
 - Increased r&d enterprise
 - Accelerates university developed technologies
 - Increases universities stature
 - Growth with purpose
 - Elevating academic identity
 - Enhancing professionalization of students
 - Expanding global impact
 - Enhancing diversity and inclusion
 - Elevating academic identity
 - Expanding the TTU brand
 - Strengthening programs that meet workforce demands
 - Increase enrolment and quality
 - Added 3 doctoral programs

- 19 masters programs
- 7 graduate certificates
- 38% increase in applications
- Enrollment up 29% since 2008
- Full time graduate enrollment is 66th in US
 - Top 10% of all institutions in the US
- Increased NRUF funding
- Central admin has added 5 million to help stipends
- Average stipend \$20,045 9 month average
- Endowment at 51 million
- Master's degree awarded increased 38% from 2000-2015
- 2008-2015 doctoral degrees went up 65% to 332
- 10% increase since 2013
 - Number of doctoral degree places us 54th in the US of all doctoral degree granting institutions
- Admission demographics
 - 51.4% are international students – majority from India and China
 - Other demographic stats included in handout
- Enhancing professionalization of students
 - Signature component of the graduate education at Texas Tech
 - Increase skills sets
 - Increase participation in professional activities
 - Increase the placement of students in disciplined based careers
 - Graduate writing center launched
 - Expand opportunities for presentations and fellowships
 - 34% go into higher education
 - 66% stay in the state of Texas
- Expanding Global impact
 - Increase international enrollment
 - Increase Texas Tech grad students in international experiences
 - Added 60 new international agreements
 - Increased international enrollment by 28%
 - Sponsored students increase 160% since 2013
- Diversity and Inclusion
 - Climate survey
 - Increased retention and graduation for under-represented groups
 - Much of the attrition is advisor student relationships
 - Foster a climate that embraces diversity and inclusivity
 - Increase applications for underrepresented groups
 - Enrollment increased 18.7%

Question Senator Crews:

Interested in increasing career opportunities. Has there been any work with the career center?

Answer Dean Sheridan:

Reach out to career services. One of the three events have something to do with career services. Most important thing to do is how to take graduate skills and translate to an economic sector. Identify opportunities and position them for success.

Question Senator Crews:

Does that include the international students who will be employed in the place that they studied?

Answer Dean Sheridan:

Yes, they automatically get three years of Occupational Practical Training, 74% remain in the area on OPT.

Question Senator Barenberg:

Question about health insurance and international students

Answer Dean Sheridan:

An issue that we are working to tackle. There is a federal requirement for health insurance. The insurance is costly since the pool is small and a high claims history. We have contained the cost somewhat. Trying to look for partners to help reduce the cost.

Question Senator Brooks:

How much is it?

Answer Dean Sheridan:

Cost is \$2100.00 for twelve months

Question Senator Still:

A boost in the graduate fellowship

Answer Dean Sheridan:

The pressure is on growth currently the focus, but there may be an increase in the coming year.

Question Senator Gring:

Rumors about federal government taxing the scholarships and fee credits

Answer Dean Sheridan:

Not sure where the rumor started. Talked with staffers in DC on the issue. Two things have been discussed for committee considerations. One, including the health benefits as taxable income. Second, taxing student tuition and fee waivers. Already working now against such measures

Question Senator Ireland:

Can you tell us more about what the graduate school is doing to increase diversity? Are the departments expected to take care of it or is the graduate school going to help

Answer Dean Sheridan:

We are working for targeted recruitment and to put those folks in contact with the departments. Want to be a partner in this process.

Question Senator Fleischman:

In the college of business, we encourage the recruitment of minority students at the .net conference.
Discipline related outreach

Answer Dean Sheridan:

We want to step up as much as we can. Please do not hesitate to email me if there are questions or comments.

- **Old Business: Review of Committees**
 - Update on Campus Carry
 - An issue brought by Senator Barenberg
 - The desire to designate commencement as an exclusionary zone
 - It is currently a one-time exclusion

Question Senator Crews:

We there metal detectors at the doors.

Answer President Wilde:

I do not think so. There are signs

Question Senator Crews:

Wants the committee to keep an eye on a bill that designates places as liable if they are gun free and a shooting happens.

Comment Senator Barenberg:

There are police present and they do check bags.

Question Senator Held:

How can it be considered a gun free zone if police officers are present. Not sure how we can be sued if there is, a shooting and the police are there.

- **New Business:**
 - Senator Nijat: described working with ORS and shared the experiences of working on different proposals and how to help with research proposals.

Answer President Wilde:

Work with the Research committee and see if we can address those issues

- **Liaison Reports:**
 - Information for the International Affairs Council, Mayukh Dass, IAC Rep.
 - Senator Dass has the minutes of the meeting
 - Traffic and Pedestrian Safety/Awareness-Update, Quinn Ankrum
 - Overview of the 15th street closure between Detroit and Boston using magnetic bollards from 7:30am – 4:00pm
 - 5500 pedestrian crossing during the day in the semester
 - Send questions about safety / pedestrian safety to Senator Quinn Ankrum for the presentation Sean Childress
 - More blue phones going up on campus

- Looking at lighting as well
- Approves pedestrian entrance and speed limit signs

Question Senator Richman:

Is he going to present any data on whether incidents are going up or down over the years?

Answer Quinn Ankrum:

So far, he has not had the question posed to him, but I can get that question to him. Right now are pedestrian accounts of who crosses that area

Question Senator Mayer:

Clarifying on the stats for the pedestrian crossing and the proposed temporary closure on 15th between Detroit and Boston

Question Senator Held:

19th street is the responsibility of TXDOT and the striping is gone on the street, it has become a crisis state

Answer Quinn Ankrum:

Encourage Sean to talk to TXDOT. Operations understands the safety concerns. Working with the city to improve median and possibly removing student parking on 19th street.

Comment / Question Senator Barenberg:

They did not do a good job when they repainted the bike lanes. Some of the bike lanes are too narrow in places.

Answer Quinn Ankrum:

Main concern this time around is repainting with magnetic striping.

Comment Senator Fleischman:

Raised cement medians that have just been put in, they need to be painted yellow and when the sun goes down they are hard to see with such little paint on them.

Answer Quinn Ankrum:

I will pass that along to Sean. Send any questions or concerns to her to forward to operations to do something about it

- **Announcements:**

- Ambassador Nagy

- A discussion for faculty going up for tenure to have an element of international involvement. President Wilde asked that he come and talk with the Senate about it before the process gets too far along.

Comment Senator Held:

I do not think we should acquiesce to such a notion. The idea of faculty involvement in international issues as a condition of tenure can be handled with incentives rather than through the tenure process as a penalty.

Comment Provost Galyean:

The objective is to recognize international activities in the process more than require it. Require it is not part of the process.

Comment Senator Held:

Perhaps I misheard President Wilde, as a requirement rather than a recognition

Comment Provost Galyean:

That is correct; it is more of a recognition than a requirement

- Adjournment – **4:04pm**