

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017 #346

Senators present were: Boren, Cox, Zook, Zugay, Barenberg, Brittsan, Calkins, Canas, Cargile Cook, Grair, Forbis, Held, Ireland, Kaye, Lavigne, Legacey, Morales, Mosher, Ramkumar, Rice, Rider, Singh, Still, Surluiga, Wilde, Arnett, Dass, Crews, Matteson, Siwatu, Fedler, Ghebrab, Morse, Nejat, Hodes, Williams, Blum, Kalenkoski, Henry, Cassidy, Hidalgo, Litsey, McEniry, Langford, Brookes, CM Smith and Hays.

Senators absent were: Sharma, Verble, Adams, Couch, Mayer, McCheney, Thacker, Fleischman, Richman, Hernandez, Zuo, Gilliam, Ivey, Whiting, Metze, Bucy, Gring, Keene, Ankrum, Meek and Stetson.

- **Call to order – Dr. Gene Wilde, Faculty Senate President - 3:17pm**
- **Approval of minutes, Meeting #346**
 - Motion to accept the minutes – Vice President Ramkumar
 - Second – Senator Morris
 - Minutes approve unanimously
- **Introduction of Guests – 3:20pm:**
 - **Guests were:** Sean Childers, Assistant Vice President for Operation and our guest speaker, with him were; Charles Leatherwood-Managing Director of Grounds, Kyle Bonath-Chief of TTU Police Department, Eric Crouch-Managing Director of University Parking and Student Government External Vice President Alex DeRossi, Interim Provost Michael Galyean, Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Faculty Ombudsperson- Jean Scott, Dean of Libraries Bella Karr Gerlich, Earnstein Dukes from the Library, Ashlee Brown from the Staff Senate, IRB liaison Andy King, Past Faculty Senate Presidents Aliza Wong from Honors and Danny Nathan from Philosophy and Parliamentarian Gary Elbow.
- **Speakers – 3:21pm:**
 - Sean Childers, Assistant Vice President for Operations
 - The campus perspective on safety
 - Talk about the request to restrict access along 15th street
 - In between Detroit and Boston
 - During certain times of the day the road is heavily populated
 - This is a concern for safety
 - Restrict access Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 4:00 during busy times of the year – Fall and Spring semester
 - Any time during the day there are up to 400-500 hundred people on that block
 - Over 5000 people cross that block in a given day
 - Increased flow that will push to that area will increase movement across the street
 - Brought by the Pedestrian and Commuter Safety Committee
 - Examines population of the campus and the flow of people on campus

- How construction on campus alters the flow of people around campus
 - Get ahead of the flow by providing safe corridors
- Crosswalks another issue
 - How to improve them
 - Better light and stripe them
- Eric Crouch – Parking Services
 - Involved 5-6 years ago in regards to bicycle safety issues
 - Took that experience and started looking for more comprehensive safety questions
 - Traffic and Parking Policy committee looks at rules on campus
 - Education and outreach in regards to parking and safety
 - Traffic patterns on campus
 - From the current campus master plan
 - The concept of a loop road around campus
 - As the campus develops the vehicular traffic can be routed into the loop road and within the loop is more pedestrian based
 - Looking at making some of the intersections function better
- Grounds
 - They are responsible for all the striping on campus
 - Working to add thermal striping around campus
 - Began with crosswalks
 - Longer life and much more reflective
 - Boston and 18th a four way stop
 - Has slowed traffic a bit, but the pedestrians are safer
 - May 22nd – summer project, to repave Boston from memorial circle to 15th street
 - 15th will be closed off for a period of time
 - Northeast of Holden on Akron – new bus turn out
 - R14 resurfaced
 - 8th and Akron – redesigned to allow for improved traffic flow off campus
 - 6th and University – the city deemed that that intersection needs a traffic light
 - Drive of Champions north of Frasier – removable bollards
 - Clarification closed off temporary between 7:30 and 4:00pm
 - Supermarket Arena – put in a right turn in and out going in and out for the parkway
 - Texas Tech Parkway and Indiana reconfigured for pedestrian safety
 - 19th street medians are going to be beautified
 - New campus entrance sign
- Police Chief Bonath
 - Also looking at it from a safety aspect
 - The area is near the free speech area and security for that area is important
 - It does not affect any emergency vehicle operations

- Student Government Association Alex DeRossi
 - Want to talk from an SGA perspective
 - Every SGA administration has talked about the safety of the road
 - Proactive response to safety rather than reactive
 - SR 52.72 – to address the safety of the road

Question Senator Kaye:

So in terms of student safety, from R8 parking lot, that is the direction we take for emergencies that happen in lab buildings in that area, how are we going to address that?

Answer Childers / Crouch:

Taking 18th street as an alternative.

Question Senator Kaye:

Right behind physics in biology and the machine shop and just last week there was an ambulance going through there. Students get hurt...

Answer Childers / Crouch:

The bollards are on magnetic holder, so emergency vehicles can drive over them. So emergency access would not be restricted. We are looking to retrain the habits of people that drive along 15th street. Currently other routes would be quicker than using 15th street and waiting for pedestrians.

Question Senator Barenberg:

I have a question about bike lane striping, is there a consistent width that they are supposed to be? They were recently redone on the curve by Akron. They are narrow at some points; really, there is a total lack of consistency

Answer Leatherwood:

To answer your question the standard width is 4 ft. Now when it comes up to merging to the intersection the width may narrow as they approach an intersection to line the bicycles up with traffic, we can look at it. The streets are not perfect, but we can look into it.

Question Senator Held:

If you are going to reroute traffic from 15th to 18th with the current four way stop, have you planned for the congestion for the additional vehicles going through there, should that be turned into a stop light.

Answer Leatherwood:

That is definitely something we can look at, once this gets approved, if it justifies it. That intersection has worked very well as a four way stop as opposed to a traffic light

Answer Crouch:

We have studied the ingress I do not know that we have studied the middle part of the day very well. Ingress there are about 54 vehicles that use that stop. It is probably worth studying

Question Senator Held:

Second question, why has there never been a bus turnout on flint?

Answer Leatherwood:

The width of the street itself, there has been talk at time. With all the construction and stuff it has been deferred

Answer Crouch:

There was a lot of debate about it over the years; this master plan has allowed it to be put back on the radar

Question Senator Held:

Since you are talking about the striping on 19th street, I have expressed concerns on multiple occasions about getting the striping redone

Answer Leatherwood:

You mean in terms of getting it redone in a more timely manner. I will make contact with TxDOT and see what the situation is. A lot of that they are contracting out; I will get with them and follow up.

Comment Senator Rice:

We don't want very complicated signs, we don't want drivers reading the signs instead of looking for the pedestrians. I do not think that we need to read that they are on Texas Tech when they are on campus and the sign has the Double T.

Question Senator Held:

From here where do we go, is it coming to my committee, are we going to have a vote or opinion expressed by the senate. I would like to have an opportunity for deliberation, for consideration with the committee. I was convinced by the presentation, since I am a fact-based professor I am willing to change my mind and go with the current plan. I would like to look at it and bring back to the full senate.

Comment President Wilde:

Will your committee report on it next month?

Answer Senator Held:

Yes.

Comment Childers:

That was our hope was to have your subcommittee look at it and let us know any concerns you may have.

- Old Business – 3:57pm
 - Senator Cox Nominating Committee
 - Currently candidates for election next month
 - President – Wilde vs.
 - Vice President – Litsey vs. Meek
 - Secretary – Barenberg vs.
 - Would like to have multiple people to stand for election particularly for president and secretary
 - Those interested should contact Senator Cox
 - Senator Morales – Administrators Survey

- Institutional research has been processing data
 - Data has been uploaded to the webpage – Office of Institutional Research
 - Survey ended in the fall
 - There is an executive summary that has all the data and some interpretation
 - At the top there is a statistical overview of the measures
 - 43% participation in the survey
 - Faculty less prone to respond
 - Why – confidentiality of their responses
 - Institutional Research handles the responses and are encouraged to maintain the highest level of confidentiality
 - We have not had reports of confidentiality breach yet
 - 50% of Deans participated
 - Summary reports show the highest and lowest qualifications for the survey
- Senate Study Committee B – 4:08pm
 - Senator Fedler –
 - our goal is to look at funded research and faculty writing proposals for funded research
 - Test the survey on faculty senate first
 - The committee has met and developed a preliminary survey of about 12 questions
- New Business – Dean of Libraries – 4:09pm
 - Dean Gerlich
 - Curious as to how it came up for discussion at the faculty senate
 - In the memo it stated that any questions they could talk to their dean and we would accommodate them
 - Curious as to other deans – as to whether there is discussion to do something with their facility is the expectation to come to the senate to discuss
 - How many faculty members that assign group project work?
 - The Library is funded 100% by student fees in the last fiscal year
 - This last fiscal year the library was supplemented with other dollars
 - Of the 31 responses on study carrels high was at A&M and Iowa was lowest with 8
 - Average was 34 at all research institutions
 - NYU has 36 reservable study rooms – 66,000 reservations
 - At TTU we have
 - 186 single carrels for semester checkout
 - 30 faculty carrels and 3 larger carrels that fit 4 people that can be checked out for six hours to anyone
 - From April 2016 to December 2016 these were checked out 6,122 times
 - 8 group study rooms that are unlocked
 - SGA president said there should be more group study rooms

- Online reservation 2012 – 2016 each online reservation averaged 1800 times
- Talked to the Deans and all faculty who have offices in the library have offices somewhere else
- There are library faculty who do not have offices
- Anybody can check out the six hour carrels or they can talk to their dean and ask to have a carrel in the library
- Currently engaged in a space study for how to utilize the library space and potential future uses

Question Senator Barenberg:

What information did you gather from the faculty about why they would want to keep their carrels; you make a very compelling case for why you need the carrels for students. What about the faculty who have the carrels and were told they were being evicted?

Answer Dean Gerlich:

They have an office in another building. When I talked to the Deans, the dean all say that there are times when they have to move faculty to other space they are just moved. Why should you have two offices?

Question Senator Barenberg:

I would implore you to answer my question, which is did you consult faculty?

Answer Dean Gerlich:

No

Interim Provost Galyean:

Dean Gerlich a year ago through the different dean's offices contacted faculty to find out which ones had carrels. At which time some of the carrels were freed up. When we concluded, I suggested we need to ensure that if there is a need we need to make sure that there is that possibility

Answer Dean Gerlich:

I have not heard from one dean. The faculty have not gone to their dean

Question Senator Surluiga:

I have never received any e-mail earlier this year about this decision. I have not received any messages about it from the Dean of A&S. The only communication that I received was the one from the Dean of the TTU Libraries not so long ago, announcing the decision.

Interim Provost Galyean:

A year ago, you did not get a notification?

Question Senator Surluiga:

I did not receive a communication a year ago about

Answer Dean Gerlich:

Did you not get the email date January 24th?

Comment Senator Surliuga:

The one about the carrels, yes, but not the one from last year

Comment President Wilde:

I am also of Arts and Science and my chairman called me up and asked me to leave my carrel. That was the consultation. There is a feeling among my colleagues that this was not a good process. There are ways to interacting with faculty more effectively than I talked with the Provost and Deans. You said initially that faculty should talk with their deans. Most faculty do not see their deans at all. That is not a regular conduit of information that is more for bigger things. The process is what has elicited some of the concerns.

Question Senator Brittsan:

Is there information of how many faculty carrels our peer institutions have for faculty?

Answer Senator Hidalgo:

There was research conducted and none of the peer institutions have faculty carrels. There is so much remote access. You can access anything from a current office. We had night supervisors scan the floors for carrel use and the faculty carrels are never used. Many are storehouses for books.

Comment Dean Gerlich:

I had six responses to that email and in at the peer institutions only four had doubled and tripled up their faculty carrels

Comment Senator Barenberg:

Urge that some thought be put into where faculty can work in the library. It is busy which is great, but to have a quiet place to do research in the library for faculty would be great. Some of us still use books and produce research, so it is important to have a space to work without distraction. Even on the so-called quiet floors, it is a real challenge to work in the library. Encourage for us to come up with alternative space.

Answer Senator Hidalgo:

There are carrels that have keys and you can come to the service desk and check out a key to have a private space.

Comment Senator Held:

I just want to say to Dean Gerlich in particular, that we are sorry that the carrel issue has brought us to an adversarial situation. As a scholar on this campus, I want you to know that I deeply appreciate what you do. In particular I am grateful for Senator Litsey's role in interlibrary loan, as well as all of the ejournal subscriptions you make available to faculty free of charge and a lot of the other services you provide. Please do not leave here thinking that faculty do not appreciate the job you do in the library, we do appreciate it.

Comment President Wilde:

I would like to echo Senator Held's comment and thank you for coming on such short notice.

Comment Dean Gerlich:

Thank you for having me, we will in the future gather everyone's input for space usage.

- Resolution on Immigration Senator Barenberg – 4:28
 - Motion introduced – Senator Barenberg
 - Reasons:
 - Support all of our community affected by the Executive Order
 - Inability to travel
 - Effected members of the TTU community
 - As a university we rely on the free flow of ideas in and out of the university
 - Second Senator Held
 - Discussion

Resolution

on the President's Executive Order

"Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" and its effects on the TTU community.

WHEREAS the President's Executive Order "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" curtails the ability of many immigrants to reenter the United States after travel outside the country and

WHEREAS the Texas Tech University community includes many international students, staff, and faculty and

WHEREAS international travel and research are central to the mission of this University;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the TTU Faculty Senate reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that members of the TTU community are not discriminated against based on their religion, immigration status, or national origin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the TTU Faculty Senate continues its support for all international students, staff, and faculty, whether they are affected directly by this order or by the environment of uncertainty that it creates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the TTU Faculty Senate shall do whatever possible to support those students, staff, or faculty who are adversely affected by this Executive Order and any change in US immigration policies that may follow its implementation.

Comment Senator Brookes:

I wanted to draw attention to the H1B visa provisions in House Resolution 170, which would increase the minimum salary from 60k to 100k. We currently have 105 H1B faculty and staff and so this is important for us to be aware of. It impacts not only the seven nations but any worker that uses the H1B. Personally, I am an H1B visa holder and I do not make anywhere near 100k. The impact would be those departments that can offer that salary will be able to hire, those departments that do not will not be able to hire. I am not sure that my comment maps with this resolution precisely, but I wanted to bring it to the senate

- Resolution passes unanimously

- Liaison reports – 4:32 pm
 - Graduate dean will be pursuing and checking on the 99-hour rule for grad students and phd students. Get a plan in place to get them graduated

- Announcements – 4:33pm
 - Provost Search
 - Off campus interviews have been conducted with 10 candidates
 - Meet next week to filter the candidates to four
 - Itinerary will be sent out for on campus interviews
 - Time has been set aside for faculty senate meetings
 - Meetings will be held at the International Cultural Centers

 - Vice President of Research Search – Vice President Ramkumar
 - Isaacson Miller search firm hired
 - Committee formed – Al Sacco is chair
 - Search firm will meet with campus reporting units to gather hiring information
 - They hope to bring candidates to campus by end of semester
 - Search will continue so that it will be filled by September 1st
 - President hopes to fill it by the end of the Spring term – prior to hiring freeze announcement
 - Should be in place by fall term

 - Campus Issues – President Wilde
 - During the past year the departments have been in the news in not the best light
 - Faculty have struggled with how to address these concerns
 - At the suggestion of someone in Acts in Sciences President Wilde met with General Counsel and TTU communications to see if there is a way to develop a process for faculty to respond to allegations that do not interfere with university processes

Comment Senator Held:

I would remind senators, that we are governed by the constitution of the United States and the first amendment allows anyone including faculty to speak to anyone including the press. So I am against censorship, I am against loyalty oaths. I am against channeling faculty responses in general. A lot of us get calls from the AJ on research issues. In regards to other issues on campus, it is our right and obligation to speak freely. So I am not sure what you have in mind or what Victor has in mind. The notion that you have to go through a spokesperson rather than speaking to the media alone violates our constitutional right to free speech.

Comment President Wilde:

There was no such constraint put out. Rather they suggested ways we could easily do this. They don't want to review what we do.

Comment Senator Held:

Under the umbrella of the hiring freeze for hiring the VPR. In my department, we have four searches underway, we have interviewed four candidates. There has been a lot of time and investment in the

process. When the hiring freeze came down there was as much of an earthquake as there was with the Executive Order about Travel. President Schovanec put out an email saying that he was constituting a triage committee to evaluate critical positions up for hire and whether or not those would be left in place.

Vice President Ramkumar:

An email came about a half an hour ago that offers some answers.

Interim Provost Galyean:

An email was sent out that offers some FAQ's that will address a lot of the issues you are raising. Any positions where an offer has been made before January 31st, the offers will be honored. For in progress those will need to go through the hiring committee. We would expect those positions for a new Fiscal year hire, they should be fine. If there is a reduction in state funds, we will have to account for that. For ongoing positions, we will work and get input from the deans and department chairs and get justifications for those. If you have an ongoing search, you may need to go to the hiring committee to get approval for that. We do not know what to do with graduate students, student works or summer school yet.

Adjourned – 4:44pm