

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017 #347

Senators present were: Boren, Cox, Sharma, Verble, Zook, Zugay, Barenberg, Canas, Couch, Grair, Held, Ireland, Lavigne, Mayer, Ramkumar, Rice, Rider, Singh, Wilde, Fleischman, Richman, Siwatu, Fedler, Ghebrab, Hernandez, Morse, Nejat, Zuo, Hodes, Blum, Kalenkoski, Henry, Metze, Cassidy, Hidalgo, Litsey, McEniry, Bucy, Gring, Langford, Ankrum, Meek, CM Smith, and Stetson.

Senators Absent were: Adams, Brittsan, Corgile Cook, Forbis, Kaye, McCheney, Morales, Mosher, Surluiga, Dass, Crews, Matteson, Williams, Gilliam, Whiting and Brookes.

- **Call to order – Dr. Gene Wilde, Faculty Senate President**

- **Approval of minutes, Meeting #346, February 8, 2017 – 3:20pm**
 - Motion to approve – Senator Ankrum
 - Second Vice President Ramkumar
 - Minutes approved as amended corrections

- **Introduction of Guests: - 3:22pm**
 - Ombudsperson-Jean Scott, and Gary Elbow as the parliamentarian.

- **Speakers:**
 - Darryl James-Vice Provost, Strategic Plan Update – 3:22pm
 - Making it possible 2010 – 2020
 - Fall 2016 President Schovanec announced new initiative
 - **Priorities**
 - Increase enrollment
 - Improve scholarship
 - Enhance research
 - Outreach and engagement
 - Increase resources
 - Committee charged with new priorities – through 2025
 - Committee comprise of 25 people for all colleges a schools
 - Formed five subcommittees
 - Match to the strategic priorities
 - One giant subcommittee charged with looking at audacious ideas and disruptions
 - Solicit broad input from the broad community
 - Formed facilitator for each theme
 - Late November all departments and areas were asked for input
 - Priorities presented to board in May meeting
 - Work in progress
 - Student access and success were combined
 - Resource was distributed
 - Now there are three subcommittees total
 - Three priorities – recommended to full committee

- Promote student success through inclusive learning environments
 - Increase retention and enrollment
 - Advance university climate the cultivates success and wellness
 - Provides for signature learning experiences
 - Recruit retain world class faculty and staff
- Promote sustainability and quality of life
 - Increase productivity of research scholarship and creative activities
 - Recruit and retain best faculty, students
 - Opportunities for engaged scholarship and innovation
- Transform lives and communities through strategic outreach and engaged scholarship
 - Becomes an engaged campus
 - To address increasing criticism of being an ivory tower that does not respond to the needs of a community
 - Bring research into the community and translate the research into the needs
 - Strengthen collaborative community partnerships
- Early April will have campus forums to present ideas and solicit feedback
- Audra Morse-Professor in Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Department presenting on the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) Survey – 3:34pm
 - Saw and took the COACHE survey
 - Encourage other faculty to fill out the survey
 - 2006 the first COACHE survey as inaugural class
 - Climate study work in higher education
 - Questions related to
 - Tenure and promotion
 - Facilities
 - Retirement benefits
 - Personal and family policies
 - Governance
 - Survey went out in beginning of February
 - Data is de-identified
 - Useful for looking at general trends
- Audra Morse-Professor in Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Department President’s Excellence in Gender Equity Award – 3:37pm
 - There are two awards
 - One to faculty, one to staff
 - Recognize substantial contribution to academic and professional climate of gender equity on campus
 - Nominated and win will get a \$750 stipend

- Nominations are 10 page in length and include letter of nomination and two supporting letter
 - Due March 31st
- New Business:
 - Faculty Senate Nomination Committee-Officer Elections-Robert Cox – 3:40pm
 - Nominating committee moved into new business ahead of old business
 - Susan Hidalgo, Victoria Surliuga-nomination committee members.
 - To accommodate potential run offs
 - Nominating committee report
 - Each candidate is allowed 3 minutes to speak
 - Senate Secretary – statements
 - Senator Boren
 - Senator Barenberg
 - Vice President – statements
 - Senator Meek
 - Senator Litsey
 - Senator Roscoe-Hayes
 - President – statement
 - President Wilde
 - **Voting begins – winning requires a majority vote – 51% of the vote**
- Old Business: Review of Committees – 3:50 pm
 - Academic Programs Committee-Third Year Review OP – Vice President Ramkumar – Update only
 - Final discussion to relay what the committee discussed
 - Schovanec has recognized the importance of this new OP
 - new OP for Third Year Review
 - Draft presented at April meeting and ballot in May
 - Purpose is to facilitate a uniform third year review process across all units on campus
 - Goal is to help and enable faculty to be successful
 - Submit package the 20th of January of the sixth long semester
 - Each department will publish the requirements for third year review
 - In the three categories – teaching, research and service
 - The process
 - The department committee will review
 - Each level the candidate will receive written recommendation
 - Moves to tenured faculty for voting
 - College level non-peer departmental peer evaluator – one person
 - Looks at the process
 - Provides recommendation
 - Dean has to give in writing the evaluation to the candidate
 - By last day of class in May the process is completed
 - Non-positive review, summer to work on it

- Fall the opportunity for appeal to provost office – appeal must be responded to by end of Fall
- The ballot
 - Two questions
 - First, is the candidate making satisfactory progress
 - Second, should the person continue as a tenure track faculty member

Question Senator Held:

I may have missed something; the only thing you are requiring the candidate to be provided with is the evaluation by the dean. What else does the candidate receive?

Answer Vice President Ramkumar:

The candidate receives the ballot count prior to the letter from the chair, comments from the faculty, and the letter from the departmental review committee

Question Senator Held:

And on that basis they could for the possibility of an appeal

Answer Vice President Ramkumar:

At every step the recommendation is returned to the candidate

Question Senator Held:

My other question is about this outside evaluator. You said that it should be someone with some level of expertise. Is there any way to make sure that it is ok with the candidate?

Answer Vice President Ramkumar:

The chair, the candidate and the dean work together to determine the external evaluator. There should be a consultation to make sure there are no conflict of interests.

Question Senator Held:

Given the quality of those judging you, there may be a need for preemptory challenges. I understand the need for a limit. The main concern is if there is someone they want, there are no further inquiry

Answer Vice President Ramkumar:

The decision will be done in consultation with all parties. Normally there are three strikes, so we can put that in the process. Each participant gets three strikes.

Comment Senator Bucy:

So there are two votes, I like that because it allows for nuance. Was it discussed in the committee that there could be a no vote on the first question, but a yes on the second question?

Answer Vice President Ramkumar:

Yes, that is a possibility. If there is, a no vote comments are encouraged to suggest areas of improvement.

Question Senator Fleischman:

In talking with new faculty, and with a new dean coming in, my question is; if the tenure research requirements change. I was given feedback from the Provost, that hopefully the letter will describe the

standards at place in that time, and that if the standard do change that that person will be grandfathered.

Answer Vice President Ramkumar:

The candidate should have expectations in their appointment letter.

- **Faculty Senate Nomination Committee-Officer Elections – Runoff**
 - **Voting results – winning requires a majority vote – 51% of the vote**
 - **There is a runoff for Vice-President Election between Senator Litsey and Senator Meek**

- Faculty Status and Welfare Committee-Lewis Held – 4:10 pm
 - OP 64.10- Graduate Faculty-attached
 - Graduate council has made some more changes
 - Senator Morse
 - Add a few more clarifications to the OP
 - Included some language for Professors of Practice as well

Question Senator Fedler:

Section 3B... inaudible. Motion to amend the document as presented (Friendly)

Comment Senator Held:

Members of the committee does the committee accept the friendly amendment – friendly amendment accepted by committee

Vote on the document as amended – unanimous – 4:15pm

- Fifteenth Street Proposed Closing (during certain hrs)-Lewis Held-
 - Safety Committee/Sean Childers Presentation attached
 - This is a big deal and a big change to the university
 - The presentations in February were well received and persuasive
 - The FS&W committee and the senate body reviewed the proposal to close 15th street

Motion / Comment Senator Held:

Motion from FS&W committee – The faculty Senate supports the administration’s proposal to close 15th street to vehicular traffic between Detroit and Boston from 7:30 am to 4:30pm during the Spring and Fall semesters, on weekdays during the fall and Spring semesters.

Comment Senator Gring:

I am just wondering what other improvements will be addressed to be prepared to handle the closure of 15th

Comment Senator Held:

I did mention 18th street and whether that would be changed to a stoplight to handle the increased traffic. I was told they would look into that. I was also told that it was an exaggeration that the overflow is that significant. The data provided demonstrated that the impact is not that much on 18th for overflow.

Question Senator Sharma:

Closed for vehicular traffic not bicycles?

Answer Senator Held:

Yes, that is correct.

Question Senator Bucy:

What is the rationale for reopening at 4:30 instead of 5:30?

Answer Senator Held:

That determination is made based on the bulk data of people crossing the street at that time.

Vote on the motion:

The faculty Senate supports the administration's proposal to close 15th street between Detroit and Boston from 7:30 am to 4:30pm, on weekdays during the fall and Spring semesters. – Unanimous – 4:19pm

- Library Space Focus Group-Alan Barenberg reporting – 4:20 pm
 - Library conducting focus groups concerning library space usage
 - Total of 10 people in the focus group
 - Said it was faculty but the group was composed of other members of campus
 - There were architects present
 - Develop a tool kit for smaller ideas that can change things that are less than redoing the library
 - Showed pictures of fancy libraries
 - Pictures were largely of large group open space
 - Two student focus groups and one graduate focus groups
 - Opening question was how could the library better serve students?
 - Which is a strange question for a faculty focus groups
 - No representative from college of Business and College of Media Communications
 - Not necessarily a representative group from across campus
- New Business:
 - **Faculty Senate Nomination Committee-Officer Elections – Runoff – 4:23pm**
 - Voting results – winning requires a majority vote – 51% of the vote
 - There is a runoff for Vice-President Election between Senator Litsey and Senator Meek
 - The election results
 - President – Gene Wilde
 - Vice President – Ryan Litsey
 - Secretary – Alan Barenberg
 - OP 70.31 Employee Conduct, Correction Action, and Terminations-
 - Faculty Status and Welfare – Held
 - Has reached out to the staff senate

- They have a larger stake in this because they can be fired
- When you read this policy there are a lot of things we are not allowed to do
- However the staff should have a chance to look at this
- The policy has been revised in 2004, and the policy has been toughened
- The staff senate now may give it a more critical look and then it will go back to FS&W

Comment Secretary Litsey:

I would encourage all of you to look at this, because while we are not subject to this policy. Some of us do supervise staff members and we have to give evaluation based on these policies, so faculty can have a near direct input on this in terms of if there are things in here we deem, draconian. There is still an opportunity for us to influence this policy and subsequently those we oversee. That is particularly the case here in the library. I have seven full time staff members who are subject to this policy. So, something to consider even though it may not directly impact all of us we can influence this policy and hopefully improve it.

****Motion to suspend the Rules – Resolutions Concerning immigration****

Comment President Wilde:

We would need a 2/3 vote from the Senate to suspend the rules and have the Senate take up the resolution. Each resolution should be conducted separately.

Motion Senator Held – to suspend the rules and discuss the motion – 4:28pm

Second – Senator Bucy

Vote to Suspend the Rules – unanimous

- Resolution: Regarding the Impact of Immigration Restrictions on the Ability to Pursue Scholarly Endeavors – Senator Barenberg – 4:29pm
 - First one speaks to how immigration effects how we conduct our work as faculty
 - How negative immigration policies effect faculty work
 - Reading of the motion suspended

Resolution

Regarding the Impact of Immigration Restrictions on the Ability to Pursue Scholarly Endeavors

WHEREAS the American university has a strong tradition of carrying out scholarly endeavors throughout the world, and

WHEREAS the fruits of such endeavors have played major roles in enabling the United States to better understand the cultures of the world’s countries and thus more effectively compete economically in the international arena, and

WHEREAS the scholarship carried out by American academics in various parts of the world enriches not only America’s university students but the entirety of American society, and

WHEREAS the continuing controversy surrounding the development of restrictive new immigration policies not based on actual threats and implemented without any discussion in Congress or among agencies of government has given rise to growing anti-American attitudes which create an increasingly unfavorable environment for the conduct of academic endeavors overseas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate expresses its grave concern about the consequences of these recent public policies creating an increasingly unfavorable environment for carrying out scholarly endeavors outside of the United States and for the safety of those engaged in such endeavors.

- Discussion

Comment Senator Fedler:

What happens to these resolutions?

Comment President Wilde:

We post them on the Senate webpage, and copies will be forwarded to the President and Provost.

Comment Senator Fedler:

What happens after that?

Comment President Wilde:

There is no specific call for action

Comment Senator Fedler:

So what is the purpose?

Comment Senator Held:

The purpose, if I may, is to speak truth to power. We do not make policy, but we have the right to state our minds, and in case you are not aware the gravity of what is at stake here. I would refer you to an article in the DT, from the Office of International Affairs. They are advising international students to not leave the country because they may not get back in. In this month's issue of Science Magazine, 60 top research universities filed an amicus brief to protect the 10,000 students effected. We are always talking about Texas Tech playing with the big leagues the AAU, 22 AAU members have signed onto the brief. It is that serious that we should take a stand. Especially since, we are the reddest states in the union. It would help for us as a group, to say yes but.

Comment Senator Bucy:

Yeah, I was thinking about that question earlier. That this is sort of symbolic, but I think it contributes to the public opinion environment. If part of the discussion is how many people really oppose this and we are on the record opposing this. It does help shape public opinion, which is important. 20 years ago, this may have been a nice document that goes on a shelf, but now we are online nad it will be searchable.

Comment Senator Gring:

My concern with the whole thing though. Is even though we are not making any statements I necessarily disagree with. We are also dealing with an environment where people are legitimately afraid with how things will take place. I think it would be good to let people know in our region that there are reasons to

be concerned and we recognize that. I think that balancing that out, which I don't see in this. We have even had an incident here where someone was arrested. So there are reasons to be vigilant in addition to saying yes let's let as many people in who have gone through all the procedures. I just don't see any balance in this statement.

Comment Senator Held:

I will just remind you how this all started. The candidate at the time said we should ban Muslim immigration until we figure out what the hell is going on. If that was the motive for all of these executive orders you would think that they have a plan in place to figure out what is going on. This is putting the cart before the horse and as academics... [In audible] – we should oppose this

Comment Senator Bucy:

In looking at the original resolution for foreign national that we alter some of the language. Congress is going to decide on this, with evidence. In fact, the evidence is in the opposite direction and that is why it is important to say something. I agree with Mark that there needs to be some balance, but this is so specific and important that we go on the record.

Comment Senator Barenberg:

I really threatens what we do. I am already thinking do I go to a conference in Toronto. I may not be readmitted or harassed at the border. I am an American citizen and I have a reason to fear, just like everyone has a reason to fear

Comment Senator Bucy:

We have had several graduate students asks if they are going to be able to get back into the country. That is a question I have never encountered.

Comment Senator Meek:

It seems like a lot of this has been addressed already by the administration and congress more recently.

Comment Senator Bucy:

The problem as is see it right now. There is a tweaking of the language to make it a little more fair, but it may open the door to more scrutiny lately. It is important that we go on the record against this, because if not we could potentially tacitly support such a policy by not objecting to it.

Comment Senator Gring:

The thing confusing to me is that I am not sure that anyone would disagree with the importance of diversity in the academy. On the other hand, we still need to understand that we are also in support of solid vetting procedures, and I guess that I would offer that as a friendly amendment.

Comment Senator Held:

Two years for a Syrian refugee is a pretty solid vetting procedure.

Comment Senator Hodes:

It is important to have a message on record. There were dissenter. We oppose this, we recognize what this is, and it doesn't seem like everyone went along with it.

Comment President Wilde:

This is a resolution of sentiment basically. We do not all agree with it.

Vote Called – 4:40pm – Resolution passes

****Motion to suspend the Rules – Resolutions Concerning immigration****

Comment President Wilde:

We have a second resolution, which again would require a suspension of the rules.

Motion Senator Held – to suspend the rules and discuss the motion – 4:41pm

Second – Senator Bucy

Vote to Suspend the Rules – unanimous

- Resolution: Regarding the Importance of Immigration to American Higher Education – Senator Barenberg – 4:41pm
 - Second, one peaks to how immigration effects higher education. How important immigrants have been to the United States and security
 - How negative immigration policies effect higher education and the intellectual endeavors on the country
 - Reading of the motion suspended

Resolution

Regarding the Importance of Immigration to American Higher Education

WHEREAS the United States as a country has historically been both a beacon and a refuge for immigrants who have sought to leave behind conflict situations and, more generally, to pursue the many opportunities provided by this great country, and

WHEREAS during the course of the twentieth century many of the country’s leading scientists and researchers, individuals who have brought great distinction to American universities, were themselves individuals who had fled the oppression and violence of their homelands, and

WHEREAS these refugees, and other immigrants who came to the United States from less fraught situations, made major contributions to American higher education and to the nation’s cultural and intellectual life, as well as to America’s economic and military security;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate urges the Congress and President of the United States to recognize that in either limiting or denying access to individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States, and especially those fleeing violence and oppression, we are very likely undermining the future economic, scientific, technological and military strength of the country.

- Discussion – none

Vote Called – 4:40pm – Resolution passes

- Liaison Reports:

- Senator Morse – Training for Graduate Students – 4:43pm
 - Requiring graduate students to undergo training on intellectual integrity
 - A number of cases of academic dishonesty show a need for training
 - And training for record keeping
 - NIH is requiring this type of training
 - The goal is to have something in place with the initial platform provided by the company
 - Graduate school is looking for ways to require students to do this if you will
 - Holds on registrations or appointments
 - There is similar processes in place already
 - Want to let the faculty senate know
 - Looking for comments or concerns

Comment Senator Held:

I would suggest that this be done online

Answer Senator Morse:

Yes, it will be done online

- Senator Barenberg – Core Curriculum updates – 4:45pm
 - They are working on revamping the core curriculum proposal system as well as courses in the core
 - One issue that there are a lot of applications are rejected without knowing
 - Another issues is recording and assessment
 - Sometimes there are faculty teaching core and they do not know it
 - The core is growing and there is no way to currently take courses out
 - These are the highlights of potential changes
 - Application process made more transparent
 - Clear process for reviewing the core courses
 - Encourage courses to provide more assessment data
 - Not determined by section, but by the course as a whole
 - Changes going before Academic Council March 21st
 - Concerns addressed to Associate Deans

- Announcements:

Final Provost Candidate meeting this evening and vision talk Friday at 10am

- Adjournment – 4:51pm