Faculty Senate Minutes  
April 10, 2019 #366  

Senators Present Were: Al-Hmoud, Barenberg, Barnes, Boren-Alpizar, Borshuk, Cassidy, Cochran, Cook, Decker, Donahue, Fedler, Gotlieb, Held, Hodes, Ireland, Jai, Johnson, Jonsson, Karp, King, Kleinhans, Lavigne, Legacye, Li, McEniry, Meek, Mosher, Nathan, Pare, Pease, Ramkumar, Romi, Singh, Skidmore, CM Smith, Stetson, Thacker, Wang, Watts, and Weiser.

Senators Excused Were: Bayne, Blum, Boal, Bradatan, Buelinckx, Bucy, Flueckiger, Gilson, Jones, Louis, Matteson, Rice, Rider, Shumway, Thompson, Walter, Williams, and Zook.

- **Call to order – Alan Barenberg, Faculty Senate President – 3:17pm**
- **Introduction of Guests – 3:17pm**
  o Guests were: Charles Leatherwood, Managing Director of Grounds, Eric Crouch, Managing Director of University Parking, Brian Shannon, Faculty Athletic Representative, Kirby Hocutt, Athletic Director, Jean Pearson Scott-Ombudsperson, IRB liaison-CassiDe Street, Provost Micheal Galyean, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Cody Arnall, subbing for Senator Flueckiger, Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey, newly elected senators.
- **Discussion of minutes, Meeting #365 – 3:19pm**
  o President Barenberg asks for discussion
  o Senator Boren-Alpizar suggests inserting a sentence on page 5 of the minutes indicating that Provost Galyean concurred with Senator Lavigne’s assessment of OP 32.03
  o President Barenberg asks for discussion – there is none
  o Senator Fedler moves to approve amended minutes, Senator Meek seconds
  o Motion carries unanimously and amended minutes are approved.
- **Speakers – 3:20pm**
  o Charles Leatherwood, Managing Director of Grounds and Eric Crouch, Managing Director of University Parking
    - Here to discuss upcoming changes that will have an impact on parking
    - Held a town hall meeting last fall on transportation and pedestrian safety
    - Weeks Hall renovations underway since last fall with projected completion in spring 2020
      - Addition of R13 parking in this area
    - Opportunity to address safety concerns in Child Development Research Center (CDRC) area
      - Shows where additional parking will be located to ease pressure on parking area near CDRC
      - This would eliminate access to center of campus
      - Would also create a drop off area for the CDRC
- Senator Held asks why access to center of campus would be blocked
- Crouch indicates that the street would be blocked anyway with the parking garage; it’s also to deal with safety concerns during emergencies
- Senator Held asks when this will take place
- Crouch indicates that it will begin this summer

- Another project Crouch mentions is the R07 administration lot
  - A safety concern for pedestrians and drivers
  - Would eliminate 15th Street north of the SUB
  - This project is still at least one year out

- A third project is the Basketball Practice Facility being constructed across from the arena – losing 151 parking spaces with the project
  - Looking to expand parking lot north of the greenhouse
  - Also looking at connecting a service road behind Animal Science and the greenhouse
  - Also looking at taking the north end of Indiana where there is a dead end and creating a roundabout

- Leatherwood indicates that after commencement, work will begin on repaving 18th Street from Flint to Indiana, and Hartford Avenue from 18th to 19th Street
  - This project will help to correct drainage issues along this corridor

- Leatherwood mentions several other projects on buildings around campus, as well as some sealant on parking lots
  - These are all projected to be completed by the beginning of the semester in August
  - Senator Held revisits the closing of 15th Street by mentioning that 18th Street does not provide access to campus from the east
  - Crouch mentions that a traffic consultant will be retained to help design models with traffic flow on campus
  - Senator Held mentions that there are limited points of access to campus from the east
  - Leatherwood states that Glenna Goodacre and Broadway are points of access from the east, as well as 19th Street to Boston
  - Crouch mentions that there is not as much traffic on 15th Street as had been assumed

- Crouch mentions that their department took over the Safe Ride services for campus
  - Serves about 1,800 students per week after-hours and on weekends
  - They are working to expand this service for the fall by providing a shuttle service for faculty/staff to give rides to meetings during the workday
  - Discussion about pedestrian areas and Lime scooters
  - Senator Nathan asks about KTTZ phase 2 and if the station will be off the air
• Leatherwood states it will not be off the air
• Senator Nathan asks about the English Building construction and how long it will take as it creates fumes in the classrooms
• Senator Karp asks about traffic flow around Akron and Glenna Goodacre and University and Glenna Goodacre
• Leatherwood mentions the pedestrian crossings that were installed
• Crouch mentions that the traffic consultant will explore this
• Senator Held mentions the planned Academic Science Building and asks how many parking spaces will be lost
• Crouch says that they don’t have numbers yet, they are still analyzing
• Senator Mosher mentions how pleased he is that the Lime scooter issue is being addressed
• Crouch indicates that there will be a meeting in May with stakeholders about the scooter issue

 Kirby Hocutt, Athletic Director, Brian Shannon, Faculty Athletic Representative (3:43pm)

  • Shannon mentions the success of the basketball team but wants to highlight successes with student-athletes across campus
  • Presents data regarding GPA of student-athlete’s – highest in history
  • Even lowest performing team has 2.7 GPA

  • Hocutt mentions that TTU had an 82% graduation rate with student-athletes last year
  • Underscores the importance of academics to the athletic program
  • Thanks faculty for their support of student-athletes

  • Senator Held compliments Hocutt on the way that TTU has been represented in the public domain over the last couple of weeks

 President Barenberg, Old Business – 3:52pm

  • Budget Study Committee report

    • Senator Kleinhans discusses the committee’s work on employee dependent scholarships for spouses and children of TTU employees
    • Still working on comparison among peer institutions
    • TTU offers a $500 scholarship per semester, but many other universities do a tuition waiver
      • Cost savings are variable among colleges on campus
      • TTU could do better in this area when looking at other regional institutions
    • The committee is asking for feedback from senators on the direction the committee should take in exploring this issue
    • President Barenberg asks for discussion – there is none
    • President Barenberg suggests that senators email Senator Kleinhans or President Barenberg with ideas
President Barenberg asks for report from the Academic Programs Committee

- Senator Lavigne discusses the committee’s work on reviewing the impact of the state of Texas Fields of Study (FoS) program on TTU
  - Main point of contention with FoS is lack of faculty control over degree programs
- Senator Lavigne mentions three main aspects of FoS are problem areas for TTU
  - Students who transfer in with a completed FoS curriculum cannot be required to take any lower level courses as part of the major
  - Most of the FoS programs require many more hours of lower level courses than do the degree programs at 4-year academic institutions
  - While each FoS curriculum is required to be reviewed regularly, there is no established review process
- Two distinct practical effects on TTU for undergraduate programs
  - Programs with more requirements will likely have to make compromises on the quality of the degree of those transferring in with completed FoS programs
    - An example is the FoS program in biology requires Organic Chemistry at the 2000 level, but the TTU program requires it at the 3000 level
  - Programs tied to specific professional association standards may have trouble meeting those standards with FoS students
- Potential responses include:
  - Drafting a resolution denouncing or critiquing the FoS program
  - Collecting more hard data on the negative effects of the quality of FoS transfers on the degrees
  - Exploring the needs of programs whose accreditation relies on regularly updated course content

President Barenberg asks for any discussion on the report – there is none

- Senator Lavigne mentions that he will forward a preliminary report from the committee to President Barenberg to share with senators

President Barenberg asks for the report from Study Committee A

Senator Stetson reports that the issue of continuing appointment for non-tenure track faculty is very complicated
- There is much variation across campus
- Committee recommends that an OP similar to 32.01 be drafted defining what continuing appointment is for non-tenure track faculty and not leave it up to individual departments
  - Often a non-tenure track faculty member is presented with excessive teaching loads with low salary
• Often presented as a ‘take it or leave it’ proposition and some abuses may occur – no grievance procedures in place
  • Some wording is vague in the Modified Instructional Duties policy with respect to non-tenure track faculty
    o Change wording to include non-tenure track faculty who have been in position more than one year
  • President Barenberg commends the committee on their work
  • President Barenberg asks for discussion on the report – there is none
  • President Barenberg asks for a vote on approving the report
  • The motion to approve the report passes unanimously
    ▪ President Barenberg asks for any other old business – there is none

  o President Barenberg, New Business – 4:03pm
    ▪ President Barenberg asks if there is any new business
      • Senator Weiser asks to suspend agenda and introduce a resolution for Jean Pearson Scott
      • President Barenberg asks if there is any discussion on the motion to suspend the rules – there is none
      • Senator Ramkumar seconds the motion
      • President Barenberg asks for a vote to suspend the rules
        o The motion to suspend the rules passes unanimously
      • Senator Weiser reads the resolution for Jean Pearson Scott
      • President Barenberg asks for discussion on the resolution – there is none
      • Senator Smith seconds the motion to approve the resolution
      • The resolution passes unanimously
      • There is no additional new business

  o President Barenberg, Liaison Reports – 4:08pm
    ▪ President Barenberg asks for any liaison reports – there are none
    ▪ President Barenberg reminds senators that the position of ombudsperson has been published and encourages people to apply

  o President Barenberg, Announcements – 4:10pm
    ▪ President Barenberg asks if there are any announcements
    ▪ Senator Held asks for an update on OPs in Faculty Senate this academic year
      o Senator Cochran states that he will give a report on this in the May meeting
    ▪ President Barenberg asks for any other announcements – there are none
    ▪ President Barenberg asks for a motion to adjourn
    ▪ Senator Pare moves, Senator Jonsson seconds

• Adjournment 4:12pm