Faculty Senate Minutes  
January 16, 2019 #363

Senators Present Were: Al-Hmoud, Barenberg, Barnes, Bayne, Blum, Boren-Alpizar, Borshuk, Bucy, Buelinckx, Cassidy, Cochran, Cook, Decker, Gilson, Gotlieb, Held, Hodes, Ireland, Jai, Jones, Jonsson, Juan, Karp, King, Kleinhans, Lavigne, Legacey, Li, Matteson, McEniry, Meek, Nathan, Pease, Ramkumar, Rice, Romi, Shumway, Singh, Skidmore, CM Smith, Thompson, Walter, Wang, Watts, Weiser, Zook.

Senators Excused Were: Boal, Bradatan, Donahue, Fedler, Flueckiger, Johnson, Louis, Mosher, Pare, Rider, Stetson, Thacker, Williams.

- **Call to order** – Alan Barenberg, Faculty Senate President – 3:15pm

- **Introduction of Guests** – 3:15pm
  - **Guests were:** Provost Michael Galyean, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Vice Provost Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, Matt Gregory-Dean of Students, CassiDe Street-IRB liaison, Jon Crider-McNair Program, Jean Scott Pearson-Ombudsperson, Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey.

- **Discussion of minutes, Meeting #361** – 3:16pm
  - President Barenberg asks for discussion
  - No discussion
  - Senator Ramkumar moves to approve minutes, Senator Weiser seconds
  - Motion carries and minutes are approved.

- **Speakers** – 3:17pm
  - **Vice Provost Durham DeCesaro, Academic Affairs**
    - Here to discuss Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) initiative called Fields of Study Program
    - Purpose is to enhance transferability of coursework from in-state 2 year to 4 year institutions and clarify transfer pathways for students
      - Currently transferability of coursework at in-state 2 year institutions that goes beyond the core curriculum is not transferred the same across in-state 4 year public institutions
    - Fields of Study Program is designed to ensure that any student who completes a set of courses in a discipline at a 2 year public institution will be able to fully transfer that set of courses at a 4 year institution
      - Designed to reduce excess transfer hours
    - Generally a Field of Study consists of 18 or more credit hours in a specific discipline at a 2 year public institution
• Fields of Study are created by the THECB
  o Commitees of 24 members – 12 from 2 year and 12 from 4 year public institutions – create curricula
  o Puts together lists of at least 18 credit hours of lower-division courses that will be fully applicable toward the 4 year degree at any public in state 4 year institution
• Majors with the highest enrollments are targeted
  o Many Fields of Study already exist and many are under construction over the next 2 years
• If a student completes a Field of Study at a 2 year, the 4 year is required to find some way to apply the block of courses in the Field of Study to the 4 year degree program even if the courses do not align
• When a student brings in a completed Field of Study, the 4 year institution is not allowed to require the student to take any additional lower division courses in the major
• Senator Bayne asks about regulations and compliance issues in engineering
  o All committee members for engineering were familiar with ADEC regulations and developed a Field of Study that does not risk compliance
• Currently Fields of Study are not indicated on a student’s 2 year transcripts
  o Within approximately 18 months transcripts will indicate if students have completed a Field of Study and all credits will need to be applied toward the degree
• Senator Al Hmoud inquires about requirements for a minimum passing grade at the 2 year institutions
  o Durham DeCesaro indicates that this is not currently addressed in state law – will request a response from THECB in writing and will give to President Barenberg
• Senator Karp asks for clarification about students taking lower division courses – indicates that in some engineering majors the coding of the courses required for engineering students at Tech would be considered lower division, but that the incoming students would still need to take them
  o State statute implies that Tech would have to make substitutions for any lower division courses
• Senator Barnes inquires about how pre-requisite courses fit in with the Fields of Study program – some lower division pre-requisite courses may not have been taken by Fields of Study students
  o There is not a current structure for addressing these issues in the Fields of Study program – concerned about adequate student preparation
• Groups of 4 year institution are responding to the Filds of Study program
Letters have been sent to THECB by UT and TAMU voicing concerns, but indicating willingness to work together on the issues.

SACCOC also sent a letter to THECB underscoring the concerns issued by 4 year institutions.

- THECB responded indicating that they disagreed with the concerns.
- Letters are also being issued by Faculty Senates at 4 year institutions outlining concerns with the Fields of Study legislation.

- President Barenberg indicates that this issue is listed under New Business on the agenda.
- Durham DeCesaro stresses that TTU wants faculty presence on Fields of Study Committees in order to have a say on the curricula.
- Senator Ramkumar asks about the majors affected by the Fields of Study Program and how many the THECB is targeting.
  - Durham DeCesaro states that they are currently working on 25.
  - Overarching goal is to reduce the excess transfer credits of students.
- Senator Thompson asks if Fields of Study students can switch majors once they are at a 4 year institution.
  - No, this is not permitted in the Fields of Study Program.
- Senator Ramkumar asks about subdisciplines within majors.
  - There are instances where subdisciplines are lumped together, but the 4 year institutions could separate those out.
- Senator Al Hmoud asks about this might affect TTU enrollment.
  - Provost Galyean indicates that TTU is unsure how this will affect enrollment.
- Senator Lavigne asks about implications of the Fields of Study Program and the 120 hour rule.
  - Durham DeCesaro states that the 60 hours taken at the 2 year institutions don’t always line up, but that the 120 hours cannot be exceeded – we cannot ask these students to take additional courses.
  - Vice Provost Stewart emphasizes that the 120 hours cannot be exceeded by students in the Fields of Study Program.
- Senator Baynes inquires about the timeline for implementation of the Fields of Study Program.
  - Durham DeCesaro says that the program is currently active and has been since the fall of 2016.
    - Transcription has been a major problem as a student within a Field of Study is not easily identified.
- Senator Rice asks if other states are implementing similar programs.
Durham DeCesaro says that there are other states doing similar things – the transferability issue is a national problem

- Senator Bayne asks if TTU is working directly with 2 year institutions
  - TTU already has many articulation agreements with 2 year institutions across the state
    - This approach is a good solution to the transferability issue
    - Melanie Hart’s office maintains a page of active articulation agreements at TTU
- President Barenberg introduces Matt Gregory, TTU Dean of Students

Matt Gregory, Dean of Students (3:43pm)
- Gregory here to discuss updated threat assessment practices at TTU
  - Communicated threats will be addressed
  - Code of Student Conduct defines a threat
  - Intimidation can also be considered a threat
  - Four types of threat: direct, indirect, veiled, conditional
  - How does TTU address threats?
    - Each threat is analyzed independently
      - Majority of threats are unlikely to be carried out, but each one may materialize, so all must be assessed
    - Four people at TTU assess communicated threats
      - Lt. Patterson, TTPD
      - JaWana Green, Managing Director of Student Conduct
      - Lisa Viator, Clinical Director of Student Counseling Center
      - Dean Gregory
    - Threat Assessment Team has attended several trainings on threat assessment tools
      - Tools are intended to scale the threat on a low, moderate, or elevated level
        - Elevated and moderate would include contact and plan of action – low may require a plan of action as well
    - Gregory discusses measures faculty can take to mitigate potential threats
    - Encourages faculty to familiarize themselves with the Students of Concern report
- President Barenberg asks if there are questions for Dean Gregory
• Senator Hodes asks for clarification about safety, is it more for faculty or students? What is the red line for student removal? Guns and threats together on campus are a source of discomfort
  o Gregory indicates that safety is for all on campus – faculty, staff, students
  o If a student is separated from the campus – interim suspension, that student can be arrested upon return to campus
    ▪ Discussion on interim suspension
  o Campus carry is state law, but if student does not brandish the weapon it is not considered a threat
  o Senator Buelinckx asks about actions to take if a threat does not come from a student
    ▪ Gregory indicates that TTPD and EEO would be the correct entities to contact
  o Senator Kleinhans asks about anonymity in reporting and guidelines for maintaining student anonymity
    ▪ Gregory indicates that privacy will be protected as much as possible, but that often students will know who is reporting them
  o Senator Weiser asks about general mental health issues, such as depression, or have made threats against themselves
    ▪ Gregory says that those can be communicated to their office via the Students of Concern form and they will follow up with students
  o Senator Hodes presents threat scenarios to Dean Gregory and asks about procedures
    ▪ Gregory says that if a threat of violence is made, then 911 should be called, but in less serious situations an interview with the student will take place
  o Senator Li asks what to do if a student shares that they have been threatened by someone else
    ▪ Gregory suggests that the students should be referred to his office
  o Senator Ireland asks about hypothetical threat made in the fall
    ▪ Gregory indicated it was a veiled threat, but is happy to discuss the incident outside of the meeting
  o Senator Weiser mentions that partner violence may involve Title IX
    ▪ Gregory agrees
  o Senator Bucy asks how many threat incidents there are on campus
- Gregory says not a lot, maybe two or three a semester
  - Senator Bucy asks if modeling tolerance in the classroom might help and asks if the problem goes away once the students of concern are talked to by the threat assessment team
    - Gregory says the problem is not always taken care of right away, it can be a process
  - President Barenberg asks what processes are in place for the victim of threats
    - Gregory says with students there are good processes in place and there is a lot of support, but that there is room to grow on the staff side

- **President Barenberg, Old Business – 4:18pm**
  - Senator Karp reports on the Administrator Evaluation Survey
    - Surveys went out this afternoon
    - Encourages all to complete the survey and to recommend to their colleagues to participate in the survey as well
  - President Barenberg mentions that there have been several hiccups in the roll out of the survey – if problems are encountered, people should email President Barenberg
    - Please encourage colleagues to persist in completing the survey
  - Senator Cassidy wants to know if any library colleagues have received the survey
    - No library faculty received the survey
    - President Barenberg mentions that the survey email has gone to junk mail as well – there have been problems in sending it out
  - Senator Ramkumar mentions that the library is regularly overlooked
  - President Barenberg asks for any additional discussion on the survey – there is none
  - President Barenberg asks for any other old business – there is none

- **President Barenberg, New Business – 4:21pm**
  - Senator Matteson discusses the Nomination Committee
    - Slate of potential officers will be presented at next meeting and voting will take place in March
  - President Barenberg mentions that anyone who has a question related to the responsibilities of the officer positions should contact the current officers
  - President Barenberg raises the issue of Fields of Study – the Faculty should take some sort of action on the issue, such as a resolution
    - Other faculty senates have taken action
  - President Barenberg asks for discussion
    - Senator Lavigne indicates that we should respond to this issue in some way
  - President Barenberg asks for a motion to forward the issue to Academic Programs Committee
• Senator Bucy moves, Senator Buelinckx seconds
• Motion carries
  ▪ President Barenberg asks for discussion

  o President Barenberg, Liaison Reports – 4:25pm
    ▪ President Barenberg asks if there are any reports – there are none
    ▪ Senator Matteson asks the IRB Liaison, Dr. Street, about the Cayuse issues experienced prior to the holiday break
      ▪ Dr. Street responds that the issues have been resolved, but that if anyone encounters problems to contact her
    ▪ Senator Matteson asks about revisions to IRB process
      ▪ Dr. Street would like to give a presentation about revisions to IRB to the Faculty Senate

  o President Barenberg, Announcements – 4:26pm
    ▪ President Barenberg asks if there are any announcements – there are none
    ▪ President Barenberg asks for a motion to adjourn
    ▪ Senator Ramkumar moves, and Senator Buelinckx seconds

• Adjournment 4:26pm