Senators present were: Al-Hmoud, Barenberg, Barnes, Bayne, Blum, Boal, Boren-Alpizar, Bucy, Cassidy, Cochran, Decker, Fedler, Flueckiger, Gotlieb, Held, Ireland, Jai, Jones, Jonsson, Juan, King, Kleinhans, Legacey, Matteson, McEniry, Meek, Nathan, Shumway, Skidmore, Stetson and Watts.

Senators excused were: Li, Borshuk, Bradatan, Buelinckx, Cook, Gilson, Hodes, Johnson, Karp, Lavigne, Louis, Mosher, Pare, Ramkumar, Rice, Rider, Romi, Singh, CM Smith, Thacker, Thompson, Walter, Wang, Weiser, Williams, and Zook.

Guests: Newly elected Senators- Beau Pihlaja, David Forrest, Anna Novotny, Robert Perl, Michael Farmer, Siva Parameswaran, Leo Eko, Catharine Franklin

- **Call to order – Alan Barenberg, Faculty Senate President – 3:18pm**

- **Introduction of Guests – 3:18pm**
  - Guests were: President Lawrence Schovanec, Jean Pearson Scott-Ombudsperson, IRB liaison-Cassie De Street, Provost Micheal Galyean, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Ralph Viator, Rawls College of Business, Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey, newly elected senators.
  - President Barenberg mentions that the discussion of the minutes will be moved until after the speakers in order to achieve quorum for voting purposes

- **Speakers – 3:19pm**
  - Lawrence Schovanec, President of Texas Tech University
    - Here to make end-of-academic-year comments
    - Thanks the leadership of the Faculty Senate, Ombudsperson Jean Pearson Scott, Provost Galyean, and the Senior Vice Provost Stewart for their work
    - Congratulates Wes Cochran on election as Faculty Senate President
    - Discusses TTU was officially confirmed as an HSI this week
      - Now eligible for Title III and Title V funding
      - Certain funding opportunities for faculty to apply for as part of an HSI
      - Information needs to be shared widely with faculty about the availability of competitive funds
      - The amount of available funding is estimated to be between $8 million - $12 million per year that TTU can compete for
        - Much of the money is for student support activities
    - Discusses college rankings
      - Forbes just published their 2019 Best Value College Ranking
        - This ranking category includes 300 universities and has existed for 4 years
The first year, TTU was not ranked
In year 2, TTU was ranked at 298 out of 300
In year 3, TTU moved up to 138 out of 300
This year TTU moved up to 116 out of 300
Carnegie Tier 1 Institutions rankings have TTU at 62 out of 131 schools
Among public universities, TTU is 43
• TTU has improved on all metrics in the rankings
• Mentions the NCAA Basketball tournament
• The College Factual issued a comparison of all the teams that played in the Sweet 16
  o TTU has more undergraduates than Michigan
  o TTU fared well in the comparisons with other schools
• Discussed faculty success
  • Mentions that the Provost has made this a priority
  • Met with the Gender and Women’s Studies program
    o TTU administration will provide $15,000 a year to support the Women’s Writing Group
    o Great example of faculty mentoring
    o Other ideas of faculty mentoring should be shared with the Provost’s Office
    o TTU should celebrate faculty success
• Mentions the AAUP meeting
  o Discusses teaching, scholarship, outreach/engagement and the balance for faculty
  o Excellent teaching is critical for our students – importance can’t be overstated
  o Research and engagement are also important, but says, “It doesn’t mean that everybody has to do everything.”
  o Emphasis areas shift throughout the course of a faculty member’s career and this should be recognized
  o These issues need to be discussed and those faculty members who want to dedicate more time to teaching and/or outreach should not be relegated to second-class status
  o Focus should be on the full human capital found at the university
• Mentions spending time in Austin to introduce the basketball team to state legislature
  o Governor spent 15 – 20 minutes with the players
  o Speaker of the House and West Texas house members also spent time with them
  o Visited with the Lt. Governor
  o Left with a positive feeling about the TTU Vet School
• TTU looking for novel ways to generate revenue
• Mentions Centennial Celebration
Aliza Wong and Grace Hernandez went to a conference on hosting these kinds of celebrations

20% is focused on past, 80% is focused on future

Great marketing opportunity for TTU

Any ideas for the celebration should be directed to Aliza Wong or Grace Hernandez

Town Hall meetings will be held in the fall to explore growing scholarship funds

Senator Boal asks how the capital campaign has gone for TTU over the last couple of years

First year President Schovanec was in office they raised $89 million

Last year they raised $120 million

This year the amount will probably go down due to efforts to raise money for the vet school – this is separate from the capital campaign

Mentions how excited he is to have Byron Kennedy as Vice President for Development

Mentions that they are hiring 7 new development officers

Discusses efforts to enhance development across campus

Senator Held asks why last two STEM buildings and the next STEM building have no planned classrooms

President Schovanec clarifies that buildings in reference are ESB 1 and 2 – Senator Held affirms that this is correct

These buildings were designed to be research centers

Discusses specifics about funds and plans to improve classroom facilities and labs – mentions the RaiderReady Rooms

Dr. Ralph Viator, 3:44 pm, Chair of Investigator Financial Disclosure Committee (IFDC)

Here to discuss IFDC to inform Faculty Senate about IFDC’s functions

IFDC reports to VP of Research & Innovation Heppert and AVP Young

IFDC focuses on financial conflict of interest (COI) for funding that is current or proposed

process

Discusses management plans

Currently 3 OPs require faculty disclosure of COI

All fall under different administrative jurisdictions

Discusses complexity of disclosure process

Discusses how the IFDC is working to facilitate the disclosure process – a ‘one and done’ form for COI
• Senator Boal asks about getting a ‘one and done’ system from a peer institution
  o Viator says that TTU is ahead of the curve in this arena
• Senator Flueckiger asks if management plans are a good thing or a bad thing & mentions Innovation Hub
  o Viator discusses SBIRs and Innovation Hub
  o Discusses extremes in management plans
• IFDC seeks help in educating faculty on COI issues
• Emphasizes that transparency is important
  o President Barenberg, Minutes – 4:03 pm
    ▪ Asks for discussion on minutes – there is none
    ▪ Senator Meek moves to vote on the minutes, Senator Al Hmoud seconds
    ▪ Minutes pass unanimously
  o President Barenberg, Old Business – 4:04 pm
    ▪ Faculty Status and Welfare Committee report
      • Senator Cochran recommends acquiescence to the revisions for the following OPs: 10.11, 70.06, 70.14, 70.22, 70.33, 74.04.
      • President Barenberg asks for discussion – there is none
      • President Barenberg mentions that OP 70.06 there was a recent meeting in which this OP was discussed and there was no reason for concern about adopting this OP
      • Vote is held on approving the report – it is approved unanimously
      • Senator Cochran points out that OP 70.31 is still under discussion in terms of revisions
      • President Barenberg thanks the committee for their hard work on the OPs this year
    ▪ Report from Budget Study Committee
      • Senator Kleinhas discusses the committee’s work on reviewing the Employee and Dependents Scholarships at TTU
        ▪ Compared TTU with other Big 12 institutions
          ▪ Most institutions do a tuition waiver instead of a scholarship
          ▪ Within the small pool that does the scholarship, TTU does not fare very well
          ▪ About 250 students take advantage of the scholarship
            ▪ The scholarship value differs across colleges on campus
          ▪ Committee recommends that the report be sent to the Provost, President, CFO, and the Chancellor
        ▪ President Barenberg asks for discussion about the report or possible recommendations
        ▪ Discussion ensues
        ▪ Senator Al-Hmoud recommends eliminating the scholarship and moving to a tuition waiver
President Barenberg clarifies that Senator Al-Hmoud is suggesting the report be amended to ask administration to investigate the possibility of moving from the scholarship system to a tuition waiver
  ▪ Senator Al-Hmoud affirms that this is correct
  ▪ The committee puts this recommendation forth as an amendment to their initial report

President Barenberg asks for discussion about the amended report
  ▪ No discussion

President Barenberg asks for a vote on the acceptance of the amended report
  ▪ Acceptance of the report passes unanimously

President Barenberg recognizes the quality of work the committee put into the report – it is a model of research and very well done

President Barenberg asks if anyone from the Academic Programs Committee would like to share a report in the absence of Senator Lavigne
  ▪ No committee member offers to make the report
  ▪ President Barenberg relinquishes the gavel to Vice President Skidmore in order to make the Academic Programs Committee Report

Academic Programs Committee Report
  ▪ Administrative Course Drop Policy
    ▪ Vice Provost has come back with minor revisions of the policy based on feedback from Faculty Senate
    ▪ Vice President Skidmore asks for discussion on policy
      ▪ There is none
    ▪ Vice President Skidmore asks for a vote to approve the report
      ▪ The report is unanimously approved
  ▪ Fields of Study Report
    ▪ Vice President Skidmore asks for discussion on report
      ▪ There is none
    ▪ Vice President Skidmore asks for a vote to approve the report
      ▪ The report is unanimously approved

Vice President Skidmore relinquishes the gavel to President Barenberg

Study Committee C Report
  ▪ Senator Nathan reports that FAQs have been recommended to add to the Administrator Evaluation Survey
    ▪ Six questions are recommended
President Barenberg asks for any discussion on the report – there is none
President Barenberg asks for a vote on adopting the FAQs
  ▪ The FAQs are approved unanimously

President Barenberg raises the issue of graduate student health insurance
  ▪ Suggests appointing liaisons for Faculty Senate to work with graduate students
    ○ Recommends appointing Andrea Jonsson, a current senator, and Erin Collopy, an incoming senator, as liaisons
  ▪ President Barenberg asks for discussion
    ○ Senator Held asks about cost of graduate student health insurance
    ○ Provost Galyean discusses the increase in graduate student health insurance costs
    ○ Other discussion ensues

**President Barenberg, New Business – 4:37pm**
  ▪ President Barenberg asks if there is any new business
    ○ Senator Boal discusses fairness of grade point averages in the plus/minus system
    ○ Senator Held mentions the problems with the plus/minus system
    ○ Other discussion ensues
  ▪ President Barenberg asks for any other new business
    ○ Senator Nathan raises the issue of incompletes

**President Barenberg, Announcements – 4:40pm**
  ▪ President Barenberg asks if there are any announcements – there are none
  ▪ President Barenberg thanks the officers, Patty Gisch, the Provost and Vice Provost and staff for a productive year
  ▪ President Barenberg hands the gavel to Senator Cochran
  ▪ President Cochran asks for a motion to adjourn

**Adjournment 4:46pm**