Faculty Senate Minutes
October 10, 2018 #360

Senators Present Were: Al-Hmoud, Barenberg, Bayne, Blum, Boal, Boren-Alpizar, Borshuk, Buelinckx, Cassidy, Cochran, Cook, Decker, Donahue, Flueckiger, Gilson, Gotlieb, Held, Hodes, Jai, Johnson, Jonsson, Juan, Karp, King, Kleinhans, Lavigne, Legacey, Matteson, McEniry, Meek, Mosher, Nathan, Ramkumar, Rider, Romi, Shumway, Singh, Skidmore, CM Smith, Stetson, Strieder, Thacker, Thompson, Wang, Watts, Weiser, Williams, Zook.

Senators Excused Were: Barnes, Bradatan, Bucy, Fedler, Ireland, Jones, Li, Louis, Pare, Pease, Rice, and Walter.

Senators Unexcused Were: Hernandez.

- Call to order – Alan Barenberg, Faculty Senate President – 3:17pm
- Introduction of Guests – 3:17pm
  - Guests were: Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Vice President for Research Joseph Heppert, Ombudsperson Jean Pearson Scott, Maggie Gilchrest-Staff Senate President, CassiDe Street-IRB liaison, Ryan Litsey – Parliamentarian, and Michael Ryan-Rawls College of Business.
- Discussion of minutes, Meeting #359 – 3:19pm
  - President Barenberg asks for discussion
  - Motion to adopt minutes with spelling corrections made by Sen. Ramkumar, Sen. Juan seconded.
  - Motion carries, minutes are approved.
- Speakers – 3:20pm
  - Dr. Joseph Heppert, Vice President of Research
    - Here to discuss trends in federal agencies
      - Signs of stress in agencies
      - Increasingly view funding as investment – expect a return
      - Oversight of federal agencies under scrutiny and have increased security concerns
      - Many agencies – including Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and National Science Foundation – have indicated changes are forthcoming
      - Dr. Heppert seeks input on how the Office of Research and Innovation can communicate more effectively with faculty about these upcoming changes and other important issues
      - Dr. Heppert indicates that international collaborations are very important to TTU
• President Barenberg opens the floor for questions
• Senator Ramkumar indicates that planning is important in order to ensure that TTU is competitive in recruiting international STEM students
• Dr. Heppert stresses that international outreach and collaborations are important to TTU
• TTU is working on this at the federal level
• Senator Shumway indicates that messaging about federal issues shared with Faculty Senate today was very effective
• Senator Held asks about ESB 1 and ESB 2 and seeks oversight on the College of Arts and Sciences strategic plan – indicates there are inconsistencies
• Dr. Heppert expresses concern about ESB 2, indicates that the Provost, the President, and Dr. Heppert will be discussing ESB 2
• Senator Held asks that discussions be held with faculty regarding these issues
• President Barenberg asks if there are additional questions
• President Barenberg shares President Schovanec’s regrets for having to miss today’s meeting

President Barenberg, Old Business – 3:51pm

• Senator Cochran reports on Faculty Status and Welfare (FSW) Committee
  • Discusses OP 32.38 – third year review
  • FSW met with Provost Galyean, SVP Stewart, and President Barenberg regarding this OP
  • They recommend sending a guidance memo to departments on this OP to assist in its implementation
  • Any concerns on OP that should be addressed in the guidance memo should be sent to Senator Cochran in next two days to pass along to the Provost
• Discusses summary procedure of OPs used by FSW committee to triage incoming OPs
  • Triage procedure categorizes incoming OPs as either non-substantive or substantive in terms of their revisions
  • The non-substantive OPs are listed in the report – if any senators have a concern about an OP listed there, please contact Senator Cochran and the FSW committee will review that OP more closely
  • If OPs categorized as non-substantive in terms of revisions, and there are no objections from the Senate, President Barenberg will pass the OPs on with Senate approval
  • If Senators have objections, please let Senator Cochran know right away
• Senator Cochran discusses OP 32.02 (Faculty Non-reappointment,Dismissal, and Tenure Revocation)
  • Other offices must sign off on this and then will return it to FSW
  • This OP is not ready to go forward until the others have signed
Once this is done, the OP will come back to the Faculty Senate for review

- President Barenberg asks for discussion of pending OPs
  - Senator Johnson requests adding language to OP 32.03 (Academic Deans, Associate or Assistant Deans, and Department Chairpersons) about voting for department chairs
  - Additional discussion ensues
- President Barenberg asks Senator Karp to discuss the Administrator Evaluation Committee Report
  - Senator Karp discusses how the evaluation was reviewed by her committee
  - Addresses anonymity concerns – says no private data are disseminated
  - Lack of clarity on the use of the comments solicited in the evaluation – they are not summarized or presented anywhere
  - They recommend the questions on the evaluation remain unchanged
  - Senator Karp mentions that she received a comment indicating that the Dean of the Graduate School is not evaluated
  - Last evaluation was in February of 2018
  - Senator Karp solicits input about when to administer the evaluation
- President Barenberg asks for discussion
- President Barenberg clarifies the action under discussion, asks if there is a motion to run the survey
  - Senator Karp wants to wait a month to review any additional comments before administering the evaluation
  - Senator Flueckiger asks how results are used
  - Senator Karp has no further details to offer
  - Other discussion ensues on effectiveness and actionability of the administrator evaluation results
  - President Barenberg interjects that under New Business there is an action item addressing administrator evaluations – postpones further discussion until New Business
  - Senator Ramkumar asks for clarification on the gender question on the survey
  - Senator Karp is unclear on what was done with data by Institutional Research outside of what was published on the website – she has emailed to ask about this, but has not received a response
- President Barenberg asks Senator Stetson for a report from Faculty Study Committee A on full-time non-tenure track faculty
  - Senator Stetson asks for input from faculty on this issue
  - **President Barenberg, New Business – 4:07pm**
    - Vice President Skidmore discusses gender neutral language resolution
• Campus Climate Committee seeks to create an environment on campus that is inclusive to all
• Ensuring language is inclusive is a good first step
• Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government Association want to make a joint resolution on the issue
• Campus Climate Committee advocates a switch in terminology from freshman to first-year, chairman to chairperson, spokesman to spokesperson, foreman to foreperson

▪ President Barenberg asks for discussion
▪ Discussion ensues
▪ President Barenberg asks for a motion to vote on the resolution
  • Senator Legacey moves
  • Senator Johnson seconds
  • Resolution passes
▪ President Barenberg asks Senator Weiser to address the Campus Climate Committee’s time use survey for faculty
  • Senator Weiser explains background and structure of the survey
  • Campus Climate Committee worked with the Gender Equity Council on the creation of the survey
  • Senator Weiser asks if there are questions about the time use survey
  • President Barenberg asks for discussion
  • Senator Karp asks who will evaluate the survey
  • Senator Weiser said that she will run the analyses to prepare the report
  • Senator Karps asks if cultural differences will be evaluated as part of the survey and if this will be analyzed within colleges
  • Senator Jonsson asks how survey will be distributed
  • Senator Weiser says an email will go out to faculty, but encourages Senators to discuss the survey with their colleagues
  • President Barenberg indicates that the Campus Climate Committee would like to approve the survey and send it out to faculty
  • Since this is a committee report, we don’t need a motion, only a second
    o Senator Lavigne seconds
  • President Barenberg asks for vote
    o Senate approves the survey and its distribution
▪ President Barenberg returns to the Administrator Evaluation Survey responses
  • Ongoing concerns about the survey across campus
  • Two concerns arise most frequently
    o One – why do we bother as there are no substantive actions taken on results.
    o Two – anonymity is a concern that identifying information could be solicited and seen by administrators
• Perhaps an external entity could run the survey
• President Barenberg asks for discussion
• Discussion ensues about the survey
• President Barenberg indicates that faculty are less likely to complete the survey if they don’t trust the process
• Provost Galyean suggests that not collecting identifying data is probably the best course of action
• President Barenberg suggests charging a Study Committee to examine how to design the faculty survey to improve response rates
• Senator Lavigne recommends that the Study Committee examine how the data from the survey are used
• President Barenberg says that this is up to the committee
• Senator Jai recommends providing an option to not answer identifying questions
• Senator Juan indicates that the info can still be ascertained
• President Barenberg asks if there is a motion to charge Study Committee C to examine this issue
  o Senator Ramkumar moves
  o Senator Beal seconds
  o Motion passes
  o Senator Nathan – as convener of Study Committee C – seeks clarification on the charge
  o President Barenberg indicates the charge is to explore how to improve weak response rates

**President Barenberg raises issue of Faculty Senate communications**

- Desire to improve communications with faculty at large
- Suggests a motion to form an ad-hoc committee to explore the issue
- Asks for discussion
- Discussion ensues regarding emailing faculty with minutes of Faculty Senate
- President Barenberg mentions different ways to form the ad-hoc committee and seeks a motion from the floor to collect people now for the committee or to do it via email
  o Senator Ramkumar moves to collect people for committee via email – that interested parties should send a note to Patty Gisch
  o Senator Nathan seconds
  o Motion passes

**President Barenberg asks if there is any other new business**

- Senator Nathan raises the issue of KTTZ FM, which has been off the air now for two months or more
  o A letter was sent out by station in early August indicating there would be a two – three week delay in airing program
o No communications have been received since then in spite of inquiries
  • President Barenberg asks for discussion
  • Senator Johnson offers to send a note to the program director to address the issue
  • Other discussion ensues
  • President Barenberg will raise the issue with President Schovenec, as TTU public media is under the President’s Office
  • President Barenberg asks for other new business

o **President Barenberg, Liaison Reports – 4:35pm**
  • Senator Rider reported on the Graduate Council. The implementation of mandatory CITI training was approved by the Graduate Council. More information will be forthcoming.
  • President Barenberg reported on traffic and safety and asked for input from senators regarding any concerns they may have with these issues on campus.
  • President Barenberg asks if there are other reports

o **President Barenberg, Announcements – 4:37pm**
  • Senator Cook discusses TTU Pride Week and the programming for the remainder of the week
  • President Barenberg discusses his office hours on the last Monday of every month from 1:00 – 4:00pm
  • Senator Donahue discusses the schedule of productions for the season
  • Maggie Gilchrist shares that the Texas memorial is next Thursday at 5:30 at Memorial Circle
  • President Barenberg asks for motion to adjourn
  • Senator Ramkumar moves

• **Adjournment 4:40**