

Annual Report 2008-2009

Discussion Highlights-for full version see Faculty Senate minutes for that meeting.

#280, September 5, 2008

Introduction of new Faculty Senate officers and new Faculty Senators. New Faculty Senate Officers: President: Sandy River; Vice President: Susan Mengel; Parliamentarian: Mary Frances Agnello; Secretary: Laurin Mann

Invited Speaker: Vicki West, Institutional Research: The Faculty Workload Reporting System is now online. See the URL (<http://techdata.irs.ttu.edu/workload>) and link on the Institutional Research Home page.

Guy Bailey, University President

President Bailey outlined his plans for the Provost Search Committee. He expects that it will be made up of: Chair Michael Shonrock, 5-6 members of the university faculty, one member of the community, one Regent; and will contain men, women, and people representing the diversity of the university community and the broad range of academic disciplines offered by the university.

Old Business:

Faculty Ombudsman: Senate recommend the Ombudsman position be carried forward as a part-time position.

OP on OP's

An OP was drafted and sent to the Provost to ask that the Faculty Senate be informed of all changes to existing OP's. President River was informed by Dr. Marcy in August that the OP was awaiting the signature of the Interim Provost.

Administrator Evaluation Survey: The results of last spring's Administrator Evaluations are now available.

New Business:

Resolutions: Resolution of Appreciation for Dr. William Marcy. The Resolution was passed.

Resolution of Welcome and Support for President Guy Bailey. The resolution with amendment was voted on, and accepted.

Resolution Regarding the Selection of a New Provost. A motion was made and passed to table the Resolution Regarding the Selection of a New Provost until after Dr. Bailey had addressed the Senate.

Following Dr. Bailey's remarks, there was no interest in resuming discussion of the Resolution Regarding the Selection a New Provost. Faculty Senate President River will email Dr. Bailey with regards to Senate representation on the Search Committee.

#281, October 8, 2008

Invited Speaker: John Creed (Store Manager, Barnes and Noble Bookstore).

Speaker: **Kay Rhodes:** Kay Rhodes presented the Faculty Senate with an update (and hand-out) on the status of ConnecTech.

Speakers: **Bobbie Latham and Dale Ganus,** Registrar's office (Banner update).

Speaker: **Valerie Paton**, Vice Provost (SACS). Valerie Paton assured the Faculty Senate that the SACS Special Committee.

Faculty Ombudsman: Senator Wilde reported that an offer was made to John Howe to take on this post for the first year, with the understanding that spring and summer '09 will be spent in training, and that the work will commence in the fall semester of '09. The offer has not yet been accepted.

Committee/Council Liaison Reports:

Academic Council: Susan Mengel. The Gen Ed Committee has been dissolved and replaced by the new Core Curriculum Committee.

Graduate Council: Lakhani. Senator Lakhani stated that a proposal has been made for a Distance Doctoral Program in Special Education.

Ad Hoc Committee on Handling of Student Course Evaluations: Syma; Barnes-Burroughs
A recommendation has been made that faculty be allowed one year in which to challenge the findings of student course evaluations, if it is discovered that there has been an obvious error in the evaluation process. No decision has been presented yet.

Provost Search Committee: River: The Provost search is on schedule. In-person interviews of up to eight candidates will take place at DFW before Thanksgiving.

Provost Council: River: Interim Provost Winer asked for proposals for use of the Academic Incentive money.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: River reported in minutes.

New Business: Senators Wilde and Held reported that revisions to the OP on tenure and promotions (32.01) were made in July.

#282, November 12, 2008

Invited Speaker: Associate Vice-Provost Gary Elbow: Update on the Core Curriculum Committee.

Speaker: **Bobbie Latham / Dale Ganus:** Banner Registration.

Old Business:

The OP on OP's surfaced in the Provost's Office this week. Vice Provost Winer and Dr. Stewart discussed and approved it, and it will be sent to the OP office to be approved and sent up for final approval.

Faculty Ombudsman: Dr. Howe has been in conversation with the Provost's office. Howe has presented a list of things necessary to meet standards of ombudsman programs, which is currently being costed out by the Provost's office.

Committee / Council Liaison Reports:

Study Committee B: The Committee has been looking at the AAUP proposed revisions to OP 32.03, and will present a recommendation at the December Faculty Senate meeting.

The Survey Committee on Administrator Evaluations (Senator Oliver) recommended that since the Administrator Evaluations survey should be run every fall for a spring response, that they submit the survey instrument to Institutional Research for a fall '09 participation, so that the data is ready for analysis

spring of 2010.

Committee on Libraries: Senator Weinlich reported that the students negotiated a 9.9% increase in the library fee for the next two years.

Provost Search Committee: President River announced that the Provost Search is still on schedule, and that there is a large pool of good applicants for the position.

Provost Council: President River announced that 4.4 million dollars were allocated in Academic Incentive money. 120 proposals for increasing student credit hours for this spring semester were received. These proposals have been presented to the President, who will forward them to the Board of Regents.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: The Task Force is forming working groups. The Communication group plans to have a web site next semester. Dr. Bailey will meet with the Task Force this week.

New Business:

The Child Care Committee: A Resolution was passed previously to support child care in the university, but with the changes in administration, the Committee felt that reviewing the subject would be prudent.

Two Resolutions were formulated:

- **To reaffirm our support for the Child Care Liaison position**
- **To prod the administration to keep the Child Care Centre in mind during the capital campaign.**

After discussion both the Resolution was passed.

#283, December 10, 2008

Invited Speaker: Pam Eibeck, Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force.

Eibeck announced that President Bailey established the Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force to develop a decentralized budget management plan for the university.

Old Business: There was no new news on any old business.

Committee Reports:

Study Committee A was asked to look into the Senate membership rotation, since it is not currently set up according to the dictates of the Constitution.

Study Committee B presented a few changes to OP 32.03, on Academic Deans, Associate or Assistant Deans, and Department Chairpersons.

New Business:

Guest Valerie Paton: SACS Accreditation

Vice-Provost Valerie Paton announced that the full SACS Commission voted to find Texas Tech in compliance, although privately, she was told that the university is only in minimal compliance.

Resolution of Appreciation for Return to Full SACS-COC Accreditation Status Vice-President Susan Mengel read the following Resolution, which was prepared by the Faculty Senate Agenda Committee.

The Resolution was voted on and passed. It will be distributed.

#284, January 14, 2009

Invited Speaker: Kay Rhodes: Options for Posting Student Grades: With the new technology, we have more options for posting student grades. (See attached hand-out **Options for Posting Student Grades**). And an updated on new Banner.

Speaker: Kathy Austin: Posting student grades, SSN, new TechID, or other confidential information in public areas violates state and federal laws, as well as TTU Operating Policies. With the pre-existing, and the new technology.

Speaker: University President Guy Bailey

Provost: The new Provost is Bob Smith.

VP for Research: A list of strong candidates for the position of VP for Research will soon be narrowed by the committee. The initial pool of candidates (around 50) looks very strong, with at least 12 potential choices. Airport interviews will take place by the end of January. Candidates will be brought to campus in February. Faculty members are encouraged to meet the candidates and provide feedback.

Opening in Administration and Finance: There will be a position opening in Administration and Finance shortly. Dr. Bailey wants someone knowledgeable of both Texas higher education, and finance.

Legislative update: see minutes.

Old Business: Study Committee B will make a report next month.

Study Committee A proposed a revision to the Senate Constitution that we omit the part of Article 3, Section 7 of the Constitution that requires that one third of the Senators from each constituency be elected each year (since this has not been done in recent years). After open discussion, the Senate decided not to delete this section of the Constitution, but to work internally to balance the rotation of Senators.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee / Study Committee C: Members of these two committees were not able to meet during fall semester. President River encouraged the committee members, and expressed hope that they will be able to accomplish some business this semester.

Committee / Liaison Reports: Student Life Council: (Mengel reported for Blake) The Student Life Council has been formed out of the Enrollment Management Council.

Parking: Senator Lakhani reported that the Parking Committee is proposing a 5% increase in parking fees.

Provost Council: President River announced that the university has brought in a master planning consultant to determine whether the core campus can accommodate a growth to 36,000 students.

New Business: President River announced that the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee for Senate officers for the spring elections will be made up of Senators: Wilde (Arts and Science), Shacklette (Architecture), and Sobolewski (Engineering).

#285, February 11, 2009

Invited Speaker: Matt Baker, Dean of Outreach and Distance Education. See minutes.

Speaker: Sue Jones (Managing Director of Official Publications) Sue Jones came to speak to the Faculty Senate in response to the discussion at the January Faculty Senate meeting about the seemingly foreshortened January start-up dates.

Old Business:

Study Committee B: OP dealing with the responsibilities of Deans and Chairs

Senator Jeter reported that Study Committee B has made some changes to its proposed revisions to OP 32.03 (dealing with the annual Administrator evaluations). Senators Held and Wilde were involved in the revision. (See attached PDF of OP 32.03 with proposed changes marked). A vote was held. The proposed revisions were passed.

The proposed revisions will be sent to the Provost's office.

Study Committee A: Senator Peoples reported to President River that in view of the discussion at the last Faculty Senate meeting on the possibility of revising the constitution, Study Committee A has withdrawn its report.

Committee / Liaison Reports:

Study Committee C: Study Committee C has met and discussed the teaching evaluations and have come up with some ideas that may become recommendations.

Nominations Committee: Senator Wilde announced that he has some candidates for Faculty Senate officers lined up.

Status and Welfare Committee: Senator Rosen reported that the Committee is looking into the subject of merit pay.

New Business:

Senator Held brought up Chancellor Hance's announcement to freeze tuition.

#286, March 11, 2009

Invited Speaker: Valerie Paton, VP for Assessment and Planning. Vice Provost Valerie Paton, Director of Strategic Planning. Dr. Paton brought the Faculty Senate up to date on the work of the Strategic Planning Council. See minutes.

Old Business: The Nominations Committee (for the Faculty Senate officers for the coming year) reported that there are two nominees for President (Meek, Cox); two for Vice President (Koch, Gelber); one for Secretary (Spallholz). The Nominations Committee report was voted on and approved.

New Business: OP 10.01: President River announced that Dr. Stewart spoke with Sarah Warner in the OP office about the OP on OP's that the Faculty Senate drafted last year and forwarded to the Provost's office. They suggested that the text of the OP on OP's be incorporated into the revision portion of OP 10.01 (which deals with the creation of new OP's and the revision of existing OP's). A marked-up version of OP 10.01, with revisions reflecting that suggestion, was distributed to the Faculty Senate. A vote was taken. The proposal was approved.

OP 32.32 (Evaluation of Faculty): President River announced that Jonathan Marks and Gary Smith of

the Ethical Institution Task Force have sent the Faculty Senate a marked-up version of OP 32.32 adding language that deals with ethical aspects of evaluations. She has asked Senators Held, Harter, and Koch to review the document, and hopes that they will have a report for the Senate at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

New Business: Officer Elections (Wilde) Following a ballot count, it was announced that the Faculty Senate officers for the 2009-2010 school year are: President: Meek; Vice President: Koch; Secretary: Spallholz.

Liaison Reports:

Student Life Council: (Blake) The Recruitment Committee of the Student Life Council has announced that applications and transfers are below the target.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: (River) As mentioned in previous Faculty Senate meetings, a report is expected in May.

#287, April 8, 2009

Invited Speaker: Dr. Bob Smith, Provost. Dr. Smith spoke to the Faculty Senate about his Vision for the university: "From Here it's Possible." See minutes.

Speaker: Brian Shannon, Faculty Athletics Representative

Brian Shannon reported that as the Faculty Athletics Representative to the Faculty Senate, he is a member of the Athletics Council.

Speakers: Jennifer Stout, Drew Graham: Student Government Association

Stout and Graham presented the Faculty Senate with a Resolution that had been passed in the Student Senate on Feb. 5, 2009. The Resolution expresses the students' desire that faculty members turn in textbook lists for the following semester to the bookstores on the first day of finals of the current semester.

A discussion followed, during which some members of the Faculty Senate expressed sympathy with the intent of the Student Senate's resolution. Several Senators advised the students on the wording of the Resolution. The students' Resolution did not require to be passed in the Faculty Senate. President River thanked the students for their input in this area.

Old Business: OP 32:32 (Faculty Evaluations)

Senator Held announced that the Ethics Institution Task Force has made suggestions for changes to OP 32:32.

New Business: Closing of the Student Union Post Office

Senator Blum announced that the Student Union Post Office will be closing, for financial reasons, most likely in June.

Liaison Reports:

Academic Council: (Mengel) A report from the Academic Council has been emailed to members of the Faculty Senate.

Assessment Committee: (Cox) A report from the Assessment Committee has been emailed to members of the Faculty Senate.

Discussion Highlights:

The Office of Planning and Assessment recognizes that assessment must be driven by and centered on faculty. Dr. Paton reaffirmed her desire to discuss relevant issues directly with the Faculty Senate as often as requested. Open communication is a top priority.

#288, May 6, 2009.

Invited Speaker: Dr. Guy Bailey, University President

President Bailey spoke about what has been transpiring in the current Legislative session, and how that will affect the immediate and long term financial situation at the university. He also discussed strategic considerations for budgeting for the coming year. 1. **Legislative Session.** 2. **Long Term.** 3. **Tuition Bill.** See minutes for Bailey's full presentation.

Old Business: Study Committee C (Meek)

Study Committee C has been looking into the Student Course Evaluations—particularly in such areas as: the ramifications of evaluations, how they are used to evaluate faculty, and how effective they are. Study Committee C is planning to do some research this summer, surveying other universities to discover how faculty evaluations are dealt with in other institutions. Senator Meek asked that any Senators who are interested in participating in this process contact him.

Status and Welfare Committee: (Rosen)

The Status and Welfare Committee has been looking into the subject of Merit pay. They have the various Colleges for the criteria upon which Merit pay is based. Some Colleges have responded, but not all. They have put together an interim report that is currently circulating in Committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on OP 32.32: (Held)

The Committee presented their Recommendation for revisions to OP 32.32: Performance Evaluations of Faculty. (This Recommendation was circulated to Senators via email). The Recommendation was voted on, and passed.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: (River)

The Task Force has a draft of a Planning Document in the works, which will be sent to Dr. Bailey by the end of May.

New Business:

Entering Grades in Banner: (Meek) Senator Drager feels that entering grades into the new Banner system could be more faculty-friendly. He spoke to the people who are working on the system, and reports that they would be most appreciative for faculty support and advice in their redesign of the website over the summer. Senators interested in working on this committee should contact Senator Meek. President River suggested that any Senators with specific suggestions/concerns about the grading process also send these concerns to Senator Meek.

Graduate Admissions: (Jeter)

Senator Jeter brought up the subject of current problems with Graduate Admissions at the Grad School: His department has lost strong applicants, because of slow response.

Resolution: (Held)-withdrawn

Senator Held presented a Resolution regarding Selection Procedures for Commencement Speakers. After discussion, Senator Held withdrew his Motion. The Faculty Senate decided that we would like to have more information about how Commencement speakers are chosen.

Liaison Reports

Academic Council: (Mengel) VP Mengel sent out the Academic Council report to the Faculty Senate earlier in an email.

Library: (Weinlich) Funding: Remote Storage: See minutes for full report.