

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, Legacey, 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**
 - **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-Cassidy De 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**
 - President Barenberg asks for discussion
 - 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
 - President Barenberg asks for discussion – there is none
 - Senator Fedler moves to approve amended minutes, Senator Meek seconds
 - Motion carries unanimously and amended minutes are approved.
- **Speakers – 3:20pm**
 - **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
 - 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
- **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
 - 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
- **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
- **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
 - 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**