

Faculty Senate Minutes
February 13, 2019 #364

Senators Present Were:, Al-Hmoud, Barenberg, Barnes, Blum, Boren-Alpizar, Bucy, Buelinckx, Cassidy, Cochran, Cook, Donahue, Fedler, Flueckiger, Gotlieb, Held, Hodes, Ireland, Johnson, Jones, Jonsson, Juan, Karp, Kleinhans, Lavigne, Legacey, Li, Louis, Matteson, McEniry, Mosher, Nathan, Pare, Pease, Ramkumar, Rice, Romi, Shumway, Singh, Skidmore, CM Smith, Thacker, Thompson, Walter, Wang, Watts, Weiser, Williams, Zook.

Senators Excused Were: Bayne, Borshuk, Bradatan, Decker, Gilson, Jai, King, Meek, Rider, Singh, Stetson.

- **Call to order – Alan Barenberg, Faculty Senate President – 3:16pm**

- **Introduction of Guests – 3:16pm**
 - **Guests were:** Provost Michael Galyean, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Maggie Gilchrest-Staff Senate President, Scott Burris-IRB Chair, CassiDe Street-IRB liaison, Jon Crider-McNair Program, Sean Lewis-SGA President, Jean Scott Pearson-Ombudsperson, Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey.

- **Discussion of minutes, Meeting #363 – 3:17pm**
 - President Barenberg asks for discussion
 - No discussion
 - Senator Matteson moves to approve minutes, Senator Juan seconds
 - Motion carries unanimously and minutes are approved.

- **Speakers – 3:18pm**
 - **Jon Crider, Director of McNair Scholars Program**
 - Here to discuss the McNair Scholars Program
 - Under the umbrella of TRIO on campus and works with low-income, first generation, and underrepresented students
 - Goal is to have students complete undergraduate research in preparation for obtaining a research-based PhD
 - Named after Ronald McNair, the African-American astronaut who perished in the Challenger tragedy
 - Program was created in his memory to help diversity academia
 - Two-year program and application process is currently live
 - Looking for rising juniors who will be graduating in the spring of 2021
 - In the fall of the first year of program participation, students are linked with a faculty mentor to develop a research project over the first two semesters

- In the summer between junior and senior year, students learn how to prepare graduate school applications, find funding for graduate school, and other topics related to pursuing graduate education
 - McNair students are provided with \$1,000 towards their research project, in addition to money provided for conference travel, graduate school visits, and GRE fees.
 - If McNair students pursue graduate education at TTU, they are provided with a \$4,000 stipend
 - McNair applications are open through the end of March
- McNair Program is funded through the Department of Education to support a cohort of 26 students
 - Currently accepting 13 students – a selective process
- Students who may be eligible to apply for the program should email Dr. Crider with questions
- Senator Boal asks what percentage of the student body is eligible for this program
 - Dr. Crider estimates it is around 10%
- Senator Ramkumar asks if a commitment to attend graduate school is needed
 - Dr. Crider indicates that if a student decides graduate school is not the right choice for them, they are not removed from the program, but graduate school is the focus of the program
- Senator Donahue asks if scholarly work in the program includes creative activity
 - Dr. Crider clarifies that creative activity is included
- **Scott Burris, Chair of TTU IRB & Dr. CassiDe Street, IRB liaison (3:27pm)**
 - Here to share updated information on the IRB
 - Reminds Senate about how the IRB was struggling in 2014 with the growing research initiatives across campus
 - An investigation of the structure of the IRB was conducted at that time by then-Provost Schovanec and a report was made
 - As a result of that inquiry, the IRB grew and changed
 - Staff was added to the HRPP office, which manages all human research on campus
 - Leadership capacity of IRB was enhanced
 - Resources were added to provide faculty support for the review process
 - Flow of research proposal review has improved immensely
 - In 2017, the Office of Human Research Protection changed federal regulations related to human research
 - Helped to streamline the review process even more
 - In 2014, there were 1,500 approved protocols
 - In 2018, there were over 2,600 active, approved protocols

- In 2018 all faculty reviewers reviewed and approved over 700 initial protocols for human subjects, 300 modifications on existing protocols, 300 renewals, and closed almost 600 existing protocols, which requires a review process.
- The Final Rule, a federal regulation, was implemented in January 2019 and required significant changes to processes
 - Staff worked over the holiday break to ensure TTU was ready to implement the Final Rule
 - There may still be problems in some of the regulations that are not well-defined
 - There will probably be required training in IRB for graduate students and faculty forthcoming
- Senator Held recalls the calamity experienced in the IRB in 2014 – 2015. Is curious about two metrics: turnaround time of reviews and frequency of complaints
 - Dr. Burris states that turnaround time is a difficult metric for the IRB
 - Policy is to get a proposal turned around in 10 days, which almost always is met
 - The problem with the metric is once a proposal is reviewed and changes are recommended, the reviewer may not see the proposal again for another six months because the investigator does not submit the revised proposal sooner – this messes with the average review time metric
 - With some more pioneering proposals, the IRB will meet with investigators and work with them on structuring their proposals, which takes more time – this also messes with the average review time metric
 - Dr. Burris states that complaint frequency is not formally tracked and was not measured in the 2014 – 2015 timeframe
 - Mentions that if faculty are not receiving a timely response or have other complaints, they should contact him or Dr. Street
 - Dr. Street adds that the goal for approval of an exempt proposal is 1 to 2 days, for the new limited proposals, the goal is 2 weeks, with expedited proposals, the goal is 2 months to approval – this includes the back-and-forth process between investigators and IRB
- **President Barenberg, Old Business – 3:46pm**
 - Senator Matteson reports on the Nominations Committee
 - Presents list of nominations for Faculty Senate officers
 - Presents slate of potential officers
 - Asks for nominations from the floor

- There are no nominations from the floor
- Voting for Faculty Senate officers will take place in March's meeting
- President Barenberg asks for any additional discussion on the nominations – there is none
- President Barenberg asks for report from Faculty Status & Welfare Committee – Senator Cochran reports
 - Senator Cochran mentions that OP 10.16, 70.12, 70.42, and 74.17 are being sent to President Barenberg for acquiescence
 - The committee recommends specific changes to OP 70.31 – these are listed in the report sent to Senators
 - Senator Cochran moves for the Senate to approve the revisions
- President Barenberg asks for discussion on the proposed revisions to OP 70.31
- Senator Nathan asks about the deletion of faculty being covered under OP 70.31 and inquires the reason why this issue keeps coming up
 - Senator Cochran mentions that certain influential people involved in the revision process keep trying to strike those kinds of exclusions of faculty, and the committee is remaining vigilant to ensure that these exclusions are maintained
- President Barenberg asks for additional discussion – there is none
- President Barenberg asks for a vote on the motion to approve the revisions
 - The motion passes unanimously
- Senator Cochran also mentions concerns about the OP revision process and at what point the Faculty Senate is consulted
 - It appears that the Senate is often involved only on the tail end of the revision process
 - The Committee will work with President Barenberg and the Provost to explore changes to the revision process
- If there are any questions about the Faculty Status & Welfare Committee's report, please contact Senator Cochran
- President Barenberg asks for report from Study Committee C
 - Senator Nathan reports that the committee explored ways to approve the response rate to the Administrator Evaluation Survey (AES)
 - Questions about anonymity and relevance of the AES
 - There are 2 OPs that address the administrator evaluation issue: OP 30.15 and 32.27
 - In neither of these OPs is there a mention of the AES
 - Committee recommends rewriting sections of these OPs to include the AES and that administrators include references to the AES in letters of appointment to administrators
 - Another recommendation is to remove a reference to another administrator survey that the Provost says has never been used
 - Senator Nathan shares about anonymity issues

- Data on faculty gender and rank are not collected on the AES, so this concern may not be relevant
 - Concerns that faculty from small departments could be easily identified – Senator Nathan says data from small units are not recorded by department
 - Concern about discursive comments being made available to administrators, but these comments go to the Provost, not to the administrators being evaluated
 - Senator Nathan shares that the committee recommends the establishment of formal protocols for the AES data or giving the AES survey to a third-party so that an external entity is responsible for the data
 - Senator Ramkumar suggests establishing some protocols for the AES
 - Additional discussion on the committee report
 - President Barenberg asks for further discussion – there is none
 - President Barenberg asks for a vote on approving the report
 - The motion passes unanimously
 - President Barenberg updates the Senate on the AES for this year
 - Response rates were 51% this year for faculty, 55% for chairs, and 35% for deans
 - President Barenberg asks for any additional old business – there is none
 - President Barenberg asks for any new business – there is none
- **President Barenberg, New Business – 4:07pm**
 - President Barenberg mentions that Ombudsperson Jean Scott is retiring on August 31, 2019
 - The job announcement will be forthcoming
 - If Senators have a suggestion for search committee members for the Ombudsperson position, please email President Barenberg or Patty Gisch
 - President Barenberg asks Senators to talk about this across campus
 - Senator Matteson asks if there is a job description
 - President Barenberg says it will be posted soon and shared with the Faculty Senate
 - Ombudsperson Scott assures the Senate that the office will be fully functioning throughout the transition process
 - Senator Ramkumar asks what the benefits are of being Ombudsperson
 - Senior Vice Provost Steward says that course release and partial summer salary are included, but all of this will be in the job description
 - President Barenberg asks for further discussion – there is none
 - President Barenberg raises the issue of the new threat assessment protocol discussed by the Dean of Students at previous Faculty Senate meeting
 - The protocol does not address or assist faculty who receive threats

- President Barenberg asks for discussion on the issue – there is none
 - President Barenberg recommends sending the issue to the Campus Climate Committee – asks for motion to do so
 - Senator Lavigne moves, Senator Hodes seconds
 - President Barenberg asks for vote on motion – motion passes unanimously
- **President Barenberg, Liaison Reports – 4:03pm**
 - President Barenberg asks for any liaison reports
 - Senator Held discusses transportation meeting he attended for President Barenberg
 - Issue related to scooters on campus is discussed
 - Senator Weiser mentions illegal scooter parking on accessibility ramps
 - Senator Johnson mentions the ADA committee has some proposed solutions to the illegal scooter parking issue
 - Senator Al-Hmoud mentions that there are OPs governing the use of cars, bikes, skateboards, what about scooters? Asks about supervision and enforcement of scooter use. Can administration address this issue quickly to avoid bigger problems and accidents? Can President Schovanec write a letter to students?
 - President Barenberg offers to get in touch with TTU-PD and President Schovanec about the scooter issue
 - Issue related to closing other streets on campus in addition to the 15th Street closing between 7:00 – 4:00 on school days
 - Transportation leadership will speak to Senate
 - Issue of evacuation fiasco in fall of 2018
 - Transportation is trying to strategize better evacuation plans
 - One idea is compartmentalizing the process of evacuation
 - There is a parking garage being contemplated near Weeks Hall
 - There is an expert consultant working on this
 - There is a free service for car trouble on campus – call 806.742.6277
 - President Barenberg asks for any other liaison reports – there are none
- **President Barenberg, Announcements – 4:20pm**
 - President Barenberg asks if there are any announcements
 - Senator Ricketts discusses the Gender Equity Awards and encourages nominations for these awards
 - Senator Ramkumar discusses the APLU forum with the President and the Provost on April 3 from 2:00 – 3:00 – asks people to spread the word
 - There will be at least 15 minutes of question and answer time, but send Senator Ramkumar questions in advance
 - Would like to know what preferences people have for venue

- President Barenberg asks for any other announcements – there are none
 - President Barenberg asks for a motion to adjourn
 - Senator Buelinckx moves, Senator Hodes seconds
- **Adjournment 4:25pm**