

Faculty Senate Minutes
May 8, 2019 #367

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-CassiDe 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
 - TTU has more undergraduates than Michigan
 - 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
 - TTU administration will provide \$15,000 a year to support the Women's Writing Group
 - Great example of faculty mentoring
 - Other ideas of faculty mentoring should be shared with the Provost's Office
 - TTU should celebrate faculty success
 - Mentions the AAUP meeting
 - Discusses teaching, scholarship, outreach/engagement and the balance for faculty
 - Excellent teaching is critical for our students – importance can't be overstated
 - Research and engagement are also important, but says, "It doesn't mean that everybody has to do everything."
 - Emphasis areas shift throughout the course of a faculty member's career and this should be recognized
 - 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
 - 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
 - Governor spent 15 – 20 minutes with the players
 - Speaker of the House and West Texas house members also spent time with them
 - Visited with the Lt. Governor
 - 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
 - Describes details about a COI disclosure management plan
 - 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
 - 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
 - Viator discusses SBIRs and Innovation Hub
 - Discusses extremes in management plans
- IFDC seeks help in educating faculty on COI issues
- Emphasizes that transparency is important
- **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
- **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 Kleinhans 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**