

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #375
April 8, 2020**

(This meeting was a Skype meeting)

3.15 PM: Call to order: Dr. Wes Cochran, Faculty Senate President called the meeting to order and recognized guests.

Faculty Senators present were: Barnes, Farmer, Cox, Meyers, Sharma, Buelinckx, Perl, Al-Hmoud, Bishop, Borshuk, Brittsan, Collopy, Franklin, Grair, Held, Juan, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Nathan, Novotny, Pare, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Thompson, Wang, Boal, Watts, Romi, Jones, Hawley, Louis, Baker, Bayne, He, Parameswaran, Bradatan, Jai, Huston, Shumway, Weiser, Cochran, Callender, Cassidy, King, Weiner, Gotlieb, Eko, Langford, Calamoneri, Decker, Donahue, Flueckiger and Forrest. Due to SKYPE meeting not all Senators could be detected.

Senators not present were: Johnson, Jonsson, Rider, Skidmore, Williams, and Darwish.

Guests were: Provost Michael Galyean, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Brian Shannon-Athletic Faculty Representative, Kirby Hocutt TTU Director of Athletics, Tara Stevens-Ombudsperson, JM Bernal-Staff Senate, CassiDe Street-IRB Liaison, Maggie Gilchrest-Success and Retention Rep, Mark Dame-TTHSC Faculty Senate and Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey.

Guest Speakers

TTU Athletics Update: Brian Shannon, Faculty Athletic Representative and Kirby Hocutt, TTU Director of Athletics provided update on TTU athletics program in the wake of COVID-19. Big 12 cancelled all competitions and training and hence schools may have financial challenges.

Comments Provided by Kirby Hocutt: Texas Tech's athletic program emphasizes the importance of college degree for its athletes. In the present time, coaches are in regular touch with athletes (4 hours/week). Although there is no physical activity, related activities such as providing advice on workouts at home, filming, etc. are ongoing. A shortfall in the range of \$3 million is predicted due to cancellations of Big 12 games. While this is the scenario, cancellations of Spring games would result in savings as well.

Senator Callender: Is there possibility of rescheduling the games after normalcy returns?

Hocutt: He does not anticipate such rescheduling. Primary focus is to have the football season.

President Cochran thanked Brian Shannon and Kirby Hocutt for presenting information on TTU athletics and congratulated the program for academic achievements.

Approval of minutes: Meeting #374, March 11, 2020

3.32 PM: Motion made by Senator Forrest and seconded by Senator Calamoneri. Minutes accepted as distributed.

Old Business:

Bylaw change to allow distant participation was discussed. President Cochran will be drafting a broader language to accommodate distant faculty. Also, as with the current crisis, it is important to have "Emergency Provision," for online meetings. President Cochran requested not to have any objection to hold this month's meeting as online due to the COVID-19 crisis.

New Business:

Proposal for Grading Options for Undergraduate Students for Spring 2020 was brought to the Senate for discussion and approval. President Cochran gave a brief introduction on this proposal. He stated that TTU's peer institutions did not wait to see how the online teaching transition worked out to propose grading options. In Law School, a committee was formed by the Dean with Professor Cochran as the Chair. The committee recommended credit or no credit policy. Graduate School is also proposing grading options, but it has not been announced yet.

Provost Galyean spoke to the Senate on this proposal. TTU waited one full week before proposing grading options. Student Government Association (SGA) has represented the need for changes to the grading this term with 8000 signatures. Graduate Council supported SGA's representation and has identical position. Students will have option to review the grades and then they can opt for credit or no credit. Opting for CR or No CR will not affect the GPA.

Question from Senator Wang about grade changing after midnight is not possible and have to go through change of grade form. Provost Galyean clarified that the students will request through Dean's office and so will not affect faculty's normal grading duties.

Question from Senator Al-Hmond on moving courses to online for Summer I. Senator Al-Hmond stated he supported the new grading option. Galyean responded that as the situation is emerging, it is likely that courses will be offered online in Summer I.

Question from Senator Eko-asked about grade of no credit will now replace grades of D or F? Galyean responded stating yes.

Question from Senator Barnes (typed in chat box): Graduate School Dean already sent memo. Shows the 'credit' option is already enforced for graduate students.

Questions Senator Nathan-follow up question on higher standards in some units. Galyean responded that in some cases, D is an acceptable grade for passing.

Question from Senator Maggie Gilcrest (typed in chat box) on academic probation. Galyean responded that academic probation will be extended.

To a question Senator Boal, Provost Galyean responded that students can opt for CR or no CR in courses where they are not performing.

Senate President Cochran read a question asking if this was policy has been implemented yet. He answered that the President's office wanted feedback from the Faculty Senate. President Cochran added that if the Senate endorses, it will move towards adoption.

Senator Nathan asked about what our Sister Institutions were doing. Galyean responded that to his knowledge they opted for this kind of approach.

Senate President asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Motion was made by Senator Barnes to accept and seconded by Senator Forrest. The proposal as presented by the administration was accepted.

Senator Boal's Question to the Provost: When will the campus open-up again? Galyean responded that we can hope for early May.

Senator Nathan asked the Provost about graduate funding. Galyean responded that as this year is a counting year, graduate student enrollment is important.

Senator Boal inquired when the TTU President will announce the grading policy in public? Provost stated that the Office of Marketing and Communication will send out a memo, hopefully by the next day.

Reports & Updates: No committee reports and liaison reports.

Announcements: Elections for Faculty Senators for 20-21. Voting link open from April 8 (8am) to April 14 (5pm) <http://www.ttu.edu/vote>

4.03 PM Adjournment: Motion made by Senator Grair and seconded by Senator Huston.