

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 11, 2020 #374

Senators present were: Barnes, Cox, Meyers, Buelinckx, Perl, Al-Hmoud, Bishop, Borshuk, Brittsan, Collopy, Grair, Held, Juan, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Nathan, Novotny, Pare, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Rider, Skidmore, Wang, Boal, Cook, Jones, Louis, Parameswaran, Huston, Shumway, Weiser, Cochran, Watts, Callender, Cassidy, King, Weiner, Gotlieb, Eko, Langford, Calamoneri, Donahue and Forrest.

Senators excused were: Farmer, Sharma, Franklin, Johnson, Jonsson, Thompson, Walter, Williams, Romi, Hawley, Baker, Bayne, Darwish, He, Bradatan, Jai, Decker, and Flueckiger.

Guests were TTU President-Lawrence Schovanec, Provost Michael Galyean, Rob Stewart-Senior Vice Provost; From the Provost office-Vice Provost-Melanie Hart and Vice Provost-Genevieve Durhan-DeCesaro; From the President's office-Grace Hernandez/Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Administration and Noel Sloan-Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administration and Finance; Chief Information Officer and Vice President for Information Technology-Sam Segran and from his office-Kathy Austin-Beltz-Associate Vice President for Information Technology, Chris Oglesby-Assistant Managing Director IT Help Central/Quality, Training and Knowledge Management; Andrew Bevly-Assistant Managing Director/Executive & Advanced Computing Support; Sean Childers-Assistant Vice President for Operations; Charles Leatherwood-TTU Grounds and Eric Crouch-TTU Transportation and Parking; LT Amy Ivey-TTU Police Department; Bobbie Brown-Registrar from the Office of the Registrar; Jamie Hansard-Senior Associate VP Enrollment Mgmt; Jake Syma for the Library; Richard Meek-videotaping the meeting and from Music; CassiDe Street-IRB liaison; Tara Stevens-Ombudsperson, Mark Dame-HSC Senate and Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey.

3.15PM: President Cochran called the meeting to order and recognized the guests.

Presentation by President Schovanec: Given the Covid-19 pandemic situation, Senate President Cochran advised that President Schovanec adjusted his schedule to come to the Senate to brief about campus response to the pandemic.

President Schovanec briefed about: 1) extending Spring break, 2) courses going online, 3) possibility of campus closing. President and Provost will be making decision in a day or two about the above aspects.

Sam Segran, Chief Information Officer informed that IT status analysis has been conducted and campus has the capacity to switch to online mode. Vice Provost Melanie Hart and her colleagues have prepared a website for the emergency transition to online.

President Schovanec emphasized in this extraordinary situation, we all have to make sacrifices and the burden on faculty and staff is understandable.

Provost Galyean stated that he is meeting with Deans on March 12 and decision will be made in the next days about the aforementioned discussion points.

Discussion then moved towards infection control on campus. Chief Financial Officer Sloan and Sean Childers, Assistant Vice President for Operations presented campus preparation efforts. Sean Childers stated that hydrogen peroxide based product has been found to be safe and the custodial team will focus on touch places.

Senator Cassidy: Has the campus looked at library?

Sean Childers: There will be full time custodial people all time for library.

President Schovanec stated that HR office has issued guidelines with regard to staff.

Discussions ensued with regard to library operations such as inter library loan and other campus operations such as residence halls. President Schovanec advised travel is discouraged.

Chief Financial Officer Sloan: Directed to the FAQ section of the Covid-19 dedicated information site on TTU page.

Chief Information Officer Segran advised about the use of Skype for courses and student interactions.

Lt. Amy Ivey, TTU Police Department presented information on Clery Act concerns with regard to student travel. Trips more than one night requires reporting. According the act, TTU has to be in compliance. This does not apply to faculty and staff. If student trip is covered by personal funds of their own, there is no need of reporting.

Senator Meyers: How soon the report has to be submitted after the trip?

Lt. Ivey: As soon as possible. Clery reporting is a year behind. Currently they are working on 2019 statistics.

To a question about communicating or some training about this program, Lt. Ivey stated students are briefed about this act during Red Raider Orientation.

Eric S. Crouch, Managing Director for Transportation and Parking and Charles Leatherwood, Managing Director for Ground Maintenance presented brief information about construction and parking projects.

Bobbie L. Brown, Registrar presented information on the scheduling process. Important discussion ensued with regard to class room size reduction. TTU Operations will review space for ADA requirements.

Senator Wang: Is there a plan to build large class rooms?

Registrar Brown: Will consult with TTU Operations and report back to the Senate.

4.08 PM: President called for a motion to accept February meeting minutes.

Senator Pihlaja moved and Senator Bishop seconded. Minutes was accepted as presented.

New Business

President Cochran requested the switching of new business before conducting old business. With Senate's approval, new business was handled.

Senator Pare announced the Officers' election and the nomination committee distributed the ballots for election as presented in the February meeting.

Election Results (Announced about 4.34 PM): Officers elected for the term 2020-21 are:

Senator Seshadri Ramkumar, President

Senator Dave Louis, Vice President

Senator Ryan Cassidy: Secretary

Senator Held stated that there is one OP to consider, OP 79.03, Use of the State Travel Card, which has been looked by the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee. As it came from the committee, with no seconding required, Senate approved it as presented by the committee.

Old Business

Study Committee A presented revisions to the Third Year Review OP 32.38. Senator Kleinhans briefed the Senate about the revisions. The revised draft was circulated to the Senate. A major change is that the OP now leaves it the department/unit to have the vote. According to the revised OP, departments can now set their own policy with regard to the requirement of voting. Only if there are controversies at the unit level, college committee is involved.

Senator Held: Favors the changes.

Provost Galyean: The OP is for mentoring the faculty.

Discussions ensued with regard to the makeup of third year review committee at the departmental level, written comments and decision at the departmental level for voting. After good discussion, as the revision came from the committee, requiring no seconding, the revised draft was adopted.

President Cochran asked feedback on the ADA Compliance Committee report, which was distributed to Senators.

Announcements and Discussions

Senator Held asked if the administration will give at least 24 hour notice for switching to online teaching.

Provost Galyean: We will make decision within 24 hours and there will be some flexibility. Decision will be informed by Friday.

President Cochran: There are some subjects that cannot be taught online.

Vice President Weiser: Will there be consideration for theses and dissertation defense deadline extension?

Brief discussion ensued on the Zoom capability and the number of licenses on campus. There are 500 licenses and scaling it up will be expensive.

Provost Galyean: The end date for online teaching will be same of semester last day.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Senator Buelinckx and seconded by Senator Kleinhans.