

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 13, 2019 #370

Senators present were: Barnes, Farmer, Cox, Meyers, Sharma, Perl, Al-Hmoud, Bishop, Borshuk, Brittsan, Collopy, Grair, Jonsson, Juan, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Nathan, Pare, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Skidmore, Thompson, Wang, Boal, Cook, Jones, Hawley, Louis, Baker, Darwish, Parameswaran, Jai, Huston, Shumway, Weiser, Cochran, Callender, Cassidy, King, Weiner, Gotlieb, Calamoneri and Forrest.

Senators excused were: Franklin, Gilson, Held, Johnson, Novotny, Rider, Williams, Romi, Bayne, He, Bradatan, Watts, Eko, Decker, Donahue and Flueckiger.

Guests were: Neil Kilcrease and Craig Cotton from Transportation and Parking Services; Dr. Alice Young-VPR Office; Mark Dame-TTUHSC Faculty Senate; Richard Meek- recording meeting; CassiDe Street-IRB liaison Chris Betterton-TTU Operations Manager for Lime Scooters.

3.17 PM: President Cochran called the meeting to order and introduced the guests and presenters. President Cochran recognized the importance of Veterans Day when he began the November meeting.

President Cochran called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Senator Barnes moved and Senator Callender seconded. The minutes was accepted.

Remarks by Guests

Presentation by Lime Company Representative

Chris Betterton, TTU operations manager for Lime Company started his presentation by providing a brief history about the company at TTU. It operates about 1000 scooters at TTU. An important effort recently is to encourage safe driving. The company is expecting to send out e-mails encouraging safety among users this winter. Because of the importance of safety to the bike users as well pedestrians, discussions ensued between Senators, Lime company representative and representatives from TTU transportation and parking services.

Senator Perl: Discussed promoting good behavior by the users and asked about the fines so far. Eighteen fines have been collected so far. According to TTU transportation and parking service representatives, fines started in the summer and about 90 e-mails have been sent citing violations.

Senator Meyers: Pointed out the presence of scooters in the sidewalks. In case of disturbance, barcodes of scooters can be scanned and e-mailed to TTU transportation services.

Senator Baker: Questioned about different levels of fines, for example blocking ADA spots.

Betterton: Stated currently there are no such fines at different levels. TTU can impose fines and TTU transportation service will be looking into this aspect.

In case of accidents, they have to be reported to TTU Police Department and they will coordinate with Lime Company.

Senator Pare: Expressed appreciation to Lime as it serves as an alternative mode of transportation on campus. It can offset pollution by cars.

In response to Senator Pare's appreciation, representatives from TTU transportation services agreed with the need for such alternate transportation modes like car share and scooters.

TTU parking services is also working to reduce speed limits in heavy traffic areas and during event days.

Lime scooter representative highlighted some new programs they have initiated to promote affordability and safety such as the Lime Access Program. This program helps with reduced price for low-income students. They are promoting safety by recognizing safe users with the Lime Heroes program, which helps with donation to charities of the users' choice.

Presentation by Dr. Alice Young, Associate Vice President, Office of Research and Innovation

The presentation focused on disclosing fully and properly all foreign collaborations and appointments held by faculty in grant proposals. Federal funding agencies are particular about those applying for federal grants. In the past three months, federal agencies have sought clarification from TTU Research Services, which has heightened the need for awareness of this issue. International collaborations and funding need to be listed in the biographical sketch sections of proposals. Federal agencies are particular about full disclosure on activities with China. Dr. Young pointed out some violations that have occurred at TTU with regard to terms and conditions with agencies and even foundations. Agencies state that such disclosures are not new expectations and faculty have to provide full disclosure about collaborations and appointments even adjunct and honorary. The support students receive from foreign entities have to be listed in the "*other support section*," of the proposal. New instructions may be coming from NSF in spring 2020. NSF insists that all institutional appointments are listed as well as consultation engagements. Vice President Heppert and Dr. Young are reaching out to faculty on this important issue and are reaching out to colleges.

Senator Sharma: Stated the need to provide information on ORS site.

Dr. Young: Had talked to entire ORS staff recently and will be handled.

Dr. Young briefed about the misconduct findings handled by federal agencies. Normally, Public Health Service, Office of Research Conduct publishes information in Federal Register.

Senator Parameswaran: Asked about how to report activities with foreign countries other than China like Germany, France.

Dr. Young: Report all international collaborations.

Secretary Ramkumar: Thanked Dr. Young for her efforts and asked if these enforcements will deter faculty from applying to international programs, such as Fulbright.

Dr. Young: Full disclosure is needed.

Senator Farmer: Asked about activities such as international keynote lectures.

Dr. Young: NSF has made it clear that they would like to know all international activities.

Senator Parameswaran: Asked about issues with visiting outside laboratories.

Dr. Young: If funded by federal grants, funding for travels need to be reported. These can be submitted in the annual reports and financial disclosure statements. NSF likes to know the PIs' professional network.

Al-Hmoud: Does University suffer any additional financial liability?

Dr. Young: Varies on a case-by-case issue. University of Kansas had a serious issue recently that resulted in public relations issue. There could be situations where the awards have to be re-paid. If NSF makes findings about failing to disclose, it may be a barrier for faculty member to submit to the agency for a period. In such situations, the institutional research service may be able to send out letter to the agencies, but it is always helpful to disclose fully.

Senator Sharma: Suggested that there is a check box in the ORS routing sheet on disclosure.

Dr. Young: She had spoken to ORS about it. It is important to protect the institution, but it is also important that faculty are aware of reporting all international activities.

Old Business

Vice President Dana Weiser provided an update about new dental insurance. University of Texas has been with the new dental plan provider for some time.

According to Jodie Billingsley's office, there are more dental service providers available with 25 miles radius of the zip code 79409 in the new Delta plan. The recommendation is that you can recommend your choice dentists that will set the ball rolling. There are concerns about payments to dentists by Delta.

New Business

Senator Cox presented two minor changes to the OP 10.04, "Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act," as suggested by the Faculty Status & Welfare Committee. Instead of just the word "use" in Page 1, suggestion is to include "possession use and distribution." Second change was organizing the text/formatting.

Discussion focused on providing support to students and emphasizing rehab rather than penalizing them.

President Cochran: Called for a motion to approve the OP that has suggestions from the committee.

Motion passed with opposition from Senator Boal.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Employee Dependent Scholarships: Senator Al-Hmoud provided an update on the employee dependent scholarship recommendation submitted last year by the Budget Study Committee to TTU administration. The committee made a recommendation to move away from scholarship to tuition waiver. In this regard, Senator Al-Hmoud met with administration about the recommendation from the Senate. Due to legislative constraints, TTU as a state institution cannot offer tuition waivers to certain groups of students only. Discussion with administration focused on the scholarship the dependents were receiving. Since the 2016-17 academic year, this has come down from \$1800/year to currently, \$1000/year. According to administration, as the TTU System is growing and given the amount of endowment, this is the best possibility at this point of time.

Senator Boal: Should TTU waive other fees that students pay?

President Cochran: Reality is benefit offered to certain group, as it is equal protection problem.

Administrators' Evaluator Survey presented Senator Callender: Survey will go out today, but will be available through end of January.

President Cochran: We are doing the survey little earlier this year so the information is available when the Deans are being evaluated.

Announcements

Vice President Weiser briefed that TTU is one of three sites hosting satellite workshops for the National Academies of Sciences 2019 Public Summit on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education. Information handouts were available for the Senators.

Secretary Ramkumar briefed about the recent AAUP-TTU meeting. Briefed about the subcommittee formed by AAUP-TTU to look at the criteria for equity adjustments. Another activity that is being discussed is the inclusion of professors of practice in shared governance. Administration cares about these two issues.

President Cochran informed about the nomination of next year's officers. Any suggestions to the Third Year Review OP need to be sent to the committee. President Cochran highlighted the need to revisit the bylaws/constitution soon as there may be logistical concerns that may arise with new Vet School. Senate has to look into the shared governance by professors of practice. Faculty Senate room space issue has to be dealt with soon.

December 11th Faculty Senate Meeting: December Faculty Senate meeting has been an issue as some departments may schedule their meetings. Departments have been requested not to schedule meetings on the afternoon of December 11 through Chairs Council Meeting by the Office of the Provost.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Secretary Ramkumar and seconded by Senator Weiner. Meeting adjourned about 4.32 PM.