

Faculty Senate Minutes
January 15, 2020 #372

Senators present were: Barnes, Cox, Buelinckx, Perl, Al-Hmoud, Bishop, Borshuk, Brittsan, Collopy, Franklin, Grair, Held, Juan, Ladeira, Nathan, Novotny, Pare, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Cook, Romi, Hawley, Parameswaran, Huston, Shumway, Weiser, Cochran, Watts, Callender, Cassidy, King, Gotlieb, Eko, Langford, Calamoneri, Decker, Flueckiger and Forrest.

Senators excused were: Farmer, Meyers, Sharma, Johnson, Jonsson, Kleinhans, Rider, Skidmore, Thompson, Walter, Wang, Williams, Boal, Jones, Louis, Baker, Darwish, He, Bradatan, Weiner, and Donahue.

Guests were Aliza Wong, Grace Hernandez, Provost Michael Galyean, Rob Stewart-Senior Vice Provost; CassiDe Street-IRB liaison; Tara Stevens-Ombudsperson, Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey.

3.19 PM: **President Wesley Cochran** called the meeting to order.

President Cochran invited guest Dr. Aliza Wong and Grace Hernandez to brief about TTU's centennial celebrations. Aliza Wong spoke about the yearlong celebrations beginning in December 2022, which starts with Carol of Lights event and ends in December 2023. A professional agency is being hired to plan the event. A centennial celebration book, "*100 Years 100 Voices of Texas Tech University*," will be published. There will be a website to feature different colleges and units. Museum of TTU will have a dedicated gallery to feature centennial celebrations.

Senator Held: Brought attention to the commemorative book recently brought out by TTUHSC.

Secretary Ramkumar: Requested the committee to work with city and cotton groups such as Plains Cotton growers, Inc. Dr. Wong stated that Dr. John Opperman is working with the City of Lubbock in planning.

President Cochran announced that he has requested chairs of the departments not to schedule their departmental meetings during the May meeting of the Senate. This information has been relayed to the Chairs at the Provost's Chairs Council meeting.

Adoption of Previous Senate Meeting Minutes:

November Meeting #310-Moved by **Senator Cox**, Seconded **by Senator Brittsan**-Passed

December Meeting #311-Moved by **Senator Barnes**, Seconded by **Senator Parameswaran**-Passed.

Old Business

Regent's Rule 07.06 Sexual Harassment: **Senator Held** updated his efforts since the last meeting. He had visited with Mr. Victor Mellinger, deputy general counsel, TTU System on the same day of last Senate meeting and asked CassiDe Street-IRB liaison to share some of her concerns.

IRB Liaison-Dr. CassiDe Street has been in discussion with TTU's Title IX Coordinator to make sure, researchers working on project related to sexual harassment and Title IX need not report the names/incidents to Title IX office. This only covers researchers doing such research.

Senator Cassidy: Has the committee talked with other higher education institutions in Texas?

Senator Held: Did not contact them.

Senator Romi: Raised concern about incidents that we witness and have reasonable belief.

Senator Held: It is complying with State law and some cases may be adjudicated in the court of law.

As the motion to approve **Regent's Rule 07.06** came from the committee, there was no need to second and hence it was passed.

OP 72.02 Contracting Procedure: There were no amendments from the floor. As it required no seconding, it was approved as presented.

OP 79.12 Official Travel of the President and Chancellor-No concerns from the floor with regard to the draft presented. Approved.

OP 32.16 Faculty Recruitment Procedure (Spousal Hires): Senator Cook presented on behalf of Campus Climate Committee. Presented editorial changes to the OP draft to make it consistent with website requirements.

Provost Galyean: Expressed the limitation due to the amount of money available. Informed that TTU recognizes staff hires through this initiative but primarily focused on faculty hires (spousal accommodation).

OP 32.16 approved as presented.

New Business

OP 61.02 Use of University Grounds, Facilities, and Amplification Equipment: Modification in Section 1. Approved as presented.

OP 61.23 Use of University Classrooms and Academic Facilities: Committee had one edit, which was presented.

Senator Held: Committee worked with the Office of the Provost. Ideal fill level is 65% for classrooms and 75% for laboratories. Exceptions may be granted by the administration.

President Cochran: Informed that his discussions with Provost revealed that the office would support faculty needs.

OP 61.45 TTU Security Video Operations: Presented by **Senator Cox.**

Senator Cox: Concerns were brought out based on discussions with faculty in his department. As some facilities in his department have no internet or electricity, areas of exemption need to be provided. In addition, mentioning names of companies is violation of State law and hence they were taken out in the OP draft. OP adopted as presented.

OP 61.46 Therapy Dog Functions within University Buildings

Discussions ensued on the distinction between therapy and service dogs.

Senator Eko: Discussion on therapy cats.

OP 61.46 was approved as presented.

President Cochran: Discussed about the President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Awards OP. As there are no substantial changes, asked that the policy go forward. As the awards selection committee is gearing up for this year's process, it is necessary that the Senate forward the OP.

Reports and Updates

Senator Callender presented an update on the administrators' evaluation survey. The survey is being sent out weekly to faculty.

President Cochran: Some faculty have contacted about incorrect administrators names in their units. Concerned in the TTU administrators have been informed about these discrepancies.

Ombudsperson Office Update: Dr. Tara Stevens briefed about the charter of the office. This based on guidelines from the International Ombudsperson Association. Ombudsperson is a mandatory reporter to Title IX office with regard to harassment information. However, Dr. Stevens is working with Title IX Office to make the Ombudsperson as "anonymous person." Discussion ensued with regard to revisiting the charter of the office.

Announcements and Other Business

President Cochran: Requested names for the selection committee for the President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Awards.

Secretary Ramkumar provided an update on the January AAUP-TTU Chapter meeting held on January 13, 2020. The meeting has good attendance. AAUP-TTU chapter members worked on the draft for Faculty Equity Adjustment criteria. The focus is to take into account the salary compression at middle and senior level faculty. The draft is being finalized and will be sent to the Office of the Provost.

Senator Held: Brought an issue about the news that certain softwares are prohibited.

Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart: These are not prohibited. However, not recommended as some are not secure. If faculty need to use any specific software, they can visit with Dr. Justin Louder, Associate Vice Provost, eLearning & Academic Partnerships.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by **Senator Parameswaran** and Seconded by **Senator Calamoneri**