

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, Meeting #376, May 13, 2020

[This meeting was held as a Skype meeting]

**Senators present were:** Barnes, Cox, Meyers, Sharma, Perl, Al-Hmoud, Bishop, Brittsan, Collopy, Franklin, Grair, Held, Jonsson, Juan, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Pare, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Boal, Cook, Romi, Jones, Hawley, Louis, Bayne, Darwish, He, Parameswaran, Bradatan, Huston, Shumway, Weiser, Cochran, Watts, Callender, Cassidy, King, Weiner, Gotlieb, Eko, Langford, Calamoneri, Decker, Donahue and Forrest.

**Senators not present were:** Farmer, Buelinckx, Borshuk, Johnson, Nathan, Rider, Skidmore, Thompson, Walter, Wang, Williams, Baker, Jai and Flueckiger.

**Guests:** *Newly Elected Senators included:* Faris, Griffith, Heinz, Ibraguimov, Klein, Litsey, Lyford, Murphy, Ritchey, Sheng, Taraban and Arnall. *Other guest were:* TTU President Lawrence Schovanec, Provost Michael Galyean, Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey, IRB liaison CassiDe Street, Mark Dame-FS HSC.

**Call to Order:** At about 3.15 PM, President Wesley Cochran called the Faculty Senate Meeting #376 to order (skype meeting). President Cochran welcomed the guests that included newly elected Senators.

**TTU President Schovanec:** President Schovanec thanked the members of the faculty senate for their service during the current term. He congratulated Senate's incoming officers for the term 2020-21. He recalled his briefing to the Senate on March 11 about the extension of Spring break and then resuming class online after the break. TTU had already been offering 20% courses online and due to COVID-19 situation, remaining 80% went to being on remote mode for the rest of the term. Summer-I will be completely online. Based on feedback to Provost, 25-30% may be face to face in Summer-II. There will be flexibility to faculty, students and staff to return to campus based on safety. This week, VP-Research issued a draft about campus return policy for research, which is an extensive one. Recommendations of testing people based on Governor's screening criteria on campus were heightened. PPE will be purchased through a central process. He mentioned that he worries about budget a lot. TTU will not pursue furloughs and salary cuts Merit rise is very unlikely. Departments were asked to plan a 3% reduction in state support lines. State has asked for a cut at about 7.5 to 10% in state support. Bulk of the cuts will be handled centrally. Technically, there is no hiring freeze but hires are scrutinized carefully by a central committee. Since the start of the COVID-19, loss of revenue has been little over US\$20 million and expenses would go up by at least US\$15 million, this year. He advised that this situation could be managed and provided encouragement to faculty and the campus community.

President Schovanec took questions from Senators.

**Senator Boal:** When students return to campus from other parts, there may be transmission of the virus. He asked for a mandatory policy on wearing masks.

**President Schovanec:** They have reached out to the system about the language that can be used. We will do all we can to make sure people are using PPE. There is a plan to give safety kit. We can recommend that people behave responsibly. At this point of time, we cannot mandate wearing masks. We will keep the occupancy in classrooms below the recommended levels (25%).

**Questioning via Chat:** Can faculty refuse to teach on campus if students are not wearing masks?

**President Schovanec:** Inclined to say not. Make every effort possible to teach online and come up with arrangements to feel safe.

**Senator Calamoneri:** Enquired about the possibility of using canopy to teach classes outdoor.

**President Schovanec:** Everything is on the table.

**Senator Boal:** In the Rawls College they plan to teach graduate courses via face-to-face and all undergraduate classes via online mode.

**President Schovanec:** No face-to-face classes for undergraduates will be a problem based on the communications he has been receiving from parents and students. He believes that first year students should have some level of face-to-face experience. This issue needs further discussion.

**Senator Boal:** How about face-to-face on alternate weeks?

**President Schovanec:** Lot of issues needs sorting out. He thanked the outgoing Faculty Senate President Cochran and extended good luck to the incoming president Seshadri Ramkumar (Ram).

About 3.37 PM, President Cochran called of Provost Michael Galyean to brief the senate.

**Provost Galyean:** Appreciated faculty for extra work in Spring and this situation will continue through Fall. This extra work takes time out of other activities such as research and outreach, and the administration recognizes this aspect, as this is very unusual circumstance. Administration wants to build a system to adapt to the circumstance from ground-up, as much as possible A draft on various options for teaching in Fall to determine the teaching modalities were sent to departments/units. Identifying opportunities for first time college students to have face-to-face experience and issues with regard to international students on F-1 visa are being discussed. Spacing in classrooms may be an issue and so options like dividing the classes and alternate schedules are being looked at. In Fall, the situation may be different where we may have more students and faculty on campus. He asked faculty to think about options for face-to-face activities. He agrees some significant proportion of classes will be online.

**Senator Callender:** Asked about services such as rec center, library and student union services.

**Provost Galyean:** CFO is leading discussions about these issues. In Library, seating arrangements have to be modified, making Library 24/7 operations more important now. Rec center may open in late summer with control of number of people.

Posted Question on Guidelines on Greek Organizations.

**Provost Galyean:** Student Affairs will work with student organization. They will be messaging about limited activities.

**Senator Leo:** Asked about support to faculty for online course developments.

**Provost Galyean:** Additional staff in the area are being added. They are working on finding additional support.

Provost Galyean stated they are working on a draft on "return to campus." CDC has defined "vulnerable population" and TTU will have allowances for such population to work remotely and safely. TTU will be accommodative in such situations and intends to be very accommodative.

**Approval of Minutes:** At about 3.55 PM, Minutes of Meeting #375 was approved with corrections to attendance due to not being able to see who were the wireless callers in the earlier meeting. Motion made by Senator Brittsan and second by Senator Pihlaja.

**Old Business:** Bylaw change to allow distant participation presented by Senator Hawley. Revisions to the Bylaws (Section 7) approved by Study Committee B. Language change in Section 1 with regard to absentee ballot for officers so that it can be done electronically and not in person, which has been the practice. Revisions were adopted.

**New Business:** OP 61.10 Space Allocation Committee-Senator Held presented with regard to Section 6. Revisions were approved by the FSW committee unanimously and passed by Senate.

**Reports & Updates:**-None given.

**Closing Remarks by President Cochran:** Stated it has been a challenging year and thanked the current officers, faculty senators, Parliamentarian and Senate staff Patty Gisch for the support. President Cochran passed on the microphone (gable in this COVID-19 time) to the incoming Senate President, Seshadri Ramkumar.

**Seshadri Ramkumar:** Incoming President Ramkumar (aka Ram) thanked President Cochran for his service, and all the senators for their dedication. He welcomed the new officers for the 2020-21 term and Patty Gisch for her two decades of service in the Senate. He wished a safe summer term to all faculty, staff and students.

**Adjournment:** At about 4.06 PM motion was made by President Cochran and second by Callender to adjourn. .