

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**February 12, 2020 #373**

**Senators present were:** Farmer, Meyers, Sharma, Buelinckx, Perl, Al-Hmoud, Bishop, Brittsan, Collopy, Franklin, Grair, Held, Juan, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Nathan, Pare, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Wang, Cook, Romi, Jones, Hawley, Louis, Bayne, Darwish, Parameswaran, Bradatan, Huston, Weiser, Cochran, Watts, Callender, Cassidy, King, Gotlieb, Eko, Langford, Calamoneri, and Forrest.

**Senators excused were:** Barnes, Cox, Borshuk, Johnson, Jonsson, Novotny Rider, Skidmore, Thompson, Walter, Williams, Boal, Baker, He, Jai, Shumway, Weiner, Decker, Donahue and Flueckiger.

**Guests were** Provost Michael Galyean, Rob Stewart-Senior Vice Provost; CassiDe Street-IRB liaison; Tara Stevens-Ombudsperson, Kathy Sridaromont , Phd R.N.-HSC Senate and Parliamentarian Ryan Litsey.

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

**Guest Presentation:** Jon Crider, Director of McNair Scholars Program made presentation about McNair Scholars Program. The main aim of the program is to motivate undergraduates to join graduate programs. This program is available for first year students to super seniors. As 25% of TTU students are first generation college students, McNair scholars program at TTU is promoting first generation champion kicker initiative. Information pamphlets were distributed to Senators.

3.22 PM: January Meeting Minutes: President Cochran entertained a motion for the approval of January meeting minutes. Moved: Senator Brittsan. Seconded: Senator Huston. Minutes approved as presented.

**New Business**

President Cochran briefed about Student Government Association's (SGA) resolution on Childcare. The resolution by the SGA (Student Senate Resolution 55.39) was distributed to the Senators via e-mail. SGA has requested the support of the Faculty and Staff Senates to support the developing of a campus climate survey towards the feasibility and expansion of childcare options. President Cochran asked for comments from the Senate and expressed that he needs some direction from the Senate.

Senator Bayne: Has there not be a survey before?

President Cochran: Child Development Research Center is not a general-purpose childcare, so there are strict rules to the number of students they can serve.

Senate Meyers: A campus climate survey is needed.

President Cochran: This issue has to be carried forward to the next Senate term.

The SGA resolution will be sent to Faculty Senate's Campus Climate Committee.

## **Reports and Updates**

### **Officers Election**

Senator Pare: Presented the slate of nominees for the 2020-21 Senate term. The election for the officers will be held during March meeting. The nominees as presented are:

President: Seshadri Ramkumar

Vice President: Dave Louis

Secretary: Jyotsna Sharma and Ryan Cassidy.

Senator Pare, who served as the Chair of the Nomination Committee asked for comments/clarifications from the floor. He mentioned write-in candidates are permissible.

President Cochran: Mentioned that write-in candidates are allowed.

Senator Callender presented an update on the Administrators' Evaluation Survey. Overall, the response rate has been 65% from the faculty.

President Cochran commented that the response rate has tripled and thanked the faculty for the participation.

Senator Callender advised that the results would be published during the week of February 21.

### **Announcements**

President Cochran briefed the need for the Bylaw changes for distance participation. As the Vet School in Amarillo is part of TTU, participation of Vet School Senators has to be taken into consideration. President Cochran has drafted a proposal for distance participation and will direct it to a study committee. He prefers that the draft be adopted in the March meeting, as Bylaw change is easier to adopt.

Additionally, President Cochran presented that Law School librarians are not part of the University Library due to accreditation requirement by American Bar Association. TTU Law School librarians are not part of Faculty Senate. Therefore, there is a need of small unit representation in the Senate. This requires constitutional amendment.

Senator Pare: Enquired about Seville and Costa Rica campus representation.

Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart: At present, there are no tenure track faculty specifically for these campuses, as TTU faculty participate in these campuses.

**Academic Science Building:** Discussions ensued with regard to planning of Academic Science Building [ASB] on campus.

President Cochran requested Senators to pass comments and concerns about ASB project, which will be relayed to the President and Provost.

Provost Galyeon: Stated his office is not directly involved in this project.

**AAUP Update:** Secretary Ramkumar provided an update on the latest efforts of the AAUP-TTU.

A draft recommendation for equity pay criteria was discussed in AAUP-TTU meetings and forwarded to the Provost. The equity adjustment would specifically focus on salary compression and will not be a merit evaluation. AAUP-TTU as way of being inclusive has formed a committee of professors of practice with the AUP-TTU president as ex-officio member. This committee will interface with Faculty Status & Welfare Committee of the Faculty Senate and administration to represent their interests.

Discussions ensued with regard to effective emergency situation announcements by TTU.

Vice President Weiser: Emergency situation announcements such as inclement weather situations can be coordinated with Lubbock Public School System.

**Adjournment:** Motion moved by Senator Pare and Seconded by Senator Bishop.