

Faculty Senate Meeting #383
[This meeting was held online as a Skype meeting]
March 10, 2021

Senators present were: Arnall, Barnes, Bishop, Blum, Borshuk, Buelinckx, Callender, Cassidy, Collopy, Cook, Cox, Darwish, Decker, Donahue, Eko, Faris, Forrest, Gottlieb, Grair, Hawley, Held, Hope-Weeks, Huston, Jones, Klein, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Langford, Louis, Meyers, Murphy, Nathan, Niehuis, Novotny, Perl, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Ritchey, Sharma, Sheng, Taraban, Wang and Zellinger.

Senators not present: Baker, Bayne, Boal, Brittsan, Calamoneri, Farmer, Garner, Griffith, He, Lyford, Parameswaran, Walter, Watts and Weiner.

Guests: Maggie Gilchrest, Hunter Heck, Tara Stevens, Vickie Sutton, Joshua Barron, Patrick Hughes, Chris Miles, Carol Sumner, Dee Nguyen, Jon Crider, CassiDe Street, Michele Finke, Daryl James, Provost Micheal Galyean and Senior Vice Provost Rob Stewart.

Call to order: At 3:15PM, President Ramkumar called the meeting to order. The meeting was conducted online over Skype and a quorum was met. President Ramkumar welcomed the senators and the guests to the meeting.

Recognition of Guests: President Ramkumar recognized the attending guests and welcomed any unannounced guests.

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Senator Cox to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Senator Sharma. The minutes from meeting #382, February 10, 2021 were approved with a correction to the attendance section.

Speakers:

Chris Miles, Emergency Management Director and Professor Vickie Sutton, Associate Dean for Digital Learning and Graduate Education: Provided an update on COVID 19 at TTU.

The Communications subcommittee and Logistics subcommittee are working on supplies and location for the vaccine program. Administration has worked with city leaders so TTU service clinic can be held at the city location, but in a separate clinic. This will provide more capacity. The committee is very representative of all levels and areas across campus. It is very active and fluid, fast moving, with legal representation at each meeting. The committee is meeting weekly to get everything going. It is getting facilities ready and preparing for 1C category to become vaccine eligible soon.

FS President Ramkumar: Can you speak about the registration process and how faculty can do so?

Director Miles: The IT department has demoed a registration tool, an automated appointment tool. They anticipate it to work with the city system.

FS President Ramkumar: How many vaccines will be allocated? Do we know? This senate term ends mid-May, do you think we could be vaccinated by then?

Director Miles: Not sure I can speak to that. TTU campus will be going through the same process for requesting vaccine as everyone else. Not sure how realistic it is to vaccinate the entire campus by May. However, because of the increased capacity available in the civic center, we expect more than 200 vaccines per day once up and running.

Professor Sutton: The game changer will be the Johnson&Johnson vaccine. That is being made available to us, and we can request it. Once we get started, it'll go quickly. The question is: when does it get started? My hope is 1/3 of the campus will be vaccinated by summer. By fall we could see much closer to normal.

FS President Ramkumar: Can Tech choose a preference for vaccine?

Professor Sutton: CDC is currently advising anyone eligible to take whatever vaccine you can, as soon as possible, that is good advice.

Patrick Hughes, Vice Provost of University Programs & Student Services and **Joshua Barron, Senior Director of Success and Retention:** Discussed the STRIVE program and provided a handout on the platform. STRIVE is there to connect students with advisors, faculty, and other parties. It helps with workflow and communications. New templates for email alerts have been created, so those sent to students will come directly from Student Success and Retention. Faculty can add comments to the templates as needed.

Senator Collopy: Faculty approached me concerned that messages were going out that they had not written, so I'm happy to hear that is being worked on.

FS President Ramkumar: Are these emails being copied to faculty when sent to students?

Director Barron: No, the decision was made early on that anyone teaching a large class would be deterred from using the system if they were spammed with hundreds of emails.

FS President Ramkumar: How do we see new messages that go out?

Director Barron: When in Strive, you can see the messages that go out.

Vice Provost Hughes: There is the copy option and also the ability to review any messages that have been sent.

FS President Ramkumar: It would be helpful to send out how these can be reviewed and provide the standard text so we can send that out to senators.

Director Barron: Strive is certainly a best practice, but it is not mandatory. We send out progress reports regularly.

FS President Ramkumar: What is the evidence that this is a "best practice?"

Director Barron: There is data that students have more success in a class if they receive updates early on and frequently about progress in course. There is a benefit of academic progress in a teaching environment, but I don't want to present myself as an expert.

Senator Held: For professors who teach hundreds of students, it seems unrealistic to ask this.

Director Barron: STRIVE integrates completely with Blackboard, so if grades are recorded there, automatic flags can be raised when underperforming or when attendance is marked. These systems allow the work faculty already do to be made easier and automated.

Senator Kleinhans: Can you send the instructions on how to autoflag using Blackboard Gradebook?

Director Barron: Yes, I will follow up with an email with those instructions.

Reports & Update:

Salary Compression Committee: Senator Blum reported for the committee. Committee came up with a recommendation and Senator Blum read the motion. This is a recommendation to administration, so the final product may change. The committee didn't want to be restrictive because that may change or be filled in by the president or provost.

FS President Ramkumar pointed out an editorial adjustment. No disagree from the committee. The senate votes, mostly in favor with one abstention. Motion carries.

Faculty Status & Welfare Committee: Senator Held provided an update on the topic of Senate representation for non-tenure track faculty. The amendment has been discussed and it must now go out

to tenured and tenure track faculty. Meeting of the voting faculty is planned for Friday, April 16. Faculty Status and Welfare met with the Agenda committee to come up with the letter to be sent out to faculty. That final draft has been sent out to all senators and will be sent to faculty by the following Tuesday (March 16).

Administrators Evaluation Survey: Senator Callender presenting an update. The survey was taken down on March 1st. The response rates are comparable to last year. The dean's responses were a bit lower than last year. Institutional Research has a hiccup with getting the results up, they are using a new software to produce and display survey results, and it might look different from the previous years' data.

Nominations Committee: Senator Gotlieb provided the instructions for the Faculty Senate officer elections for 2021-2022 and introduced the candidates. The candidates provided a brief statement.

New Business:

Student Senate Resolution 56.140: Student Body President Hunter Heck presented a discussion about the recently passed resolution and asked for input on the resolution for students who need more regular updates on course progress.

Senator Held: Was there a student survey to see how many are dissatisfied?

SB President Heck: Not a survey, but our senators expressed their concern.

SVP Stewart: In this discussion, the Registrar could make this work by leaving the grade reporting open until the current drop/withdrawal period.

A request to follow up with a survey.

Old Business:

OP 32.32 Performance Evaluation of Faculty: Senator Held provided a history of an administration survey leading to the Faculty Success Taskforce to address promotion issues. This taskforce then submitted a report to the Provost and the Senate has only recent seen it. Since OP 32.32 is one of the most important guidelines for faculty, the Faculty Status and Welfare committee met and has created a consensus with administration for review. The motion is that any annual plan will be optional to be determined with the faculty member and the department chair. This motion comes from the committee.

It *can* be included in Digital Measures, but it is not to be required by the department chair unless voted upon by the department.

Motion approved unanimously.

Announcements:

Senator Cook: Diversity and Donuts event March 30 at 10am via Zoom the topic is "Creating Inclusive Campus Spaces."

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Senator Buelinckx, seconded by Senator Kleinhans. The meeting adjourned at 4:47PM.