

Faculty Senate Agenda #385
[This meeting was held online as a Skype meeting]
May 12, 2021

Senators present were: Barnes, Conrad, Meyers, Sharma, Buelinckx, Perl, Brittsan, Collopy, Faris, Grair, Griffith, Held, Hope-Weeks, Kleinhans, Ladeira, Nathan, Novotny, Pihlaja, Ramkumar, Taraban, Boal, Cook, Ritchey, Jones, Hawley, Louis, Sheng, Blum, Huston, Niehuis, Murphy, Callender, Cassidy, Gotlieb, Eko, Langford, Arnall, Calamoneri, Decker and Forrest.

Senators not present were: Farmer, Bishop, Borshuk, Klein, Maccarone, Walter, Wang, Baker, Bayne, Darwish, He, Parameswaran, Bradatan, Watts, Litsey and Donahue.

Guests: TTU President Lawrence Schovanec, Provost Michael Galyean, Sr. Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Carol Sumner, Eric Crouch, Angela Lumpkin, Maggie Gillchrest, Richard Meeks, Dee Nguyen, Tara Stevens, CassiDe Street, Dixon Santana, Sean Childers

Newly elected senators: Nick Bowman, Marcelo Schmidt, Alexander Wiseman, Sabrina Chi, Key Sora, S. Wagner, Jake Syma, Amy Dye-Reeves, John McNaughton, Peter Fischer, Brian Shannon and Scott Baugh

Call to order: At 3:17PM, President Ramkumar all the meeting to order. The meeting was conducted online over Skype and a quorum was met.

Recognition of Guests: President Ramkumar welcomed everyone to the final meeting for the term. He recognized the attending guests and newly-elected senators.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting was made by Senator Callender, seconded by Senator Louis. The minutes from meeting #384 were approved as presented.

Next, a motion to approve the minutes from the Special All Faculty meeting of April 16, 2021 was made by Senator Buelinckx and seconded by Senator Huston. The minutes from the special meeting were approved as presented.

Speakers

Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, TTU President: Dr. Schovanec began by thanking Faculty Senate President Ramkumar, the officers, and the entirety of the Faculty Senate for the work during a difficult year. He commended the senators for getting the amendment passed which allows non-tenure track faculty the eligibility to be on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Schovanec then talked about his discussion with the new members of the Board of Regents and how he explained the importance of shared governance with them.

Dr. Schovanec addressed financial matters, stating that a tentative 2% merit pool has been allocated. Minimum wage will increase to \$13/hr and a faculty gender equity pool will also be available. Work from the chairs, deans, and the Provost's office will follow up on the concerns

of Faculty Senate related to salary compression issues and the new provost will have money to address gender and equity compression. Money will also be set aside for a diversity pool that departments can tap into if additional resources are needed during hiring, along with a spousal accommodation fund. Dr. Schovanec emphasized that this is possible through the efforts of faculty and the Senate over the past year, as semester credit hours have actually increased during the Covid period.

There is a May 25th meeting with deans on Phase I transition where input will be solicited regarding concerns, especially from chairs and faculty. Dr. Schovanec mentioned that employment flexibility might be needed even more than anticipated, regarding on-site and remote work. “We will lose people if we don’t recognize that the outside workforce and industries will be offering work from home opportunities.”

Question from the Senate: The Chronicle of Higher Ed had a story about higher ed and pandemic relief bills. What do you think about what we will get or hope to get?

Dr. Schovanec: Over half of the relief received went to students, some went to PPE, some will go to reimburse auxiliaries that took hits such as resident halls and dining. This won’t recover what we loss, but it will help offset.

Question from the Senate: How will faculty hear more about the compression pool?

Dr. Schovanec: The chairs should be having those discussions with faculty.

Question from the Senate: What’s the story on building changes?

Dr. Schovanec: Spoke about Academic Science building utilization and \$50M refurbishment for Holden Hall.

Dr. Carol Sumner, Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Dr. Sumner provided a year-end statement for the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The group was able to have creative programs even during Covid. An annual report will be coming out highlighting these programs. Dr. Sumner talked about the student created dialogues and programs. When faculty is being hired, the division can offer “faculty excellence funds” as part of the start-up package for new hires that may need additional funds for use over the summer. They also provided scholarship funds to the Graduate School who needed additional funds for grad students over the summer.

Question from the Senate: Can you highlight the graduate student scholarship?

Dr. Sumner: We presented this to the Provost and President, it is funded out of the division’s remaining funds. Applications are available through the Graduate School for students staying over the summer.

Dr. Angela Lumpkin, Chair of the Teaching Academy Executive Council: The Teaching Academy has an initiative to improve teaching evaluation and has partnered with the TLPDC to offer activities and conversations on the topic. The group is looking to define “Teaching Excellence.”

Senator Held: The way this is being implemented seems antithetical to higher education. Your insistence on requiring “self-reflection,” is incompatible with academic freedom. These topics need to be discussed with Faculty Senate before anyone tries to implement anything.

Eric Crouch, Managing Director for Transportation & Parking: Provided a quick update on transportation issues on campus. Buses will resume normal operations at the start of summer. There will be some route adjustments for pedestrian safety. The Employee Courtesy Shuttle will start back June 1, it runs from 7:30am to 5:00PM. The RaiderRide service for students will be restricted to on campus locations and some off-campus apartments. E-bike and scooter service will resume July 5th.

Dr. Brian Shannon, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative: This is the twelfth consecutive semester of student athletes having a cumulative 3.0 GPA or better. Ten of the 17 teams had over 3.0 GPA. 77 students had a 4.0. Transfer student athlete rules have changed, with the new rules offering free transferability. The topic of name and image likeness has also been a big discussion this year. Starting July 1, some states will loosen these rules, allowing athletes receive payment for the usage of likeness.

Reports & Update:

Faculty Status & Welfare Committee: Senator Held presenting a number of OPs relating to faculty.

OP 32.34 - Continuing Appointment and Promotion of Faculty: Primarily concerns Professors of Practice. OP had one change. Motion comes from committee. Motion to change carries.

OP 52.01 - Information Technology Operations: Covers the social media/online commentary employees might make online. Motion from committee. Motion carries.

OP 64.04 - Academic Probation and Suspension of Graduate Students: This OP concerns graduate students who earn less than a 3.0 GPA. According to this OP, the student is put on probation. The committee did not want to allow the Graduate School to strip a teaching position from students who may be on probation. Motion from committee. Motion carries.

OP 74.09 - Protection of Human Subject in Research: IRB Liaison CassiDe Street explained changes to human subject research. Motion from committee. Motion carries.

New Business:

None to report

Old Business:

FS President Ramkumar provided a recap of Senate accomplishments from the year, including the amended constitution, a finalized third year OP, review and revision to numerous Ops,

exploring salary compression and equity issues, and many others. FS President Ramkumar thanked Provost Galyean for his work and support in shared governance.

Provost Galyean gave a brief thank you and goodbye as Provost (returning as a faculty member).

Announcements:

Passing of the gavel: introduced Katie Langford as FS President for the next term.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Senator Kleinhans, Senator Louis seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM