
Senators not present: Baker, Cox, Farmer, Faris, Griffith, Hawley, He, Parameswaran and Sharma.

Call to order: At 3:16 PM, President Langford called the meeting to order. The meeting was conducted online over Zoom and a quorum was met.

Recognition of Guests: Stewart, Sheridan, Barenburg, Stevens, Hendrick, Casside Street, Sumner,

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the October 2021 meeting. The minutes from meeting #387 were approved as presented.

Speakers

Mark Sheridan, Dean of Graduate School:
- Thanks for opportunity to address the senate
- Updates:
  - Enrollment up by 30% since 2013 makes us top 10% in enrollment
  - Minority enrollment up by 90%
  - Doctoral degrees increased by nearly 90% currently ranked in top 14%
  - Recognized at Carnegie R1
  - USNWR Top 100: Top 3% Center for World University Rankings
  - Endowments & incentive funding for 6.5 million, citizenship program
  - Reaching flagship status
  - As a result, it increases our access and opportunity
  - New programs:
    - Graduate Center
    - Writing Center
    - Office of Grad and Post doc fellows
    - Transition of instructional develop for grad school from TLPDC to the grad school
    - Implemented transition coaching/high touch advising
  - Services
    - Professional and career development events
- Health and wellness program
- Student life/networking events
- Graduate assembly
- Graduate ambassadors

Questions:

- Previous questions sent to Sheridan: Stipends: There is nothing set, they are free to choose their stipend. Must set an estimated cost for international students. TA’s and RA’s national average is $18,546 and TTU $15,763. Has been increasing over the last seven years. Many more R1 schools now than in the past. Prospective students in our yield (retention). We collect data from volunteers and the number one reason for leaving is financial support. Or, they have already accepted another offer from a different school. We need to get our offers out earlier. Yes, Endowment is close to $60 million dollars. Very fortunate.

- Could we accept students earlier in the process? Yes! It’s already at one year prior. We open the portal in September of the prior year.

Tara Stevens, Faculty Ombudsperson:

Talk today about the work she does. Established in 2015. First was Jean Scott. For those who need interpersonal assistance with colleagues. She does not report up to someone in this capacity. Upper administration has really respected this policy. The meeting with the ombud stays confidential. Helps individuals prioritize issues as well. Impartiality is key. Advocate for fair processes. 2019-20 55 visits. 2020-2021 68 visits. Visits average 1.5 hours each.

IOA Reporting Categories: Evaluative Relationships, Career Progression and Development were the highest ranked issues. Services/Administrative Issues were the least.

Want to look at more data (years) before talking more about trends or issues on campus.

Questions:

- How long is your term? Staggered terms.

- Do people come to you earlier or later in their situation? Later, more than likely. People are

- Can we have a fact sheet to help us understand this role? Website is available too. [https://www.depts.ttu.edu/faculty-ombuds/](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/faculty-ombuds/)

Reports & Updates:
Evaluation Survey Committee, Shane Blum, Nick Bowman, and Ranadip Pal:
Kerri Ford says the survey is in the queue. Will send it to committee first. The comment will be put at the beginning of the survey to ensure that the survey is kept confidential. Can an administrator see who wrote what? No, only unless there is a threatening comment.

New Business:

Old Business:

- Budget Study Committee, Graduate Stipends, Faculty Summer Compensation, University Budget Efficiency
- Senate Study Committee C, Graduate Student Issues—Charles Grair, areas where things can be improved, not found any yet. Thinking of doing a survey.
  - Senator McNaughtan, graduate dean’s rep. The other is how faculty members are able to make core substitutions for grad students, especially as they near graduation
- Ad Hoc Covid Committee
  - 1. Increase and strengthen communication regarding COVID and to make all communication regarding COVID available in a central website like the 2020-21 website TTU Commitment.
  - 2. Continue and increase incentivization for vaccinations.
  - Please send them any recommendations
  - Working on great kinds of messaging which will incorporate and is under planning for staff and faculty wellness

Announcements:

- Equity decisions from last year; Jodie Billingsley to speak in December
- Summary of meetings with President, Provost, Diversity Officer
  - SPSS changes to licenses, should be funds to address that
  - How was Gender Equity Decided?
  - Faculty Moral—monthly faculty highlights, lunch at tech club, participate in the process
  - Additional Year for COVID—email went out
  - Partner Hires—support partner hires for 3-4 years
  - Health & Wellness—Needs Assessment & Options & “TAO Walk-Through”
- Scantron Office being closed. The current office will go away. There might be better solutions available that are not so outdated. Look for a survey to be sent out by the committee through faculty senate. Something will be replacing it!
- Patty Retirement—sad but also happy for her!

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn, motion passes. Adjourned at 4:48pm.