

**TTU Faculty Senate Business Meeting
February 5, 2018**

Members present: Douglas Airhart, Ismet Anitsal, Deborah Ballou, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Corinne Darvennes, Ahmed ElSawy, Billye Foster, Steven Frye, Stuart Gaetjens, Melissa Geist, Mark Groundland, David Hajdik, Jeremy Hansen, Ann Hellman, Paula Hinton, Steve Idem, Christy Killman, David Larimore, Regina Lee, David Huddleson for Jane Liu, Lori Maxwell, Tony Michael, Christine Miller, Holly Mills, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Richard Rand, Cara Sisk, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Holly Stretz, and Jeremy Wendt

Members absent: S.K. Ballal, Jason Beach, Tammy Boles, Troy Brachey, Andrew Callender, Ward Doubet, Shelia Hurley, Barbara Jared, Jeff Roberts, and LeeAnn Shipley

Call to Order

Senate President Killman called the meeting to order at 3:52 PM. Several Senators were out sick today.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Senator Darvennes, seconded by Senator Hinton, and passed to approve today's agenda.

New Business

Senate committee reports that were tabled from last week were given today. As an update to the Tenure and Promotion Policy, Jeff Boles has passed that onto Mark Stephens and Kae Carpenter for review. The Senate will discuss this at the Feb. 26th business meeting. It will be distributed to Senators ahead of that meeting.

- VP for Enrollment Management & Career Placement Search Committee – Senate President Killman gave an update. We didn't get the first candidate we wanted, so it is continuing now. One candidate interviewed last week, and two more are coming this week. Skype interviews were a couple weeks ago. Senator Smith-Andrews thanked the committee for not settling on someone else right away.
- Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Committee – Senator Rand gave an update. Four candidates have come to campus for interviews so far, with one more coming this week. The committee's goal is to meet after each candidate, including this Friday, to agree on three names to send to the President. President Oldham hopes to announce someone by end of next week after making an offer. Feedback has been very useful to committee. Senator Wendt strongly encouraged feedback using the online survey, and said the committee takes all comments seriously. Try to have all feedback entered on the website by Thursday night. Senator Miller said last time we had a faculty meeting to exchange views about each candidate. This was much richer feedback, and she likes to hear other's feedback and comments. Senator Rand will suggest this to the committee tomorrow, but doesn't know if it will fit into their timeline. Last time there was a search firm involved, so open discussion was beneficial. Senate President Killman

is disappointed with our faculty for not showing up at the faculty open forums. The most attendance was 33 to hear a Provost candidate. Some people are afraid to speak up, and would rather enter comments online because they can remain anonymous. Senator Wendt encouraged everyone, and any one, to reach out to any faculty member on the search committee. Senate President Killman asked if she arranged to have an open forum to discuss the five candidates, how many would come. Senator Ballou thinks the auditorium is too big, so makes it look like we don't care since faculty don't fill it up. More faculty were expected to attend. Why aren't they coming? Some say the decision has already been decided, or that personal opinions don't matter. Senator Rand said this committee is a broad, well-functioning group that is led well. The committee members are following policy and procedures to the book. Committee members are not participating in the survey, so the survey responses really are the views of the faculty, staff and administrators. When the candidates meet with the committee, they discuss the role of the Provost, and that this position is not necessarily #2 in charge. Senator Geist said it was interesting that actually 4 of the 5 have connections to Tech and the President, but Senator Rand said this was not part of the decision process. Senate President Killman said when we were discussing doing this search without a using a search firm, she understood that personal qualified acquaintances were encouraged to apply. We need to trust the search committee to do their job, and trust each other. The committee has been concerned with getting a Provost the faculty are comfortable with, as this is their #1 priority. Faculty need someone they can trust and will follow, along with someone to serve the entire campus, with broad experience. The Search Committee members were thanked for all their efforts, as they have been working on this since September. Senator Larimore said he is bothered by three unranked names being given to President, and if the committee's work is done after submitting the final three.

- Evaluation Committee – Holly Stretz said this committee has met, but is confused about the charter and roles of related committees. There have been numerous conversations since this committee was formed. Now there is a University committee, the Workload/Evaluation and Compensation Committee, with Senate President Killman, and Senators Mills, Stretz, and Frye. It might be appropriate to suspend this committee for now, and concentrate on the University's committee in the meantime. The University committee has met twice and is split into three sub-committees: Strategic Planning Committee, Compensation Committee, and Workload Evaluation. The TTU Board of Trustees has asked us to look at other ways to reward merit than what we have now. The committee is currently collecting policies around the country dealing with work load. A high level policy will give more authority to departments and allow for more individuality. A report showing good forward progress is due in March.
- Communication Committee – Senator Ballou passed out a document “Ideas for Communications with Faculty Colleagues” to all Senators. The five basic ideas include: 1. post agenda documents prior to meetings, and maybe have a listserv; 2. determine how each College's Senators prefer/plan to disseminate Senate business to their colleagues; 3. engage faculty colleagues; 4. communicate shared governance ideals; and 5. appoint or elect a Faculty Senate Communications Director to initiate and coordinate communications initiatives. In discussion, some Senators expressed concern over

recording the minutes of faculty without tenure. Senate President Killman told Senators to take this document back, make notes on it, we will discuss it next week again. Many liked the listserv idea. Senate is set up as representative governance, but to invite all is adding to inefficiency.

- Faculty Feedback (QCC) Committee – Senator Darvennes said they have not had a chance to meet, as they just received information last week.
- Faculty Senate Policy & Procedures (Operating) Committee – Nothing has been done yet, and won't be until officer job duties suggested by the Leadership Structure Committee are discussed and set.
- Leadership Structure Committee – Senator Foster talked about the document listing officer duties, sent via email prior to this meeting. This is hope to improve efficiency through the hierarchy of Senate officers. The major suggestion is to add a President Elect/VP, who would also serve as parliamentarian, and a Past President position. We don't adhere to the agenda well, so there is a need for a structural adherence as enforcer by the President Elect. It would still be possible to have the President renew for one more year, and the same for the President Elect. Senator Lee suggested adding duties of maintaining the Senate website and sending approved documents to University Archives. This would be a three-year commitment, minimum, for the President Elect. There is always the risk of not being elected to another three-year term. Senate President Killman said this should help finding the next President by the nominating committee. This should make people at least consider serving. A motion and vote were postponed to the next business meeting.
- Appointment of Nominating Committee – postponed until after vote on Leadership Structure Committee, hopefully next week.

Old Business

Future meetings:

- A Faculty Senate business meeting will be next Monday, February 12, 2018 at 3:35 PM.
- The Faculty Senate meeting with the President is scheduled for Monday, February 19, 2018 at 3:35 PM with hard end time of 5:00 PM.
- The Senate will have another business meeting on Monday, February 26, 2018.

Investigation into Misconduct in Research (Fitzgerald)

Senate President Killman gave an update, and commended everyone on how we conducted the inquiry last week. Our resolution was sent to President the next day. He answered in a letter that was distributed by email on February 2, 2018. She explained the first part of this venture, and how it is multi-leveled and multi-faceted. First, Policy 780 was approved last fall, and will be followed. Hopes are to have some group re-evaluated and tightened this policy up a bit. Dr. Huo was asked to be the Research Integrity Officer by President Oldham. Senate President Killman will be meeting with Dr. Huo on Wednesday to discuss what will happen. All activity with Fitzgerald Co. is on hold. President Oldham is not going to make any statement until after the investigations are complete because it could prejudice the outcome. The resolution we

passed has made the President more aware of the situation. The President indicated that it was appropriate for the letter to Congresswoman Diane Black to come from the President of the University. Dr. Soni is not involved with the investigation. Tom Brewer is not being suspended, as it's a big deal to do before the investigations are completed. The President doesn't feel his presence on campus will hinder the internal investigation, as all activity with Fitzgerald has been put on hold. President Oldham is now out of it until after the investigations are complete. Only Dr. Huo and Senate President Killman are involved in the process at this time. We need to be patient for the process.

A memo was forwarded by email to Senators today from several in the College of Engineering Department with a summary and general timeline of this research project. The study process and ethics will be investigated by the committee, and not the individuals. Next, Dr. Huo and Senate President Killman will meet with Dr. Hoy. It is important that the people involved deserve due process and privacy, so we need to be patient. A report is due within 60 days of an Inquiry Committee being appointed. There was a question as to whether Mr. Brewer has the credentials to be Director of the Water Center, as well as the PI on the Fitzgerald Glider Kits research study. There will be a formal inquiry followed by an investigation. Dr. Huo is leading the investigation about the general misconduct issue, not the engineering part of it. Dr. Soni is having to recuse himself. Senator Ballou questioned the peer-review process of the investigation. How will this be conducted, and will they see the data, or just the study itself? We may want to revise the policy about this, and who can and can't remove a PI on a grant. Dr. Huddleston said any retraction of results would be premature, but it would be responsible to let stakeholders (Fitzgerald, EPA, and Congresswoman Black) aware of the inquiry and investigation. The memo from engineering colleagues is considered public, and may be shared.

Other Such Matters

Senate President Killman announced that she was able to reserve the President's Conference Room for Thursday, February 8, 2018 for a 4:00 PM for discussion of the five Provost candidates.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Lee,
Faculty Senate Secretary

Approved: February 12, 2018