

TTU Faculty Senate Meeting with the President October 30, 2017

Members Present: S.K. Ballal, Jason Beach, Tammy Boles, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Corinne Darvennes, Billye Foster, Stuart Gaetjens, Melissa Geist, Mark Groundland, David Hajdik, Jeremy Hansen, Ann Hellman, Paula Hinton, Shelia Hurley, Steve Idem, Christy Killman, David Larimore, Regina Lee, Tony Michael, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, LeeAnn Shipley, Cara Sisk, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Robby Sanders for Holly Stretz, and Jeremy Wendt

Members Absent: Douglas Airhart, Ismet Anitsal, Deborah Ballou, Troy Brachey, Andrew Callender, Ward Doubet, Ahmed ElSawy, Steven Frye, Barbara Jared, Jane Liu, Lori Maxwell, Christine Miller, and Holly Mills

Guests: President Oldham

Building / Construction Projects Update

President Oldham asked if Senators had any questions in particular, but just wanted some general updates. The new fitness center is underway. The building design is complete, and work has begun on the site package for infrastructure, along with the Science building since they are in close proximity. A building bid is expected to go out soon. Drawings are currently being reviewed by the State. We expect to open the new recreation center about six months ahead of the lab science building, which is scheduled to open in summer 2020.

The process involves several rounds of design, review by the State Fire Marshall, and sending out bids for manager, contractor, and the building itself. There are about 12 or so steps to go through with bidding and reviews.

Senator Rand expressed an observation that things on campus get started and don't get finished. Who on campus is designated to see things to completion.? President Oldham said Facilities is charged with capital projects, and report to VP Stinson. Project managers are distributed among all the projects. Ultimately, it's their responsibility to see that projects are moving along, but they aren't assigned a project until after it has been designed and reviewed. Some projects need to go back and be redone. The brick on the library is de-laminating, as is the brick on the University Center. These buildings have been problematic from the start going back to the design. There is a website managed by Communications & Marketing with construction updates for everyone to see at www.tntech.edu/rightnow.

The RUC multipurpose room is scheduled to be completed by mid- to late-March. An additional 22,000 ft.² will be added to the back of the building that is scheduled to open about a year from now, in fall 2018.

Senators asked if any of Lee Wray's duties included communication. President Oldham said he uses him for that, especially for improved effectiveness with communication, coordination, and more.

The hole in the south patio is where a sculpture is going to be placed, called "Ascension". The artist is in the final stages of completing it, so it should be delivered soon. Dedication will be done in the spring after some landscaping done.

President Oldham doesn't like having unnamed buildings on campus, so he has raised the question of having New Hall North and New Hall South named after former Governor Bredesen and Governor Haslam. Both governors have given a lot of attention on higher education. Some buildings were named for loyalty and service here. Building names are decided by a committee.

The science building groundbreaking is this week at 3 pm on Friday, November 3rd. We are spending lots of money on roof replacements this year. We are trying to catch up on some deferred maintenance, and progressing nicely by moving as quick and as the money allows.

Board of Trustees

Some ideas of how to get to know members of the TTU Board of Trustees are being discussed. The Board chair likes receptions after meetings. President Oldham said it's hard to plan for every board meeting, but we will probably have some kind of social event. Senate and Board members could be invited to a social event, maybe to showcase something. Senators want to know how to get to know them, not necessarily just to know how to best communicate with them. How do you negotiate all the vested interests on campus? Board members are getting multiple requests around campus now. This Board is interested in faculty and student thoughts. President Oldham will talk with the Board chair about getting information from the Senate.

Materials for Board members are available at least two weeks in advance. The upcoming December meeting should be shorter. The Spring and June meetings will be longer with financial matters and new program proposals. They will see a revised October budget based on current enrollment numbers in December.

Parking Issues

President Oldham said some of the parking issues are in the process of being taken care of. In practice and in policy, there should be no issues, however it requires the appropriate leadership to coordinate with Police. The issue with so many spaces reserved for sports team buses was resolved with one phone call.

Some students were ticketed after hours, so President Oldham suggested talking to Chief Nelson. Sometimes, multiple tickets are on the same vehicle, and some get ticketed on campus after hours (after 4:30 pm). The existing policy may need to be revised to be more clear, as interpretation varies. President Oldham will try to follow up on the consistency issue. Vehicles must have a permit all times. Zoned parking is not enforced 4:30 pm-7:30 am. No one at today's meeting from the Senate is on the parking committee. Some get two tickets, which is double-dipping, but only gets one dismissed.

CTLE and Technology Institute Update

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) is combined with the Technology Institute, and renamed to the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL), after hearing suggestions from the Faculty Senate. The Institute is being absorbed into one organization with CTLE. Organizationally, the online function is separate. This

will go to the Board for approval at their December meeting. VP Huo is over faculty development, so CITL will report to her. Dr. Michael Allen is interim director for CITL, and a search is being put together for hiring a permanent director. Kim Godwin reports to VP Patrick Wilson, but her duties may be changing. Interim Provost Mark Stephens is charged with organizing this space to be more effective. It is still a work in progress, such as who manages D2L since there is overlap between these two functions. Faculty have mixed feelings about this position. President Oldham said all these units report to the Provost. Our goal as an institution, is to develop and provide the kind of infrastructure to faculty to be productive. President Oldham just wants someone who will get the job done, and doesn't care much about the JAQ.

IDEA Evaluations

Academic Affairs has been discussing the IDEA evaluations over the past couple years. An issue was raised about evaluating every course, every semester. Senators were informed that really nothing has changed. Now there's an enhanced IDEA evaluation, which you can choose to use. You can remove some of your classes, and still have the option to send to your chair. The biggest change is that you don't have to add your classes. They are all listed, but you can delete some. There is an option of not sending results to your chair, but only if you are tenured.

Faculty are urged to attend a session for using the enhanced version of IDEA evaluation software. IDEA has already implemented these changes, but we have been following the legacy version until this year, when we have to start using the newer enhanced version. The information feedback you receive will be more meaningful with the enhanced version.

Senate President Killman may send an email to all faculty about this.

Announcement

President Oldham will be out of town for his next scheduled meeting with the Senate (Nov. 27th), so the Senate will meet the following Monday, Dec 4th, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina A. Lee

Approved: November 13, 2017