Notes from Faculty Senate Meeting with President Oldham

Date: Sept. 21, 2026
Location: In-person in Bell Hall, 260, and online via Teams

Present: Adams (for Hu), Allen, Alouani, Atkinson, Baier, Bell, Brown, Browning, Carlton, Carroll, Carver, Cathey, Chitiyo, Comer, Craven, Donadio, Dunn, Gannod, Gichuhi, Gray, Hall, Hasan, Hill, A. Hill, Holben, Jenkins, Kalyanapu, Killman, Kyaw, Manginelli, Mann, Null, O'Connor, Ojo, Olsen, Park, E. Park, Peng, Sanders, Smith, Spears, Timmerman, Trent, Wendt, Xu

Absent: Grimes, Nattrass, Rahnama, Rajabali, Tennant, Winkle

Guests: Dr. Oldham; Dr. Wray; Bob Crabtree, Chief Safety Officer

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1. **Call to Order:** 3:32 p.m.

2. **Opening Remarks**

- O'Connor and Null shared remarks in remembrance of Dr. Will Schrader.

3. **Campus Parking and Transportation Improvements**

- Oldham reported enrollment has reached approximately **10,773 students**, about a 1% increase from the previous year.

- Administration acknowledged parking concerns but maintained that the primary issue is the **location and timing** of available spaces rather than the total number of parking spots.

- Updates provided:

    - An **additional shuttle route** began service between the West Purple Lot and the Engineering Building area.
    - The former gravel lot on North Whitney Avenue is expected to reopen by **October 1** with approximately **120 additional parking spaces**.
    - The university is working with **UCHRA** to improve bus connections to campus.
    - Parking updates will be communicated through the **Passio GO!** app.
    - Some parking near Southwest Hall may be restored during ACME construction.
    - **27 Gold parking spaces** have been restored near Bell Hall.
    - An **814-space parking garage** is planned for completion in **Fall 2028**.

- Discussion included:

    - Shuttle reliability and scheduling.
    - Overnight student parking.
    - Disability parking access.
    - Contractor delays and construction impacts.
    - Motorcycle and scooter parking.

    - Parking governance and whether parking decisions should be reviewed through campus councils.
    - The long-term goal of reducing or eliminating faculty and staff parking fees.

- Oldham announced the parking information website:
    - **www.tntech.edu/parkinganswers**
    - Faculty were encouraged to continue providing feedback through the "Tech is Listening" initiative.

4. Talon Discussion

- Allen raised concerns regarding Talon, including issues affecting graduate student payments.

- Oldham noted that enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementations are large-scale projects that often require several years to stabilize.

- Administration acknowledged faculty frustrations and encouraged suggestions and concerns to be routed through the appropriate channels.

- Wray agreed to help direct feedback to the proper individuals for review and potential system improvements.

5. Other Such Matters

- Additional conversation included football ticket processes and broader challenges associated with campus growth.

- Oldham emphasized that many current issues are growing pains associated with institutional growth and that the university's goal is to learn from those challenges and improve operations.

Adjourned: 5:00 p.m.