



Faculty Senate Meeting with the President

Virtual Meeting
September 20, 2021

Call to Order

Remarks from President Oldham

Previous Business: Questions about the Calendar

1. What is the status of creating the new standing committee, the Calendar Committee? This is a follow-up to the Senate/President meeting on February 8th, 2021.
2. The starting day for returning (not new) faculty on 9-month contracts is August 16th. However, many departments this year held retreats/trainings/meetings prior to this date. Will faculty be compensated for their time working outside of the 9-month contract?
3. The proposed first day of classes next fall is Thursday, August 18th, two days after faculty contracts begin. Does this mean faculty are expected to prepare all teaching materials for the fall within two days? Will there be a Fall Faculty Meeting, and if it falls before the 16th, will employees be paid overtime to attend?
4. In a joint meeting with Faculty Senate and SGA leadership, students voiced that they felt “duped” by the previous calendar surveys. They voted for 15 minutes between classes, which they only got on T/R. They also voted for shorter classes, but there was no information in the survey indicating that the semester would be lengthened. Students expressed frustration and indicated that ending the semester 7 days before Christmas (Commencement on Dec 18th) would put additional stress on students and not support mental health and time with family. Is the current calendar consistent with our message of “Students First”?
5. Because the TTU/ETSU schedule is mismatched, ETSU students will receive ‘Incompletes’ while TTU finishes exams. This delays waivers and financial aid for those students. How should faculty handle this mismatch, and will future calendars consider partnerships with other institutions?
6. Given that the TTU semester is longer than peer institutions (see handout on the Calendar), some students have voiced opposition to attending additional classes. If walkouts are planned for the final week of classes, how should faculty prepare for these?

Previous Business: Questions about SACF Funds

1. Why did some colleges get to retain SACF accounts (Business, Education R2T, Engineering, Nursing) while others were not allowed to retain SACF accounts (Agriculture and Human Ecology, Arts and Sciences, Education, Fine Arts)? Why are some programs being penalized while others are being rewarded?
2. For those who were not allowed to retain SACF accounts, the average of the last 3 years was allotted and made available to departments. What is the strategy for growth of these accounts? If they are not tied to enrollment, what will they be tied to? For those who lost money (most departments), was there also a budget cut in those colleges who were allowed to retain SACF funds?

Previous Business: Questions about Covid-19

1. Last year, TTU leadership worked with the hospital to ensure that health care workers were being supported as cases climbed. Is this continuing, and if so, how is TTU supporting CRMC, local clinics, etc.?
2. The messaging to students is inconsistent. Some faculty are not enforcing masks in classrooms while others are. Indoor areas like the Fitness Center do not require masks, but other buildings do. Why is the application of CDC guidelines not consistent across the entire campus?
3. Peer institutions have very strong messaging campaigns about masking and vaccination (UT, MTSU, ETSU). And, some have offered incentives like gift cards, award drawings, etc. Is TTU planning to do these things, and when will they roll out?

Additional Questions (time permitting)

Adjournment

Thank you for serving in Faculty Senate! All upcoming Administrative Council, Academic Council, and Faculty Senate meetings are listed at: <https://www.tntech.edu/calendar/>.