

## **Faculty Senate Business Meeting**

April 20, 2020

### **Members Present:**

Douglas Airhart, Jeremy Blair, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Andrew Callender, Wei Tsun Chang, Kris Craven, Yun Ding, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steven Frye, Stuart Gaetjens, Mark Groundland, David Hajdik, Shelia Hurley, Barbara Jared, Brian Jones, Nancy Kolodziej, David Larimore, Lori Maxwell, Mark Melichar, Christie Miller, Holly Mills, Lachelle Norris, Linda Null, Anthony Paradis, Sally Pardue, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, Mike Rogers, Lee Ann Shipley, Troy Smith, Sandra Smith-Andrews, Holly Stretz, Lenly Weathers, Zac Wilcox, Kimberly Winkle, Jeannette Wolak

### **Members Absent:**

Michael Best, Steven Frye, Sheikh Ghafoor, Christy Killman, Matt Langford, Susan Laningham, Mary Matthews, Allan Mills, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Barry Stein

### **Call to Order**

Senate President Smith-Andrews called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

#### **1. Welcome and President's Comments**

Senate President Smith-Andrews apologized for the date error on the agenda; it will be corrected prior to posting online. She shared that the President is forming steering committees to discuss issues and create plans for reopening the campus. Faculty input on these steering committees is welcomed, and senators are encouraged to let the Senate President know of their interest.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Senator Stretz made a motion to approve the agenda with a friendly amendment. Senator Maxwell seconded. The motion carried.

#### **3. Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2020 Business Meeting**

Senator Larimore made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Stretz seconded. The motion carried.

#### **4. Approval of Notes from April 6, 2020 Meeting with the President**

Senator Airhart made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Stretz seconded. The motion carried.

#### **5. Reports**

- a. Board of Trustees Meeting: Senator and Board of Trustees Faculty Representative Pardue shared that the Board is receiving updates every two weeks about the campus and the pandemic status. There is no working business at this time.
- b. Academic Council: Senator and Academic Council Chair Null reported that the council approved some minors, majors, and concentrations, suspended a minor, approved the Tenure Cover Sheet, and approved the council procedures in Policy 102. Senator Lori Maxwell will be the Chair of the Academic Council next year.

c. Administrative Council: Senator and Administrative Council Chair Wolak reported that the council recently tabled approval of the proposed policy regarding gifts and grants until the new Vice President of Research arrives. An employee records policy revision was approved, as were the council procedures in Policy 102. Senator Sandi Smith-Andrews will be the Chair of Administrative Council next year.

d. Procedures Committee Status Report: It was decided to wait until the fall semester to vote on changes to procedures.

e. TUFs: Senate President Smith-Andrews noted that among the topics discussed at the TUFs meeting were the possibility of pausing the tenure clock and the role of IDEA evaluations in light of the pandemic response, and she has brought up these topics with Provost Bruce. The Provost is open to the option of pausing tenure for those interested. The Provost also likes the idea of a letter from her office highlighting the extenuating circumstances regarding the pandemic and the move to online learning this semester; this letter will remain on file in a candidate's dossier and will help explain the pause and IDEA evaluation results. After questions and discussion from senators about these topics, it was concluded that Faculty Senate generally favors the letter and the Provost communicating the idea to the faculty directly.

f. Coronavirus/COVID-19 Response/Changes TTU: No changes have been made since last reporting; the first half of the summer semester will be fully online with a hope for some in-person instruction (especially regarding lab work) in the second half. The President's team is working on a reopening plan for the fall.

Impact (agenda items 5.g.-k.):

-Concerns were raised about how the \$75,000 cap on scholarships can be maintained when many students will see an increased need. The CARES Act provided the university with \$4.6 million to assist students on a case-by-case basis. The other approximately \$4 million dollars is being used administratively to provide refunds on meal plans and residence fees, among other things. If students express need, send them to Brandon Johnson. The Budget Advisory Committee meets later this week and will further discuss how to use the discretionary CARES Act funds that are not earmarked for students; some were concerned about the transparency of the spending, but the plan must be reported out within 30 days of receipt with updates on CARES spending every 45 days thereafter.

-The campus is down to 40 students in New Hall South – 32 students and 8 RAs.

-Some would like to see a cart of sanitation supplies available for users at library workstations.

-A senator shared that some students said some faculty are ending classes early by holding final exams prior to finals week. The policy explicitly states that finals are to be held during finals week and that any exceptions to that must receive prior approval. The Provost addressed this a few weeks ago, but Senate President Smith-Andrews will follow up with her regarding this issue.

## **6. Proposed addition to Faculty Senate Procedures – FS Cabinet**

Senate President Smith-Andrews proposed a change to Faculty Senate procedures that would allow for an advisory committee to the sitting Senate president be established. Senator Stretz made a motion to approve the proposal and the motion was seconded by Senator Airhart. In discussion, some expressed that the Faculty Senate President already has the freedom to seek advice for out-of-meeting issues of concern to the faculty, so there should not be a need to codify a committee in procedures and obligate specific members. Others offered friendly amendments to the proposed wording, including stating the committee “can” serve, that the serving is “as needed,” and that members may be “these and others as the President deems appropriate.” Senators were reminded that the Faculty Senate President still has the ability to go against the advisory committee, but that seeking advice from a committee strengthens the position of the Senate when the Senate President must speak on its behalf without the benefit of a full meeting.

The motion to approve the addition of a Faculty Senate Cabinet to the procedures carried; Senators Null and Rand abstained.

## **7. Elections**

There is currently one nomination each for president-elect and secretary.

- a. Senator Airhart motioned for all nominations for president-elect to cease and for Jeannette Wolak to be named president-elect by acclamation. Senator Larimore seconded the motion; the motion carried.
- b. Senator Airhart motioned for all nominations for secretary to cease and for Kristine Craven to be named secretary by acclamation. Senator Larimore seconded the motion; the motion carried.

## **8. Old Business**

- a. Intellectual Property Draft Discussion: Regarding the draft wording, it was noted that “substantial use” was changed to “significant use” which has precedent in another policy and comes with a valuation – approximately \$3,800 in 2018 dollars. Concerns were raised regarding ownership of conference presentations and that specificity appearing in contracts as well as all the newly-generated online content this semester. Senators were encouraged to give any further feedback because of the importance of the policy and the fact that it may come up for a special vote, and all should be mindful of any changes that could be made at the Board level.
- b. Status of Electronic Elections for Councils: Elizabeth Sofia is drafting a letter to seek nominations. This letter will come after the deans’ departmental nominations and appointments have been made to avoid overlap. If anyone is interested in an at-large seat, make sure you tell others so they will nominate you.

## **9. Such Other Matters**

Senator Pardue introduced the idea of creating an ad hoc committee to look into compensation and merit pay. It was agreed the ad hoc committee should be made of members of the Administrative Council, and those interested were asked to share their intent at the end of the meeting. Senators would like representation from every college and the library if possible, as well as the Centers of Excellence faculty. The purpose of the ad hoc committee is to find and present evidence to the President and the Board of Trustees in support of the faculty’s feelings on merit pay.

## **Adjournment**

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

## **Supporting documents:**

- Proposed Addition to Senate Procedures
- Intellectual Property Policy 732 Proposed Edits with Markups

Approved: 8/31/2020