

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

November 15, 2021

Submitted by K. Craven

Members Present:

Stephanie Adams, Douglas Airhart, Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Troy Brachey, Debra Bryant, Steve Canfield, Melissa Comer, April Crocket, Kris Craven, Dennis Duncan, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steven Garner, Scott Hagarty, David Hajdik, Syed Rafay Hasan, Katherine Hermann-Turner, Tammy Howard, Janet Isbell, Christy Killman, Matt Langford, David Larimore, Emily Lee, Jane Liu, Mark Loftis, Jeanette Luna, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Jennifer Meadows, Holly Mills, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Kristin Pickering, Elizabeth Ramsey, Richard Rand, Lee Ann Shipley, Drew Sisk, Scott Smith, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Holly Stretz, Dan Swartling, Robert Wilbanks, Kimberly Winkle, Russ Witcher, Laith Zuraikat

Members Absent:

Dan Allcott, Chris Brown, Yun Ding, Samantha Hutson, Chad Luke, Christopher Reames, Lenly Weathers

Call to Order

Senate President Jeanette Luna called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Agenda: Motion by Senator Rand, second by Senator Airhart. The motion was carried.

Approval of Minutes and Notes

1. October 18, 2021 Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes

Senator Rand moved to have the Minutes from the Senate Business Meeting of October 18 approved. Senator Mills seconded the motion. There had been a request in e-mail to add the title and number of any policy being discussed to the item in the meeting minutes. Thereafter, the policy can be referred to by its number. Senator Howard abstained. The motion carried.

2. November 1, 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting with the President Notes

Senator Duncan moved to approve the Notes from the Meeting with President Oldham on October 4. Senator Ramsey seconded. There was a question regarding the amount of the expenditure on the capital project related to athletics and Tucker Stadium that was given by President Oldham. It was determined that he stated a figure of \$15M and this needed to be included in the Note. Senator Shipley moved for a friendly amendment to add the \$15M figure to the notes. Senator Adams abstained. The motion carried with the friendly amendment.

Academic Calendar (~40 minutes)

1. Update on the Calendar Committee Meeting (< 5 min, information item)

- a. Currently operating as ad hoc committee until approved as standing committee
- b. Met on November 9, 2021, meeting again before Thanksgiving

c. First meeting agenda: Discussed charge of the committee, shared feedback from this year's calendar

2. Calendar Proposal (Senator O'Connor)

Faculty members on the calendar committee are: Steve Canfield (Senator), Adam Holley, and Elizabeth Ramsey (Senator).

Senator O'Connor reviewed his proposal that satisfies 2 of the 3 main concerns. He also reworked the proposal to address the concern with a starting time before 8:00 a.m. Senator O'Connor then moved that the Senate endorse this proposal and submit it to the calendar committee for their consideration.

Members from the calendar committee expressed that they heard the charge and the discussion and had a very different impression of their responsibility. The impression is that they are to be looking at the start and end times of the semester and not the scheduling of the class sessions.

Comments:

- Other institutions have used similar calendars for years
- There has been feedback from at least one department on campus that they would prefer to go back to the old calendar.
- Some Senators expressed a desire to let the calendar committee do the job without input from the Senate
- Some Senators feel it is necessary to voice the opinion of the Senate.
- Maybe what the students want is more important than what the faculty think is right.
- The proposal was shared with the Student Government Association and there was a positive response.
- There are issues with other constituents on campus with the longer semester. This includes units like housing, dining, HR, janitorial services, international students, records and registration.
- There is also an issue with one less time slot in the proposal. There are not enough large classrooms and having fewer time slots will make this a larger problem.
- Do the students realize that this could mean later classes, into the evening hours? This may not be better. Similar to the problem with the original survey that didn't share all of the ramifications to the proposal.

The motion carried with 24 ayes, 12 nays, and 10 abstentions

Launchpad, Advising, Registration Concerns (~20 minutes)

1. Feedback about Fall Advising and TTU Launchpad

Comments

- Many, many phone calls with questions.

- Students were put into the wrong classes.
- Students don't know how to do the registration process.
- The charge/mission was to increase retention. What is the current retention rate?
- What is the turnover rate among the advisors?
- What is the total expenditure for the Launchpad?
- Heard about a lot of incorrect advising.
- There is no partnership between the advisors and the departments.
- Seems that there is poor management and not enough staff.
- Higher retention rates cannot fix the enrollment issue.

Faculty Senate Meetings with the President (~20 mins)

1. Feedback on previous meetings/topics
2. Topics/requests for final meeting with the President this semester (Nov 29)?

President Luna expressed that the tact has been to invite other administrators to the meeting to support the topics being discussed. Has this been a good idea?

There were no comments or complaints.

For the next meeting – Launchpad, Office of Research – what are the concerns?

Comments:

- They have been restructuring but not sure it has been effective.
- Faculty do not feel supported. There have been issues with losing funding because of problems working with them.
- Faculty note that they are doing the work themselves that had been done by staff in the Centers.
- Many of the Office staff seem to be handling a large number of grants, makes it more likely to miss something important.
- How will we achieve that President's research goals for bringing in grant money with inadequate support from the Office?
- There needs to be a vision for the Office of Research and then a plan to achieve that vision.
- President needs to do something, be more active.

Senate President Luna said this was a good discussion and there is definitely a need for a Town Hall meeting on this topic. The Senate will also plan to discuss this at the next meeting with President Oldham on Nov 29.

Semester Wrap-up and Summary (Luna)

1. Ad hoc committees that continue into Spring
 - a. TTU Families Policy Committee

- b. Review of Policies 205 (Faculty Tenure), 206 (Faculty Promotion), 207 (Tenured Faculty) Committee
 - c. Review of Policy 600 (Code of Conduct) Committee
2. Update on request for Research Town Hall with VP Taylor

Senate President Luna thanked all members on these committees for their work this semester. She summarized that the TTU Families Policy Committee has started with the policy on Bereavement, which will go through the approval process soon, and they will move onto other policies in the future. The Review of Policies 205, 206, 207 Committee has met and will report to the Senate in January. The Review of Policy 600 Committee is planning to meet soon and also report to the Senate in January. There is no scheduled date for the Research Town Hall, but Senate President Luna still believes that it is needed and will proceed with its planning.

Senate President Luna reminded the Senators of the vaccine incentive program that has been announced and includes the additional Holiday of the Wednesday before Thanksgiving when the university will now be closed.

Also, this semester, the Councils enacted a procedure to have any policy changes come before them in a regular meeting prior to the meeting when being voted on in order for an opportunity to give input. This was for the Academic and Administrative Council, but does not include the Curriculum Committee. It was pointed out that the situation that occurred with Policy 223 (Distance Education) is a good example of the need for this procedure.

Other Such Matters

Being the last business meeting of the semester, Senator Rand asked if any Senators were retiring so that they can be recognized. Past Senate President Stretz said that she will be retiring at the end of the academic year. Senator Larimore said that he will be retiring at the end of this semester. The Senate thanked Senator Larimore for his service, he will be missed.

The recent Veterans Day also spurred a thank you for your service to all vets.

Adjournment

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved: January 24, 2022