

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

April 19, 2021

Submitted by K. Craven

Members Present:

Stephanie Adams, Douglas Airhart, Dan Allcott, Michael Allen, Jeremy Blair, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Kris Craven, David Hajdik, Tammy Howard, Janet Isbell, Christy Killman, Nancy Kolodziej, Matt Langford, Emily Lee, Chad Luke, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Jennifer Meadows, Holly Mills, Lachelle Norris, David Larimore, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Sally Pardue, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, Lee Ann Shipley, Troy Smith, Sandra Smith-Andrews, Barry Stein, Holly Stretz, Daniel Swartling, Robert Wilbanks, Zac Wilcox, Kimberly Winkle, Russ Witcher, Jeannette Wolak

Members Absent:

Wei Tsun Chang, Yun Ding, Dennis Duncan, Steven Frye, Brian Jones, Susan Laningham, Mark Melichar, Anthony Paradis, Mike Rogers, Lenly Weathers

1. Call to Order

Senate President Holly Stretz called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Senator Airhart made a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Smith seconded.

There was some discussion of the need for certain Agenda items and the Agenda was modified accordingly.

The motion was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (March 22, 2021 Business Meeting) and Notes (April 5, 2021 Meeting with the President)

Senator Mills made a motion to approve. Senator Airhart seconded.

Discussion: In the notes, there is mention of an event – please add the date

There was no discussion. The motion carried and both documents are approved.

4. Faculty Senate President Candidate Statements and Vote (President Elect Luna)

Senate President Elect Luna nominated Senator Lori Maxwell for the position of Senate President Elect for the 2021-2022 year. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. Senator Smith moved that nominations cease and Senator Maxwell be elected by acclamation. Senator Mills seconded.

The motion was approved.

5. Senate President Update

Senate President Stretz stated that she did not have an update to give.

6. Discussion of Statement for Asian American and Pacific Islanders

Dr. Gannod, chairman of Computer Science, has expressed concerns about the emotional well-being and potential for discrimination of Asian American and Pacific Islanders on campus; this is primarily a result of the pandemic. There is concern that Senates at other institutions have issued statements of support or taken other action as a result. These are quite thorough; it may take some time to draft an appropriate statement. Other comments included the following.

- A statement may not be enough, actions speak louder than words.
- Making no statement is, in itself, a statement.
- Consider what happened with George Floyd.
- Maybe President Oldham should issue a statement.
- Could it be too little too late. – Never
- These individuals want to hear that we support them.
- Issue an immediate statement and take time to draft a resolution.
- This should be done in consultation with President Oldham.
- Not all cultures react the same way. Asians have a more internal reaction.
- Maybe a resolution on our web page is not a broad enough impact. Prefer a news article or something sent out to the campus community.

Senate President Stretz also discussed the new Diversity Champions program. There is currently no Faculty Senate representation. She has asked Senator Kim Winkle to serve in that role as she is already involved in the group. It is believed that this group will make a lot of statements. Senator Winkle shared that there are talks happening with Dr. Owens and President Oldham to plan for future events. One goal is to know how the campus community feels and acknowledge all groups.

7. Procedures for the Faculty Affairs, Academic Council, and Administrative Council (Airhart, Smith-Andrews, Maxwell).

There has been no additional action and there is nothing to report at this time.

Policy 223

Administrative Council Chairman Smith-Andrews informed the Senate that Policy 223 is on the Agenda for the University Assembly to be ratified. She has a number of issues with the policy and specifically feels that it should have been presented to the Administrative Council due to some of the content in the policy. It was not presented or voted on by the Administrative Council, although it did pass through the Academic Council. According to the policy, that is all that is required for this particular policy.

Academic Council Chairman Maxwell indicated that it was presented to the council and the council voted to approve the policy. However, the manner in which it was presented did not highlight the new material in the policy nor was it clear that it would not pass through the Administrative Council.

There was much discussion of issues with parts of the policy. Many Senators felt that the policy requires additional oversight in areas related to instruction and course materials without proper justification. Other concerns include tenure and promotion implications, infringement on academic freedom, and whether including it on the University Assembly Agenda constitutes acceptance. The desire is to have it withdrawn from the Assembly and continue to work on the policy.

8. Report from IDEA evaluation committee (Roberts)

There are at least two different committees looking at the faculty evaluation process. Senator Roberts reported that the committee is open to making changes. Senator Smith discussed that they are looking at other instruments for doing the evaluation, but other instruments also have issues. The decision might be to stay with IDEA but with some modification to the implementation. There is a need to increase the response rates and to identify the best questions to ask. Other comments include the following.

- Some institutions hold grades until the individual student completes the evaluation.
- Another option being considered is to have multiple instruments, for example peer evaluation. However, this was not well received.
- Another incentive that works is giving extra credit for the students who complete the evaluation, but is that acceptable?
- The response rates were considerably higher when the evaluation was completed on paper; we need to find an effective way to get back to those response rates.
- The low response rate means that we are missing the voice of certain students; this could include those who struggle in the class and we need their feedback for improving the course.
- Is the instrument able to measure what is effective teaching? What we really want to know is if the students learned the material.

9. Old Business

The prior topic of legislation related to gun control was discussed at the TUFSS meeting. Senate President Elect Luna suggested that we hear from the TTU Police Chief and/or Terry Saltsman (the Chief Government Affairs Officer) on this matter at our next meeting, specifically, to discuss how the TTU policies link to the state legislation and the potential changes on campus.

The proposed key policy did not pass. They will convene a small group to make revisions and submit to the Senate in the fall.

10. Such Other Matters

Senate Secretary Craven announced that her term on the Senate is ending. She is willing to continue as secretary for another year if she is reelected to a Member at Large seat in the upcoming election.

Senator Smith-Andrews made a motion to elect Senator Craven as the Senate Secretary for the 2021-2022 year pending her reelection. Senator Airhart seconded the motion. Senate President Elect Luna moved to table the election until after the election. With one “nay” vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Airhart seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Approved: August 30, 2021