

Faculty Senate Minutes 30 August 2013

Senators Present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Blanton, Clark, Crandall, De'Armond, Diego-Medrano, Drumheller, Fiaud, Jacobsen, Jafar, Johnson, Kelly, Landram, Loftin, Pendleton, Rausch, Takacs, and Ward

Senators Absent: Atchison and Kuennen

Call to Order: President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. in the Eternal Flame Room of the JBK.

Ambrose introduced new Senators Debra Blanton who is replacing Dalton, Elsa Diego-Medrano who is replacing Riney, and Robin Kelly who is replacing Vick.

Approval of Minutes: Takacs made a motion seconded by Anwar to approve as written the minutes of the 2 May 2013 meeting of Faculty Senate. The motion passed unanimously by the Faculty Senators present.

Drumheller reported on a meeting she and Atchison attended with the Board of Regents in College Station. Drumheller said most discussion by the university faculty present was on what Faculty Senate representatives wanted to do with issues at some campuses. The group talked about how often to meet and the structure of the meetings. The group wanted to meet and bring issues to the meeting that may later be taken to the Board of Regents.

Ambrose said nothing has been finalized on changes to the post-tenure review process. During the spring semester, Faculty Senate passed a resolution to remove a statement in the procedure that administrators could eliminate a faculty position at the last minute. Dr. Shaffer said he is working on the final version of the post-tenure review procedure and will let Faculty Senate review the document.

WT will not have commencement speakers in the future except for an occasional speaker from The Texas A&M University System. It is difficult for speakers to give presentations at two WT graduations on the same day.

Ambrose asked Faculty Senators to think about things Senate might do this semester that will be useful to faculty as a whole. E-mail topics to Ambrose to compile a list. Ambrose said Dr. Shaffer will come to Faculty Senate on 27 September. Dr. O'Brien has not yet decided when he can come to Faculty Senate. Drumheller suggested inviting Donna Eddleman to Faculty Senate.

Jafar suggested discussing whether new changes will affect faculty and the faculty handbook. He asked if changes are in conflict with each other in the faculty handbook. Jafar asked when Faculty Senate passes resolutions, where do they go? Jafar made a motion that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee summarize changes made during

the year and prepare a report to hand to the next Senators to keep them informed. Drumheller seconded the motion. All Senators were in favor. Anwar added that the report needs to be put online. Drumheller suggested asking if Mary Rausch can add links to the annual report and past presidents of Faculty Senate, as well as the minutes already posted online. Anwar said the Texas Tech Faculty Senate Internet site has administrator evaluation results posted.

Drumheller said WT has Buff Allies for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students. Spectrum is a student group for gays and lesbians. There is concern about the WT statement that does not currently include a statement about diversity. Drumheller said other universities in The Texas A&M University System have statements, but not WT. Drumheller and Castillo are working with students to create a statement that will be finalized up the system to ensure equality for everyone at WT.

Drumheller said the CIEQ is flawed, especially for online classes. Drumheller said Shaffer asked her to write a proposal. The proposal was sent to the Deans first, but the plan was for the proposal to be brought to Faculty Senate. Drumheller has a committee with members from different Colleges. Drumheller hopes to pretest a new CIEQ. The hope is to go online in 2016. Drumheller is being sent to a conference to learn about software. Ambrose asked how student evaluation forms will be changed by what Faculty Senate proposed last year. Anwar said all CIEQ scores are available online but do not list the sample size and are not valid. Rausch said he had 76 responses for 74 students enrolled in an online course. Drumheller suggested asking Jarvis Hampton to put online the number of students who completed the evaluation in each course.

Rausch said on 24 June, Susan Coleman sent his department a message about human subjects. If human subjects will be used, the proposed research must be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Recently, faculty published without having their research approved by IRB. Rausch said he looks at census data, but turns to IRB whenever he does surveys involving people. Drumheller said legal is taking a broader view. Jafar asked who is blowing the whistle on faculty. Rausch said he is concerned about whether we are handing out procedures to all new faculty even those who do not work with IRB subjects. Jafar said there were two incidents in Communication Disorders Department leading to investigations. Drumheller said usually there is no investigation unless there is a concern brought to the IRB committee. Drumheller said WT does not have a true exempt procedure, only expedited and full review. Jafar asked if Faculty Senate should be involved when faculty are investigated. Drumheller proposed that administrators should tell a faculty member being investigated to contact the Ombuds Officer, and Faculty Senate should be involved to ensure the process is fair to faculty. Jafar said the Faculty Senate executive committee should tell WT administration about this. Ambrose should send a message to all faculty on campus about the process.

Rausch asked about use of the standard template faculty use for a syllabus. Fiaud said some faculty in her department changed the format of the syllabus and were told not to do so. De'Armond said his department requires faculty to include a statement of ADA

compliance, but they can write something else in the rest of the syllabus. Ambrose said WT faculty are being told to make all syllabi look alike when the only requirement is to be ADA compliant. Rausch said ADA compliance can be checked by using Word.

De'Armond said he was appointed by Dr. O'Brien to serve on a Task Force for Student Success. The task force met twice, with the first meeting being on 15 August. The task force was charged with looking at admissions, preregistration, financial aid, IDS classes, advising & mentoring, freshman convocation, living and learning, and residential life. They are assessing how the process is aiding or hindering recruiting and retention of students. De'Armond looked at WT Admissions that revised their procedures last year, so they are doing well. Diego-Medrano said transfer students are not included. De'Armond said transfer students were not considered so far, but the list might evolve to include them. De'Armond said everyone uses a different metric when defining persistence and retention. He found a definition of persistence, and persistence might be tied to funding. Persistence at WT is >60%. WT is trying to increase persistence. De'Armond talked to Kyle Moore and learned about attrition and other measures of student retention. The task force will give Dr. O'Brien a report by 6 December.

Jafar said Dr. Shaffer said he would provide a seminar on best online-teaching practices. Jafar said Provosts come to Faculty Senate and take notes, but there seems to be no follow-up process. Ambrose will follow up with Shaffer on suggestions from Faculty Senate. Jafar asked if a formal committee is needed to follow up on issues. Anwar said Ambrose should tell Faculty Senate at the end of the semester what Senate proposed and what was done. Ambrose said we could invite the Provost to attend more Faculty Senate meetings, if Faculty Senators desire.

Rausch reminded Senators to look at the Faculty Senate Internet site to be sure their information is correct.

The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as amended were approved at the 13 September meeting of Faculty Senate.