

WTAMU Faculty Senate Minutes
November 17, 2023

Attended: Senators Fisseha Alemayehu, Bill Ambrose, Christopher Baird, Brandon Bang, Priscella Correa, David Craig, Kenneth Denton, Nancy Garcia, Callie Hisek, Eric Hoffmann, Sean Humpherys, Roy Issa, Kenneth Leitch, Guglielmo Manfredi, Kelly McCauley, Eric Meljac, Ashley Pinkham, Blake Price, Leslie Ramos Salazar, Matt Reardon, Laura Reyher, Jim Rogers, Bob Smith, Brian Spencer, Troy Tarpley, Brigette Whaley

Absent: None

Proxies: None

Guests: None

The regular meeting of the WTAMU Faculty Senate was called to order at 12:15pm by President David Craig in the Eternal Flame room on the Canyon campus.

Minutes of the regular meeting from October 20, 2023 were previously provided and reviewed. Callie Hisek moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

Officers' Reports and Remarks:

President David Craig opened with comments and discussion of the last open meeting with the President, including comments on the Zoom and video recording. David Craig also updated the Senate about meetings with Dr. Terry, the blue-ribbon committee on the textbook initiative, and the future of WT, enrollment, and course material initiatives. Further remarks included issues of the tenure process, including the addition of the dean's review after the college committee, and signs of administration pressures for changes in tenure and review.

Vice-President Kenneth Leitch reported on the President's Council meeting. Guidance is reportedly forthcoming on DEI, and funding is expected from the Regents for the museum. The meeting also included discussion of working from home.

Secretary Kenneth Denton remarked on his move to associate dean and the need for an election for TBRCOESS and secretary.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Handbook Committee

Eric Meljac indicated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Joint Faculty/Student Committee on Academic Affairs

Priscilla Correa and other members met with the Student Government President this week. The students felt that working with the cafeteria was not productive at this time. The Student Government was able to get funding from Aramark to support the Food Pantry in collaboration with St. Anns. They also want to work with mental health services at WT, potentially at the Amarillo Center, and morale/climate at WT, affecting staff/faculty turnover.

Unfinished Business:*Senate Meeting with the WT President*

Discussion was opened about specific responses.

Administrator Evaluations and IT Security

Discussion was opened about WT IT security and emails going to Quarantine and/or a hidden folder that is not accessible. For example, some faculty still had not received the link for administrator evaluations. This is especially true of Google and shared document links, and responses indicated that this is a pervasive problem. Sean Humphreys moved that a summary of these issues be submitted to the Senate secretary to be communicated with James Webb and the university IT committee. This was seconded and passed by acclamation.

New Business:*Handbook Changes*

Ashley Pinkham presented some upcoming changes. First, the Ombudsman Officer position would be changed to elect/appoint them on the same year that they would begin, and an update would be submitted for the wording on funding. Sean Humphreys moved to accept the changes as outlined in the forms and submit to the committee. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation. Second, the wording of promotion to full professor would be changed to clarify the need for “excellent” ratings in recent years to apply. Eric Meljac moved to accept the changes as outlined in the forms and submit to the committee. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation. Third, the language involving the limitation of administrators to serve on P&T committees was opened through a new proposal. Discussion was held on the change and how to submit the feedback for the proposal (which was already submitted to the committee). Sean Humphreys moved to suggest rejection of this proposal from the Senate. A vote was requested, and the motion passed by a majority of a show of hands.

Comprehensive Post-Tenure Evaluation (CPE) Committee Lottery

David Craig announced the process for selection of faculty members to serve on the committee for each college. Names from qualified faculty were drawn from a hat and verified by two other senators:

ANS: Bill Rogers, Carolyn Bouma, Bridget Guerrero

BUS: Lesli Ramos-Salazar, Jeff Babb, Barbara Wang

ESS: Crystal Hughes, Sang Hwang, Beth Garcia

FAH: Robert Krause, Susan Tariq, Tina Carpenter

NHS: Vanessa Fiaud, Gene Farren

EM: N/A

Alternates: will be chosen by Senate President from the remaining pool.

Senate Secretary Election

Eric Meljac nominated himself and was seconded. He was selected by acclamation.

Faculty Senate Plans for Feedback on Textbook Initiative

Kenneth Denton moved to open discussion on whether Faculty Senate would provide feedback regarding the textbook initiative, now that meetings were concluded and based on discussions

from the first regular meeting of the semester (8/25), in a recess for 10 minutes, which was seconded and passed by acclamation. After discussion, Sean Humphreys moved to extend the recess discussion by 10 minutes, which was seconded and passed by acclamation. Ashley Pinkham then moved to develop a response from Faculty Senate based on previous discussions, and a draft response submitted by faculty was read by David Craig. Discussion was held on wording. Sean Humphreys moved to strike some wording. Brigitte Whaley moved to amend this motion. Discussion was held. Troy Tarpley called the motion to end debate on the change to the wording. David Craig called for a show of hands, which was passed with at least 2/3 vote. David Craig then called a vote for the motion on the table, which passed by a majority show of hands. Kenneth Denton moved to modify wording still included and edit the draft for readability. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation. Sean Humphreys moved to add wording on Faculty Senate alternatives. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation. The final response was read for the original motion, which was approved by acclamation. Callie Hisek moved to add a distribution list, which was seconded and approved by a majority show of hands. Discussion was held. David Craig moved to amend the motion, based on discussion, to include Dr. Wendler, VPAA, faculty, media, Chancellor Sharp, and Dr. Hallmark. This passed by acclamation.

Callie Hisek moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded at 2:30pm.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Denton". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Kenneth Denton