

Faculty Senate Minutes for February 12, 2010
JBK Room 11, 12:15 pm

1. Meeting called to order at 12:15 pm by President Stuntz. Members present: Branson, Byrd, Castillo, Chenoweth, Combs, Commissiong, Crafton, Davis, Dursun-Kilic, Friske, Issa, Landram, Lee, Parker, Parr-Scanlin, Rosa, Stuntz, Trela, and Wilson. Substitutes: Kris Drumheller for Leigh Browning, and Matt Riney for Gary Bigham. Members absent: DeOtte.
2. After Crafton moved and Rosa seconded, the minutes from February 5, 2010 were approved as submitted.
3. The Budget – Dr. O’Brien (45 minutes)
 - a. This is what’s going to the System by Monday for projection of 5% cut. Will be on the website publicly available on Tuesday. Guideline, not necessarily by the letter. Remember, this is not fixed in stone: items can be moved, and don’t yet have a mandate from the state.
 - b. Historical perspective, difference of \$27, 257 from 2010 to 2011. Reduction from PPHM, increase in staff group insurance premiums. Overall budget FY78: \$18M increased to FY2010 \$115M. Statutory tuition RATE will not change considerably. Biggest chunk of expenses is personnel. State general revenue has dropped from about 90% to less than 60% of total.
 - c. Impact originally was \$3M, now looking at \$2.6M, but that still can change again.
 - d. Current projects for NEXT biennium (2012-13) see a \$12 billion shortfall in State government budget. With this long-term outlook, WT is trying to look at choices that are long-term sustainable. Looking at both cutting expenses and increasing revenue from other sources. Board of Regents is opposed to tuition increases. Chancellor is requesting increases up to 3.95%, which would be up to \$3.82 at WT, which would yield \$600k revenue.
 - e. Not going to retreat from advancement posture of 5 year plans. For example, operating costs for the Amarillo Center, and programs such as Civil Engineering and Masters of Social Work. Therefore, trying to come up with \$4.2M. O’Brien fears that the merit pool (\$487k) for next year will be one of the losses.
 - f. Compare this to NV and CO with 20% cut, and CO is also increasing tuition (cheaper to come here than in-state for CO students).
 - g. Increase revenue with rate increase and enrollment increases, plus cost savings.
 - i. Increase student service fee \$1, perhaps technology fee \$1, graduate fee up \$15/hr (last 4 years undergrad up 10.4%, vs. 6% in previous 10 yrs). Will do \$1 library fee increase: some displacement of state appropriation, rest will be budget increase for the library.
 - ii. Students have already approved athletic and student center fee increases.
 - iii. Even with tuition increase (currently ranked 28th at \$90.27/hr. – median is \$101/hr, average is \$105.65/hr. Texas Tech is going up \$11/hr, Sam Houston up \$8/hr. Including fees, WTAMU is ranked 24th of 36.

- iv. In this biennium, some will be flexible hiring freezes, but will also need to look at cuts. PPHM has cut 5%, looking at athletics 13% cut possible, IT - \$325k cut. Does NOT want to cut academic offerings or consolidate departments. Will be some FT loss in Academic Affairs. May mean higher class sizes, will also need to look at how classes are offered. Need to look at handling the IDS (freshman experience) – perhaps Dept. based. Currently paying \$60k in stipends. Reluctant to make big cuts in Enrollment Management. 19 of top 26 counties are no growth. Need to market outside traditional area. Increased marketing in Metroplex, San Antonio, and Houston. Our students tend to be more conservative, more rural (not center-city) and more interested in religious activities.
- v. Head count enrollment comparison last 5 years Angelo state +4%, Midwestern +2.6%, WT +6.5%. FTE comparisons are equally favorable.
- vi. Our enrollment growth increases base by \$480k. Add statutory for enrollment \$1.1M. Plus fees, \$1.0M. Environmental health & safety audit: very poor performance in teaching labs, so increase in lab fees. Increased tuition for Fy2010 yields \$489k savings.
- vii. Significant increase in # of donors, and increase in base level of donations, vs. national trend of 12% decrease. Significant increase in # of endowed chairs and professorships. (2 to 14) Helps everyone, since it provides separate
- viii. Cost savings.
 - 1. Utilities:
 - a. Change temperature settings in offices and classrooms - \$60k over biennium.
 - b. 4.5 summer work day: \$120k over biennium – doesn't want to do this.
 - c. Power management on computer: \$72k in one year.
 - 2. M&O
 - a. Electronic recruiting media (also allows personalization).
 - b. Electronic tests rather than paper – don't know savings.
 - c. Leased vehicle - \$28k.
 - d. Process redesign for IT – thin clients rather than replacing desktops. Over \$100k/yr.
 - e. Reduce # of phone trunk lines - \$13k/yr w/ 1 cut, re-measure traffic & may cut second.
 - f. Travel budget currently about \$2M, looking at \$59k reduction – don't want to impact faculty development and student learning.
 - 3. Wage and salary expenses
 - a. PPHM, Athletics, and IT: 9 positions identified.
 - b. Will have first draft from Academic Affairs on FTE faculty; don't know where that will be.
 - c. Flexible hiring freeze. Currently saving about \$900k in faculty and \$500k staff unfilled positions. However this money is being used to cover summer session, and cuts

from 2003. Has used some of incentive funding to cover some of these shortfalls. Summer gets \$3 revenue for \$1 expenditure.

- ix. Q and A: We were recruiting international students into the ESLI program, and then upon successful completion providing \$1k scholarships into graduate or undergraduate programs. State says these have to be competitive, which has decreased international enrollment. Now actively recruiting in South and Central America. Study abroad should help bring this back up. Q: are initiatives priority ranked, and will that be how they are cut? A: no, not in priority order. Final decisions on cuts will be made by O'Brien. Q: summer brings in other students. A: do want to grow, but want deficit gone first.
- x. Send comments to Dr. O'Brien.

4. Reports from Committees (10 minutes)

- a. Standing Committees
 - i. Faculty Development and Student Learning: waiting on feedback on what committee's charge is.
 - ii. Budget and Faculty Governance: no report
 - iii. Assessment, Advising, Conduct, and Curriculum: no report
 - iv. Commencement Speaker Committee – still looking at Tom Hanks, but if haven't heard by March 1, will begin looking for someone else. At next meeting will begin looking at lists for Aug., Dec. and May 2011.
- b. Ad Hoc Committees
 - i. Honorary Degree Recipient Requirements and Procedures – anyone can make a recommendation, go through departments, and come to Faculty Senate for final approval. Will have draft for next meeting.

5. Old Business

- a. Evaluation of Teaching – no discussion. Please contact FDSL
- b. Texas Council of Faculty Senates – will meet in 2 weeks. Bob DeOtte will be representative. Need someone to run the Faculty Senate meeting of Feb. 26.
- c. First Fridays – first one was fun, but Stuntz was the only one at the second meeting. Need suggestions for other ways to improve faculty cohesion. Comments: Amarillo faculty are eager to leave the campus; Chase Center has a room that might work as an alternate location; and possibility of adding an activity?

6. Announcements (5 minutes)

- a. Library Update: Art exhibit will be over this week. Everyone is invited to come to the Faculty Poster Exhibit on Feb. 25 from 10am-3pm.
- b. Faculty Senate Medallions are still in process. Hope to have them done by the MAY graduation.
- c. Centennial Gala is tomorrow night at FUBC. There will be a meet-and-greet at the PPHM 4-6. Open time capsule at 9 on Feb. 17 in the JBK. Will be gathering items for a new time capsule. Reception for endowed professors and chairs next week.

- d. Faculty Development Leave Results top 3 are forwarded to Regents for funding consideration.
 - e. Promotion and Tenure Status. Process is moving, but not yet complete.
 - f. Will need officers for next year, talk to President Stuntz if you are interested, or need information.
7. Rosa moved, and meeting was adjourned at 1:34p.m.

These Minutes have been approved.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Chenoweth.