

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES: February 13, 2009

All members present or represented except Russell Anderson and John Cooley.

1. Call to Order and Welcome at 121:15
2. Minutes of January 30, 2009 motion to approve Perry, second Darlene, approved
3. Comments from Dr. O'Brien
 - a. Budget
 - i. This year will have no mandatory budget cuts from the state but have had a request from Governor's office as to what would do if had a 2.5 percent decrease in budget, \$651, 126 dollars for WT, so we may have to cut that amount for next year: suggested decrease utilities expense, change thermostats would save \$19,000; add salary savings \$262, 941; reduce summer course offerings by 10 percent \$135, 017; reduce printing costs \$5404, maintenance \$ 18, 175; delay hiring vacant staff positions \$175,000; non-academic units might lose M&O \$35, 139; for 2010-11 funding bills have WT losing in formula funding but that may change – WT losing because more is being funded and we get our share by weighted credit hours, we have increased but others have increased more, so we get less, we need \$775,000,000 for biennium.
 - ii. Legislative Budget Board from Governor's Office has WT losing \$ 1 million for next year; HEAF funding FY 2010 \$72, 846 more than this year, for FY 2011-15 would reduce HEAF by \$122, 222 per year; Senate bill has \$100,000,000 set aside for incentive funding for biennium, House bill has half as much.
 - iii. WT has requested \$15 million to renovate old Ag building for Engineering and nursing, including labs, faculty, etc. for biennium; \$1.9 million student success request to enhance student retention; requested bio-security initiative with TAMU and other groups \$5 million to set up detection systems at feedlots; also would like to develop programs in dairy management and research as it is moving to the area; incentive funds for this year have been allocated.
 - iv. Are many proposals about tuition in the legislature, from freezing completely for two years to freezing each student's rate, and more; for WT a 5 percent increase will not even come close to making up for what we are losing in formula funding, our costs to A&M System are going up, other costs all going up, so can't have any pay raises if can't raise tuition. O'Brien promises to do everything possible to avoid tuition regulation and get WT as much money as possible.
 - b. Renovations and construction on campus
 - i. Fine Arts Complex is building new recital hall \$1.4 project, will be ready in the Fall; art gallery renovation almost complete; two dance studios are complete.

- ii. New changes include parking lot behind Buffalo Courts will disappear Spring Break to re-grade area so it drains and not into the HELC, when resurface will create a green space and amphitheater by residence halls, equivalent amount of parking already added across the street. Grand plan is to eliminate on-campus parking and create pedestrian walks, more of a residential campus, will still have emergency and handicapped parking areas, may add shuttle buses.
 - iii. Classroom Center is ahead of schedule, when it comes on line, old Fine Arts building will become parking. If surface parking will be landscaped to improve imager, if parking garage should have façade like Old Main. It is very expensive to have garage.
 - iv. Will have new construction at corner of 23rd and Russell Long. (Will have to remove trees so begin a tree-replacement process – trees are at the end of their lifespans now. New trees WILL be planted to replace the ones that are becoming dangerous.)
 - v. Build new stone wall with WTAMU to improve image.
 - vi. Buildings will be repainted, etc. to show WT is a top class institution.
 - vii. This summer will begin construction on new sports complex.
 - viii. Eleven new smart classrooms added over the next few months.
 - ix. Hudspeth will be demolished and new residence hall built for freshmen/ sophomores.
 - x. Will begin renovate Old Ag building. AG Science will be renovated as will MMN. Funded by bond if legislature does not fund. We may use part of HEAF to fund buildings. Need to see what legislature does.
 - xi. Will expand Amarillo Center – it is growing very quickly. May add a new floor for office space.
 - c. Distance Education Fee – Now seems to be inequitable for only some students to pay distance education fee. Now generates a lot of money that we cannot afford to lose. May increase technology fee to compensate.
 - d. Too early to know what federal stimulus package will do for WT.
4. Comments from Dr. Hallmark
- a. Convocation for donors of endowed professorships and the recipients on Feb. 17; is also Founders Day for WT – the day that the bill to create the university passed the Texas legislature. It is at 4:30 ABH, reception following.
 - b. Alteration in merit increase formula in Annual Review of Faculty Performance; formula flawed now, need to change for this year. Department head in new version can set aside 10 percent of pool to make discretionary adjustments; formula changed to make sense. To be used immediately if Senate passes. Motion to approve – Darlene, second by Rex, approved.

- c. Tenure on Arrival policy, distributed in January; deans added three sections to 2.11 section to clarify process. Motion to approve changes – Darlene, second by Marietta, some discussion, approved.
5. Old Business
- a. Faculty Development Leave info and procedures
 - i. Issue – policy states eligible after seven years – when does seven years begin, when apply or when receive leave? Hansen proposes can apply during seventh year so take leave during eighth year – approved.
 - ii. Must be to Board of Regents by early April, committee will decide by end of March
 - b. Tenure and Promotion Policy recommendations for the University T&P Committee.
 - i. Perry Crafton brought observations on how process is working will bring them forward to university committee
 - ii. See if we want to make any resolutions on any of them.
 - c. Adjustments to the Professional Track Faculty policy.
 - i. Our amendments have gone forward to Deans Council and they made some changes – changed from Fixed Term or Professional Track to Instructional or Research Faculty. Hansen prefers Lecturers and Researchers, with Assistant, Associate, Senior to designate ranks. Also removed “practice”. 2.2.1 is new, as is 2.2.2, to say have 9 month terms, and have 5/5 load (state standard).
 - ii. Discussion ensued
 - iii. Will change titles in Dean’s Council, fix typo, and get revised copy for next meeting.
 - d. Service Learning activities for the Faculty Handbook.
 - i. Theresa brought definitions of service learning gleaned from other institutions
 - ii. Protracted discussion ensued
 - iii. Committee will continue to work on this
6. New Business:
- a. Sedona: administrative tool or evaluative tool?
 - i. Recommendations for ARFP?
 - 1. Ask colleagues to share their experiences with Faculty Senate
 - ii. Recommendation regarding numeric evaluation?
 - b. Recommendations on the Senate Constitution and Bylaws.
 - i. Committee will meet after next meeting, copies on Intranet, read and make suggestions at next meeting
 - c. Senate budget
7. Other Business/Future considerations/Announcements
- a. Convocation February 17 for endowed professorships
 - b. Senate meeting February 27: James Webb will visit to talk about IT and Distance Learning Fee and other technology issues
 - c. Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting March 6

8. Adjourn – 2:25