

SENATE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 31, 2008
FAC 225

CALL TO ORDER: 12:15 PM

All members present or substituted except John Cooley, Business.

Minutes of October 17, 2008 motion to approve – Pulliam, second - Lee
Thanks to Mary Rausch for acting as Secretary

Comments from Dr. O'Brien (35 minutes)

First item, memo from Vice Chancellor of Academic affairs, now have questions for Teaching Excellence award, we will be doing this in the spring, still don't know how will be implemented.

Second item – budgets. President O'Brien has been meeting with state officials. Texas is in good financial shape for this year, so do not expect budget cuts this year but need to watch expenditures. Travel monies will again include international travel on state funds. Approval process tighter, further up the line. Defer what we can and maybe will not have problems this year. Price asked if Study Abroad included –No. Is part of Education funding.

Budget for biennium – still is surplus for this year, but not as large as it used to be. Sales tax receipts less, royalties less as oil prices go down, Texas has to rebuild state facilities destroyed by Hurricane Ike. Special items will still have some funding, not as much as anticipated. Renovate old Ag building and get Engineering programs started –first priorities. Good news, \$100,000,000 incentive program established last year, now have formula for distribution, \$20 million set aside for Top 10 Percent program, other 80 percent distributed to state higher education, depends on participation and success. WT got \$1, 580,142. HECB incentive to improve teaching at state institutions, may use for scholarships for top 10 percent. All funds must be used in FY 2009. What will we do with the money? Can correct chronic budget problems.

Summer and Intersessions have been spending \$1.4-1.55 million per year , but budget only \$600,000. Rest comes from salary savings, travel budgets, contingency funds. Medical for Athletics spends \$275,000 + each year (includes insurance), have contract for Medical Services. Budget \$95,000. Have lots of areas like this – way overspending budgets. Presidents everything budgeted so we know where funds are coming from, then use salary savings and designated tuition accounts for seed money for special project. Take \$800,000-900,000 to pay for summer and intersession out of state funds (10 accounts) and free up 11 accounts, take salary savings and bank it so start off with money in the budget, build up for next summer. Will let contingency budget be used for actual contingencies. Have continual revenue stream for summer and intersession. (This is all legal.) Also wants to use funds for one-year M&N increase for departments. Must be used in 2009, there are some strings. President also wants to benefit students. Now we charge course fees for SI. He opposes all course fees except lab fees. What course fees pay for should be included in tuition. There are too many different fees. So far have halved course fees by increasing tuition and budget. SI, Math Lab, etc., should

be budgeted items. \$100,000 should pay for all these things. May be able to rebate course fees for some courses. Wants to increase library acquisitions with this money, databases and books. Wants to establish a pilot summer bridge program for at-risk students. Will increase success and retention. Wants to create a position: Assistant provost for learning assessment, will work with departments to develop assessment programs for SACS. Any money left over will go to underfunded construction projects. It will be a few weeks before plans are finalized. Wants suggestions. [discussion]

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report from COFGO meeting: Perry Crafton (5 minutes)
 - a. Went to Austin for meeting: sessions on student advising (WT doing really good compared to other schools); AAUP is against using Collegiality as promotion consideration; Coordinating Board will look at how students select schools (WT doing okay) and Closing the Gaps – better informing high school students how to select a school for their interests and not go to junior college so much; legislative topics; faculty/legislative perceptions; our P&T policy being copied by other system schools so we are putting on open access website; other universities also having many administrative changes as we are – WT is well-off; Texas Faculty Senate group wants a link from our website. Other schools now know about WT, not the best –kept secret any longer.
2. Mentoring Program committee: Leigh Browning, Liz Matos, Nagalapura Viswanath, Duane Rosa, Libby Rhoades (2 minutes)
 - a. Hansen reported on committee make-up
 - b. President wants to have college-level uniformity in mentoring process
3. 12.07 Fixed Term Academic Professional Track Faculty (15 minutes) Hansen reported that President wants the following items:
 - a. Limitations on number of such appointments – does not want to dilute tenured faculty teaching classes or tenure-track research
 - b. Terminal degree status – policy requires this, does WT agree? No, some instructors do not have terminal degrees but we do want to keep them. Need to clarify policy.
 - c. Review process during the first three years – should be same a tenure-track review three-year review, hired on one-year contracts for first three years, then get longer, renewable contract
 - d. Comparative status to tenure-track faculty
[discussion] Hansen wants us to be proactive instead of reactive
4. Four-day vs. five-day scheduling of classes (5 minutes)
 - a. [discussion]
 - b. Hansen encouraged participation at provost chats to express opinion
5. Student government interaction with faculty senate (5 minutes)
 - a. Should we invite SGA officers to attend meetings? Hansen will invite Student Body President to attend meetings

- b. Share comments?
- 6. Annual Review of Faculty Performance, Sedona, numerical ranking (15 minutes)
 - a. Hansen by his experience found numerical rankings problematic
 - b. Trela said needs to be written standards
 - c. Calvi – is same as grading, not a problem
 - d. [discussion]
 - e. Calvi – let committee work on this
 - f. Hansen, most faculty not using Sedona
- 7. Distance Education (10 minutes)
 - a. Enrollment
 - b. Fees – distance have been going up without any approval, begun when only online classes were online, now all classes use Angel system but do not collect fees, problem that some are paying and some not for same classes, Price – money collected is now supposed to be Academic, not IT any longer, fees do pay for GAs for online classes
 - c. Referred to Committee on Issues

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (10 minutes)

- 1. Piper Awards – three nominations from EPML: Davidson, Severn, Trela; BUS Cooley, MUSIC Dubois, Science Gary Kelly, Spears in Soc.; Calvi suggested nominees be contacted and asked if they want to go forward; Hansen said will do so and email us the results, we will vote by email

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 minutes)

- 1. Provost's Chats: November 4 and December 10.
- 2. Hanging November 6
- 3. Calvi announce Distinguished Speaker series
- 4. Calvi announced Texas Faculty Association

Pulliam motion to adjourn 1:40

Adjourn (anticipated 1:45 PM)