

Faculty Senate Minutes 22 March 2013

Senators Present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Atchison, Bartlett, Crandall, De'Armond, Drumheller, Jafar, Johnson, Kuennen, Landram, Loftin, Pendleton, Rausch, Riney, Takacs, Vizzini, Vick and Ward

Senators Absent: Dalton, Severn, Riney, and Pendleton

Guest: Substitute for De'Armond

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

Approval of Minutes: Postponed until next meeting.

Guest – Chief of Police Shawn Burns –

Chief Burns was asked what concerns the police have with regard to weapons on campus. He related that the police department has no official opinion on this topic but shared the following:

- There are currently 44 pending bills in Texas regarding open carry, concealed carry and other related issues
- Training for Concealed Handgun License (CHL) is 10 hours and covers laws, de-escalation and shooting practice
- Concerns for weapons on campus also include increased possibility of accidental discharge, inadequate concealment/improper showing of gun to others, loss or misplacement of weapon,
- Misidentifying a CHL carrier for an active shooter
- Some Texas Police Chiefs reluctant to openly voice opinion against weapons bills because worry about losing credibility with legislators

Asked and discussed secure lockup in residence halls and activity center – unsure of protocols at this time. There does appear to be much support for passing bill (concealed carry on campuses) at this time in Chief Burns's opinion.

Currently weapons are prohibited in campus building (3rd degree felony) whether have CHL or not. Can have a weapon in open outdoor areas or parking lot if have CHL. May have a rifle or shotgun without CHL in vehicle. Also, not legal to carry double edged knife or spear on campus. Open carry not allowed for handguns.

Police Chief Burns was asked whether we would be able to ask students if they are carrying a concealed weapon and he says there is currently no public disclosure of CHL holder names and that it would likely be frowned upon to ask students whether they have a concealed weapon or not.

Some concealed weapon courses are very large – perhaps up to several hundred students. One of the pending bills is to decrease CHL class time limits from 10 hours to 4 hours.

Burns also shared that studies show many with CHL are not able to adequately use the weapon if needed – weapon retention is not adequate and could lose the weapon to criminal. Additionally, he shared the concern that college students may not be able to purchase high quality equipment (weapon or holster) which could lead to problem or accidental discharge.

There was a discussion over intimidation of faculty, staff, and other students by those students openly carrying weapon or those we may be worried are carrying a weapon. Little or no punishment for carelessly leaving a weapon unattended that could be found by another person. Also, concern was expressed over mentally or emotionally unstable student/person with CHL on campus.

Staff council survey showed that 60% in favor of staff/faculty being able to carry a weapon but concern about methodology (ability to take survey more than once) and 40/60 split on students carrying weapon on campus.

CHL course level of training consists of being able to complete 20 shots at 3 yards, 20 shots at 7 yards and 10 shots at 15 yards. Not rigorous enough is concern of Chief Burns. Signs are not currently on university building about the illegal nature of carrying in campus building even with CHL. There is concern that in all likelihood there are concealed weapons on campus even though they are prohibited. Current CHL reads that the weapon should be on or about your person (includes purse, backpack or other case).

Chief Burns also spoke about the recent evacuation drill which he considers a success. Evacuation had traffic issues and they are currently working on a new traffic plan in the event of a future evacuation. Drill had 2 parts – evacuation of campus and sweep of campus buildings for a bomb. Evacuation was completed in one hour and sweep of building completed in two hours. There were a “few” communication issues but these were not specified. Along with revision of the evacuation plan there was discussion of a new “shelter in place plan” for those who might not be able to evacuate. Could have officers here from other jurisdictions in short amount of time. Having only two main roads for evacuation slows the process down.

Reports of Officers: Ambrose met with President O’Brien and asked about eligibility to be nominated for Regents Professor. Those otherwise meeting the requirements should be teaching at least one fall/spring course. List should include those not too close to retirement and President O’Brien has final say.

Course load issues – President O’Brien has set up meeting with Bill Takacs to discuss teaching loads.

President O’Brien says that no one will lose job in janitorial services change.

Ambrose discussed APC form with Dr Shaffer and reports that Dr Shaffer is happy with the form. Finally, in regard to post tenure review and timing of evaluation process being out of sync – faculty senate will be notified of pending changes.

Anwar shared the discussions from the parking committee meeting. Barnes would like this be a “pedestrian friendly” campus. There will be a town hall meeting held next month (April) to discuss continuing issues with parking. Concerns over students parking for long periods of time without moving cars, promise to “chalk” tire of long parkers and the problem of many reserved parking spots were brought up.

Also, discussion about students being required to move out of Silver creek apartments before April 15 was brought up.

Regents Professor Award Nominees include:

Drumheller - Nick Gerlich

Ward - Jim Rogers

Anwar - John Pipkin

Rausch - Suzanne Monroe

Rausch - Teri Bingham

The Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Collette Loftin,

These minutes as amended were approved at the 5 April Faculty Senate meeting.