

Faculty Senate Minutes

7 September 2012

Senators Present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Bartlett, Crandall, Dalton, Drumheller, Jafar, Johnson, Kuennen, Landram, Loftin, Pendleton, Riney, Severn, Takacs, Vick, Vizzini, and Ward

Substitute: Gary Byrd for Tim Atchison

Senators Absent: Pjesky and Rausch

Call to Order: President Bill Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the JBK.

Ambrose welcomed all the Faculty Senators to the new year. He reminded the Faculty Senators that the constitution requires each Senator to attend at least 75% of the Faculty Senate meetings per semester.

Approval of Minutes: Kuennen made a motion seconded by Severn to accept as amended by Gary Byrd the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of 3 May. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Report by Officers:

Ambrose met this summer with President O'Brien who said he was in favor of accepting the Faculty Senate resolution for data from the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators to be used in annual merit decisions for academic department heads, associate deans, deans, and the Provost and for the Evaluations to carry a weight comparable to the weights assigned to the student evaluations of faculty performance that are obtained from the CIEQ surveys. Ambrose said Dr. O'Brien also instructed the administrators to read the evaluation comments written by faculty members. Ambrose reported that Dr. O'Brien said the evaluations are being done too late in the semester and should be completed before spring break, which Faculty Senate will start doing next spring. Gary Kelley said almost 50% of faculty completed the evaluations this spring, which is more than the 30% who usually complete the evaluations.

Ambrose reported that Dr. O'Brien said he had gotten an outside company to help with obtaining WT financial data. Faculty Senate though Ambrose will have access to financial data Dr. O'Brien can access.

Dr. O'Brien said the Ombuds Officer proposal was approved. Faculty Senate needs to suggest three candidates for the position. Candidates are needed who are trusted by faculty. Ambrose will locate the updated version of the position description for Ombuds Officer.

Commencement Speaker Committee Report: Landram said he will provide three names of potential speakers to Dr. O'Brien next week.

Old Business:

Parking: Ambrose reported he rode the shuttle bus 5 of the past 7 days because of lack of parking spaces near campus. Vizzini said he must park a mile away from campus even though he paid \$50 for a parking permit. Crandall on behalf of Theater and Dance said there is a problem with patrons having enough spaces to park for art events in the evenings; the parking spaces closest to Fine Arts and Mary Moody Northern buildings seem to be occupied 24/7. He said Fine Arts and Humanities has a subscription series with as many as 200 paying donors, many of whom probably will not be able to find parking spaces for the events at the Fine Arts Building. Dalton said the six parking spaces for patients of Communication Disorders always are filled with people other than patients. Anwar reported he has seen people older than 60 having to park far away and walk to the Library. Bartlett said the parking spaces reserved for visitors to the Museum are filled with permit parkers. Vizzini noticed that parking spaces near the Activity Center always are occupied, and visitors from off-campus give up and go home without using the Center. He also said staff like to leave campus for lunch, but will not find a spot when they return from lunch; it is a quality of life issue because staff are paid too little. Vick either walks to campus or drives but parks nearby; he said campus parking is not being checked, people are parking on campus without a decal, and no one is giving tickets or paying attention. Some people parking near Old Main have decals three years old and not current. Vizzini asked how much money might be lost this year from people parking out of the correct spaces. Takacs said in his 11 years at WT this is the worst parking has been; this is the first year where faculty parking has been taken away. There were not enough faculty/staff spaces before, but now the situation is worse. Dalton said it is a degrading slap in the face to be told he has been demoted to the lowest level of campus life (a nation-wide problem where faculty has lost control); he said rank does have its privilege, but his privileges have been taken away. He said there used to be distinction between faculty and staff, but now faculty, staff, and students are classified the same.

Loftin reported that Lisa Davis said there are 2,500 spaces on campus but >3,900 permits were sold for those spaces. Loftin said some faculty in Nursing asked Parking to refund their permit money but were refused. She said President O'Brien was asked to refund parking money, but he refused.

The main issue seems to be dorm students who move to closer parking spaces on the weekends and occupy spaces long term. Students now also are using visitor spaces. Takacs wanted to know how many vehicles belong to resident students, and said resident students need to park their cars at the First United Bank Center and a shuttle bus bring them to campus, or freshmen and sophomores should not be allowed to bring cars to campus. He said students at most other universities cannot park outside their dorm room windows. He said faculty need to be in the classroom instead of searching for a place to park and getting to class 30 minutes later. Some faculty members do not have the luxury of coming to campus at 7:30 a.m. and not leaving until after they have finally finished for the day. Installing gates opened with scan-cards to get to reserved spaces was suggested. Vizzini recommended having a drawing where the winner could park in the President's or Provost's or Dean's space for a week. He also recommended a town hall meeting where faculty, staff, and students could voice concerns. Riney suggested having each Senator survey faculty in his department.

Drumheller summed up that open parking and lack of parking for donors, patrons, and community members could create a financial issue for the university. She said lack of parking is negatively affecting students, especially commuters. Anwar said the quality of life of faculty and staff as well as students should be considered.

Severn said the WT Parking Committee sold the faculty out when they voted for open parking, but faculty on the Parking Committee agreed with the open parking decision. He said most parking decisions were made without having the right expertise. People who made the decision to change parking did not research what might happen during the next few years. Severn said going to an open parking policy was not related to Lean 6 Sigma. Crandall observed that no steps have been taken to remove signage or repaint curbs yet; he wants to voice concern now to put parking back the way it was before open parking.

Crandall motioned and Dalton seconded a motion to send a resolution to President O'Brien that Faculty Senate is concerned about visitors to campus not finding parking. Ward suggested telling Dr. O'Brien the real issue is with faculty not having places to park. Landram motioned and Kuennen seconded a motion for Faculty Senate to send Dr. O'Brien a resolution about losing money from patrons/donors and losing faculty morale if parking is not changed. Severn asked if the motion was made about faculty being annoyed or because WT is losing money; he said if money is being lost and open parking is not a smart policy, data are needed. Landram recommended asking the parking committee and administration to provide information on donations lost, morale of faculty/staff decreased, etc. Anwar asked if Gary Barnes, the Parking Committee Chair, should be asked to speak to Faculty Senate.

Crandall recommended forming a subcommittee to address the parking issue now, volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, and recommended including departments with patrons, donors, etc. Anwar, Crandall, Landram, Riney, Takacs, and Ward volunteered to form a subcommittee to draft a resolution on the parking issue.

Drumheller also said there is no crosswalk between the Randall County and Fine Arts buildings where numerous pedestrians cross the busy street. There is heightened safety concern for pedestrians. Vick complained and WT started having police cars patrol during rush hour. Faculty Senate wants to request a crosswalk and that police cars patrol during times with high traffic.

Suggestions for Topics for Senate to Work on this Year:

Byrd representing Atchison said the new schedule of evening classes starting at 6:00 instead of 5:30 p.m. is causing problems and decreasing the number of hours students can take in Psychology.

Vizzini said there are problems with the computer program used to assign classroom utilization and Smart classrooms; faculty are having to teach in classrooms all over campus and at all hours; the Registrar's Office is limited and having to work on classroom assignment problems by hand. Severn said Jonathan Davis used to take care of the classroom utilization program, but when he changed jobs, much of the institutional knowledge was lost. Severn said the university runs out of classroom space in Smart classrooms especially during prime times. Some classrooms to which classes are assigned and written on student schedules had been changed without notifying the students when they arrived to class on the first day of the semester.

Bartlett suggested Faculty Senate should work on the issue of summer pay and the new cut-off number of students per course picked arbitrarily by the Provost. Ambrose suggesting asking Dr. O'Brien or Dr. Shaffer when they come to Faculty Senate meetings.

Ambrose said Dr. O'Brien wants Faculty Senate to revisit issues with post-tenure review.

Vick said the issue of the use of the CIEQ for on-line classes needs to be resolved.

Vacancy on WT Committees:

Parking Committee: Paul Clark, Mona Gregory, Ann Medlock, and Randy Ray from Fine Arts and Humanities volunteered for the Parking Committee. Paul Clark was selected by majority vote of the Faculty Senators.

Campus Beautification Committee: A faculty member is needed to fill the position on the Committee vacated by Nancy Cartwright after she left WT this summer.

Updating Faculty Senate Constitution:

Gary Byrd apologized for unintentionally violating the Faculty Senate constitution process for election of new Faculty Senators and officers last semester. He said 30 April and 1 May have been on weekends during the past two years. Byrd said he quizzed the person who wrote the constitution in 1987 but he could not recall why the date for electing new Senators was chosen. The Faculty Senate constitution is so rigid that it needs to improve. Byrd volunteered to work out the language of the constitution for the Faculty Senate to be in full compliance without creating practical problems. Jafar was asked to join Byrd to work on rewording the constitution, but Jafar declined. Ambrose and Vizzini volunteered to serve on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as written were approved by Faculty Senate on 21 September 2012.