

# Senate minutes 2021-01-29

David Craig

## Terry visit/remarks

Spring enrollment: down a little. FAH down, ANS up, ED up, Music/Theater down. Engineering down. Be conservative about making changes in current situation. Need to take time for longer term. Scholarship offers may help. May take two years to assess situation with enrollment.

External funds: second round of CARES act, will receive \$10M, \$3.5M to scholarships, \$3.5M to defer costs (cleaning etc.) \$1M gift came in, working on \$5M with match - key to 4 year scholarship fund. May soon be \$4M to nursing announced soon.

Legislative looking good for VERO, etc.

Possibility for naming professorship or graduate school. New professorship in History, new one soon in Education, possibility of new in Agriculture. Trying to move around money for young colleges that have difficulty in professorships (few alumni to donate).

State budget: down around \$1bn. Expectation was \$7bn for COVID. Base is \$125bn, so not as bad as it could look. Hope for no more budget cuts this year. Texas has been attractive to people from other states, so there is demand for infrastructure spending – higher than normal. Good chance Agriculture gets extra LAR funds. May get Healthy TX funds for nursing. Have been encouraged for state revenue bonds (\$50M) which could remodel old Education building if we got one.

Babb: last year at an event a coordinating board member was upbeat (pre-COVID) about legislative agenda. Any sense of way winds are blowing legislatively?

Terry: LAR and Healthy TX is a good sign. TCFA, Four Price (for Healthy TX) are good advocates for WT on this. Possible TRB to use as stimulus for economy. Current thought is there may be an opportunity for some funding. WT is hurt by geography, lack of growth in this area. Biggest problem for university. TX is one of the only states with growing college-age population.

Merit and equity: can't have another big state budget cut, try to save positions over merit. Not do anything dramatic to academic programs. Second: mid-April need year to year fall enrollment needs to be up. Third: what is coming in with NSO, summer? If they are not disasters, should have some merit/equity pool. There is also a turnover problem in staff areas: IT, business office, library (all hurt by low salaries.) Academics – see what deans can do, then discuss with provost, etc. Money from CARES gives some leeway.

Others:

Travel: international – nothing until second half of summer. Likely fewer restrictions for domestic travel in late summer. Chance of approval.

Holland: next fall?

System says don't expect purely normal in fall. Still have masks, etc. Field work may be more open. Will need to coordinate with state, federal, and other countries.

Holland: What about student travel? i.e. geology course for this summer.

Terry: Yes, have approved travel for student competitions for example. As long as it is consistent with those requirements for student travel. Talk to dean.

Piper Professorship: go ahead with that procedure.

Regent's Professorship: go ahead (normally every other year) (3 year term)

Faculty Development Leave: Did not support person for last year, do we need to go back before adding more people? Will support merit/equity more than leave during pandemic (priority). Fine to forward and discuss. Probability will be better next year.

Summer Development Grants: Spent that in summer. Not opposed to redoing people that were left out, to fulfil the earlier commitment. Will need to discuss with Vizzini.

Moving faculty awards back to stipend over travel (\$2500-\$3000), Magister Optimus, etc. all will move forward this year.

Babb: Faculty Development Leave is a signal from administration. It is not good to take paperwork for something that will not be funded. Regent's was late last year, we want to move forward from this year with clarity.

Terry: Could pick the most important of those. Worry that areas are down and SCH need to be maintained. Also we have instructors eligible for promotion in spring, and it looks like it can go ahead in colleges. Would be a positive.

Vaccine question: have all paperwork filled out for vaccinations on campus, Amarillo has been efficient, hesitant to get in their way. Concern that many students don't want a vaccine. One hospital made it available to all staff and only 40% accepted. Don't want to waste received vaccines, trying to find out how many will be used. Do know at some time will have some vaccinations on campus.

Last go round for Sedona, moving to Interfolio. It is also better than Basecamp. Also more likely for faculty to be able to move materials if they leave. It will have section of it that you can control.

Collaborative survey going out next week is good. Kansas events are worrying. Think is helpful to do things together. As pandemic drops, what to do with those with hardships? Extensions? As get we get survey results back, will be part of discussions (Tenure & Promotion, etc.)

## Minutes

Minutes were approved with minor changes

## COVID committee

Holland: have simplified the survey, added research and promotion impact questions, etc. Survey is shortened. Draft is to go out to Deans Monday. Please look at it today and send comments to Holland, so Deans can see Monday and release next week, administration will welcome feedback. Will assume no comment means good.

Clark moves that **faculty senate agrees that survey will be reviewed today and give Mark Holland the right to submit Monday.**

\*\*Amendment: Silence on survey comments is consent to it going out.

Amendment: Senators are review by 5 pm today.\*\*

Tyrer seconded. Call for objections (vote): none found.

## Wendler request for feedback on COVID

Opportunity to share, will have survey results coming in.

Ken Leitch moves to adjourn, there was a second. Adjourned.