

Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 12/7)

David Craig

2020-11-20

Call to order

President Wendler remarks

Feels sound job responding to virus, not perfect, etc. Faculty engagement in decision making, whether online or not. Faculty given liberty, response has been good. Think have been good job, thanks for making decision holding purpose.

- Challenges can lead to growth. Thankful for that.
- What spring will look like still up in the air.
- Possible for unit (dept.) to go online as whole if decide that.
- Local liberty is important. Nobody knows better.
- Probably looking for volunteers to make calls to students to see how students are doing. Previous similar calls helped to find problems.
- Don't want to see spring enrollment drop. Surprised to see how well enrollment kept up in fall.
- Need to pay attention to students and each other, use fall as model.
- Week of Nov 9-15
 - 129 new cases (up significantly)
 - 108 students, 11 were all-online.
 - 21 employees.
 - Talking with mayors, county, hospitals: in interest of area be careful with graduation. Made hard call. Many in-person graduations would give fac/staff more exposure than attendees.
 - Positivity 10%, below surrounding population.
- Working on PPHM, Tx musical: have vacancies at exec level. Benefit from working together as enterprises that care for, put forth cultural nature of panhandle. Attractive to students that might want to come to WT. Combined executive positions–hope to pay more with more responsibilities Creating advisory board that brings larger view. Share what makes panhandle unique and WT good place to study. Digitize collections.

Kinsky: how many tests are repeat tests? - Don't know answer, will try to find out. Has been tested four times himself.

Clark: observation that WT has been diligent, but not CISD not so much. - data support that. WT infection rates lower than other communities. Care of fac/staff/students.

Butler: What practices currently being implemented do you see remaining once we transition out of this season? New trend in education? - Restate as pedagogical impacts: students recording performances, lecture capture as tool in future (reviewing for students), ability to memorialize events, experiences. Likely more office work done online/at home. Question of how to choose formats for different disciplines/parts of pedagogy. Different in different disciplines.

Rausch: prior attempts to digitize PPHM collections have fallen through due to lack of equipment, digital storage, personnel. What is different now? - Nothing yet but will raise funds for this, job for new executive director. Have to find new resources. May need new staff. Only one museum heavily invested by state—in Austin. Need a national or statewide focus for boards—have been very local. Need to broaden appeal along with canyon, etc.

Macaulay: any WT surveys on impact of going online from student perspective? Will it impact enrollment? - No formal survey. Personally looks like 50/50 attitude about online. Shocked at students who live on campus and take all online. Funding for buildings looks bleak, look to 50/50 online/ftf.

Ramos Salazar: any tentative plans for what fall will look like (2021). - Haven't looked at it. Perhaps senate put group together to look at that. How does this change us? Pedagogy? Some areas more some areas less. Would like sessions to discuss and seek out information to plan for fall.

Wishes everyone good holiday, praises intercollegiate athletics.

Previous minutes

Motion to accept: Kinsky, seconded Leitch. (Minor correction: there/their.)

Faculty leave

Babb: Issue about faculty leave: from handbook: President must certify number of faculty leaves at an appropriate time and max number available. (page 140 (Sec 2.1) of handbook seems to say if we have money will do it.)

Have not heard clearly from administration. Medlock and Babb will talk to Terry

Clark: minimum criterion set by state is a percentage of faculty maximum allowed on leave. Would be wrong of Senate not to be prepared, but cannot issue a call until administration approves. Deans and grants may be waiting to plan schedules. So at some point more than Senate is at stake.

Babb: will make it clear to Terry etc. that we need an emphatic answer.

Pres-elect governance committee

Job was to implement changes for new system (sharing document on Zoom.) Modifications in handbook: explanation of position, continuity, conditions on positions being vacant, need for elect to be tenured, etc.

- Do we need to address electronic elections?
- Maybe just need to ensure that electronic voting system be checked for anonymity.

Babb: needs more deliberation, not take action today. Suggest as way to move forward, Babb and Medlock will meet with committee ASAP.

Craig: suggest changes be prepared for distribution to Senate.

Joint Faculty/Student Academic Affairs Committee

King: Students have things working that they are working on: had meetings with administration, they will bring issues, probably in new year: Student/Planning vs. Buff Advisor, etc.

Faculty Handbook Committee

Kinsky: asked to look at voting and quorum, brought up to university faculty handbook committee. Changes can be submitted through new form. Opportunity to connect with issues in president-elect governance, voting, etc.

Faculty Travel Gap Analysis Committee

Reached out to other universities, they don't know about future, should probably wait till next fall. Babb: could look at past consistency. Babb to discuss to see about this. Farren: will make sure all members actually meet.

Communications and perception committee

Deferred to next meeting.

Piper Professor nominations

Also getting "we don't know" about Piper applications from administration.

Post tenure review:

Babb will share next time randomization procedure for Comprehensive Peer Evaluation.

Motion to adjourn: Macaulay, Butler seconded.