

Minutes of Faculty Senate 18 April 2014

Present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Blanton, Crandall, De'Armond, Diego-Medrano, Drumheller, Johnson, Kelly, Loftin, Pendleton, Stuntz, and Ward

Absent: Atchison, Fiaud, Jacobsen, Jafar, Kuennen, Landram, Rausch, and Takacs

Guest: Gary Byrd

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

Approval of Minutes: Stuntz made a motion seconded by Ward to approve as written the minutes of the 4 April 2014 meeting of Faculty Senate. All Senators present voted in favor.

President O'Brien said the Texas Legislature signed for public institutions in Texas to have guaranteed tuition rates for 4 years. Guaranteed tuition was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. A 4-year guarantee guarantees parents and students and provides incentive for students to graduate in 4 years or pay a higher rate. WT submitted a proposal for 4-, 3-, 2-, and 1-year guaranteed tuition rates calculated from the current statutory designated and mandatory fees increased by 2.2%, then by 2.2% squared, taken to 4 years, and averaged, which is the amount that could be set for a 4-year tuition rate. For example, all freshmen entering WT without college credit would be charged the 4-year rate, which is 5% more than the current rate for taking between zero and 29 credit hours, and students with more than 90 credits would be charged 2.2% more than the current rate. If students need to drop out for a semester because of personal or family illness, there would be slight flexibility in the rate. The original proposal included an increased fee for advising, but the WT student referendum on advising lost by eight votes. WT proposed increasing and consolidating transportation (parking and traffic safety) into a single fee (potentially \$40 per semester and \$20 for summer) for all students, except in distance learning. Students in some WT programs would pay a different tuition rate (for example, business, social work, engineering, and music education that are accredited or require students to take more than 120 hours to graduate). A stipulation was made that WT would cover accreditation fees and drop all course fees. WT now has about 550 fees, including 200 in music. The Board wants WT to consolidate the set of fees, eliminate all course fees (not lab fees), and have a university enhancement fee for course and mandatory fees. Special-purpose fees, such as for athletics, could be retained. Proposed is a university enhancement fee with students in business, engineering, music education, and social work exempted. Music would have a separate music enhancement fee and eliminate other fees. Voice emphasis one-on-one would have a separate enhancement fee. Fees are supposed to be revenue neutral to WT and students. Stuntz said her department depends on course fees to pay graduate students to tutor. Drumheller said there will no longer be course fees and whatever a department expects to receive would

come from the pot. A separate account would need to show fees are used for what they are supposed to be used. Dr. O'Brien does not yet know what the Board will do with the WT proposal.

Dr. O'Brien said faculty and staff parking rates will increase. He provided a handout with four parking rates proposed based on the salaries of faculty and staff, with those earning the most paying more than staff earning less than \$25,000 per year. A few restricted zones will be available for only faculty parking, and faculty could park in any zone. It has not been decided if parking will remain free at the First United Bank Center. Dr. O'Brien said he will investigate how many faculty park near each building so enough spaces are reserved. Students will be ticketed for parking in faculty-only zones. When WT parking was zoned, tickets generated \$190,000 per year but only \$89,000 when parking was open this year. Dr. O'Brien is seeking feedback on the proposed parking fees. The new parking rates, if approved, would start in the fall.

Stuntz asked if additional classes will be taught at the new Amarillo Center. WT hopes the new Center funded by Amarillo Economic Development, Harrington, and other donors will open in fall 2015. WT could move into the new Amarillo Center and no longer pay rent to Happy State Bank. Not enough money has been donated to refurbish the basement and third floor, but the first and second floors with 50,000 square feet of space could be used first and be larger than the 30,000 square feet at the current Amarillo Center. The learning disabilities center would be housed at the new Center. One room at the Center will hold 150 people for special lectures, a lounge will be put in, and a Starbucks is being considered. Anwar asked if a private party or conference might rent the 150-person room. The Marriott Courtyard is only 2 blocks away and would be good for conferences. Diego-Medrano asked if a few classrooms might be available for students to work together at tables that could be moved together. Dr. O'Brien said WT now uses only 40% of classroom space, but if rooms at the Center have high use, some might be set aside for group work. The Board looks at classroom use in 19 time blocks between early morning and 9 p.m., what percentage of capacity of a classroom is being used, and a demand measure (not all classes are in traditional classrooms – for example, horsemanship can be counted as utilization even if at the Horse Center). Few universities but Sul Ross have lower classroom utilization than WT. Anwar suggested having the Amarillo Center advertised on I-40. Dr. O'Brien said WT has a \$400,000 marketing budget.

Gary Byrd said he is preparing a white paper for work by the post-tenure review committee. He said he did a background search on post-tenure issues. He polled all Texas A&M universities on post-tenure policies and is considering sampling non-Texas A&M universities. Byrd also met two hours with Provost Shaffer. Byrd will convene the committee to address the issues in the white paper. He said he is trying to learn the "agenda" of the Board, what peer review means, and why the Board is interested in peer review.

Ambrose said he met with Shaffer about the faculty handbook revision process. He said Shaffer agreed to the suggestion to have Faculty Senate and the Provost discuss

together before sending changes to the Faculty Handbook Committee, instead of Faculty Senate and the Provost separately sending suggestions. Faculty Senate also wants the Faculty Handbook Committee to first send Senate their final decision and rationale to ensure what is sent to the university President. Ambrose said he will tell Shaffer to send the Faculty Handbook Committee the two changes.

A list of faculty eligible for nomination to Regents Professor was handed out. Jim Rogers still is not eligible to apply. Anwar and Byrd were suggested but declined. Anwar said it would be a conflict of interest for him to apply. Diego-Medrano asked the amount of work involved in applying. Stuntz said hours of time are required to prepare a folder. Stuntz suggested telling faculty on the list they are eligible to apply. Dr. O'Brien said if no faculty member applies for Regents Professor, WT would have no nomination this year.

Magister Optimus: Crandall, Rausch, and Ward nominated faculty for Magister Optimus. The Senators voted and selected one faculty member who will be announced at WT fall faculty/staff convocation.

New Business:

The following faculty members were selected to fill vacancies on university standing committees:

Accommodations Appeals - Debra Blanton
Alcohol and Other Drugs - Claudia Stuart
Code of Student Life - Leslie Williams
Curriculum - Randy Combs (ASE)
Faculty Development - Gerald Chen (ASE), Syed Anwar (BUSI), Billy Blodgett and Betty Coneway (ESS), Vickie Hartin (NHS)
Faculty Emeritus - Karyn Friske (BUSI)
Faculty Handbook - Mark Riney
Freshman Convocation - Anne Medlock (FAH)
Grievance (Student) - Duane Rosa (BUSI)
Honors Council - Rocky Ward (ASE) and Chad Holliday (FAH)
Information Technology (CIO) - Sean Humpherys (BUSI)
Instructional Technology - Erick Butler (ASE), Nick Gerlich (BUSI), Tana Robertson (FAH)
Intercollegiate Athletic - Robin Patterson (BUSI)
Marketing – Turkan Dursun-Kilic
Prestigious Scholarship Selection - Carolyn Bouma
Scholarship/Financial Aid - David Lust
Student Endowment Scholarship - Nathan Howell (ASE) and Jovana Vukovic (ESS)
Student Honors - Janet Hindman (ESS)
Undergraduate Admissions Appeal - Tim Bowman and Beth Garcia
University Library – Turkan Dursun-Kilic (BUSI)
University Services - Karen Cooley (BUSI) and Rich Rose (ESS)

Anwar suggested once each semester opening a Faculty Senate meeting and inviting every WT faculty member to come for 30 minutes. Ambrose said Faculty Senate is open to any faculty member at any time. Faculty are encouraged to check the Faculty Senate schedule and to read the minutes posted on the Internet site.

Elections for faculty to replace Faculty Senators whose terms expire this year will be on 1 May at 9 a.m. (NHS), 10 (FAH), and 10:30 (ASE, with Stuntz volunteering to direct the election). Diego-Medrano will find out when the ESS College will meet. Johnson will schedule and notify Ambrose when the Cornette librarians will meet for their election.

The next meeting of Faculty Senate will be at 12:00 noon on 1 May, Dead Day. Ambrose said Stephen Bogener asked to address Faculty Senators at the next meeting.

The meeting of Faculty Senate was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie B. Pendleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as amended were approved at the 1 May meeting of Faculty Senate.