

Faculty Senate minutes 2018-March-23

Call to Order:

King moved to accept minutes with minor corrections, Hindman seconded, passed.

Our guest was President Wendler, for Q/A and discussion. Questions/answers:

Ambrose asks:

What best way to promote brand, get a wide range of students to attend?

Wendler: Promote commitment of faculty to teaching to students. More we promote this, the better will be. Job 1 for WT brand. We would like to have students interested in good teaching. Pretty consistent concern for students, challenge intellectually as well as care about them. Another one: On brand: exceedingly important that local audience feel well about institution. This will spread to more distant areas. In a previous institution, tried to attract students too much from outside local area. Will appeal to more distant students by first appealing to locals. All about geography, have to serve locally first.

Ambrose: doesn't seem to be as much advertising on TV as in past.

Wendler: Will look into it, don't know how much has been done in past. Think its important that we treat those we meet on campus well. How you do advertising has to be strategic, but don't know how much have done in past.

Wendler: looked at data from 15 local high schools -- WT as often as not is number 1 for first year students, often AC is 2. (Close in high-schools). Texas Tech was not 1 or 2 in any of these high schools.

Babb: As state allocations have been declining (as you have mentioned before) students tend to drift towards customer status.

Wendler: Trying to be responsive to market, but trying not to look at them solely as customers, though it's an ambiguous status. Universities are places where people are changed. It's a fine line to walk, danger of commodifying degree, and universities have done this to themselves.

A: What is our role in the TAMUS system?

Wendler: WT preceded TAMUS system, looking at stuff from old education building from transition. Our role in system is to do good job serving TX panhandle. Was on senate at TAMU. Also have opportunity to relate to nature of TAMU as a national research u, can serve a small set of our students by assisting them to grad work at TAMU (as well as others). We are 2nd largest provider of DVM candidates to TAMU. Relation to TAMU provides special opportunity for grads of WT to TAMU. Don't see WTAMU as feeder school. 4 students in PhD engrng prog at TAMU due to relationship. Some things should go other way, TAMU won't have a music prog, etc. Knew Long when was at TAMU. 20 yrs ago there was a fear that TAMU would "take juice out of WT." Later feeling that TAMU "and seven dwarves" was a view, but don't feel either is true. Things for reverse flow: CSAW, Music program, not a student of american west that wouldn't gain from PPHM. Family relation with TAMU can be useful. Good students from various programs can enter things such as arch program at TAMU, etc.

Ingrassia: concern of History is that TAMU colonizes museum and starts damaging opportunities for us to attract graduate students to our program.

Wendler: Fact that concern exists, people mindful, would reduce chances of colonization. Between fear and concern is where we could build relationship. If we can make the perceived ownership of PPHM be the system, then when Sharp goes to legislature and talks about our museum, they might be more amenable. Get passion for it from beyond 50 mi, would be in better position for support that museum needs. Doesn't seem high on Smith's or Seliger's radar, system offices may speak with louder voices, but control needs to remain local. Tim Leach on board of regents (from Midland), knows a lot about TX art, even Brauer was surprised. May be chairman of board next time. Was amenable to spending some of PUFF funds for DVM school, could also slide PPHM into that discussion. Way to avoid colonization is to realize that we have to manage balance between external resource we need and control issues.

A: What are biggest political, demographic challenges facing WT

Wendler: have been talking about it. Population centers of DFW, Houston, San Antonio are hub of state, need to somehow get into this hub for resources. None of this is new. Seliger won't have as much power in the future in TX senate. We are outside the "wheel" and find our own way, this is nothing new. Cultural opportunities in Amarillo are due to tenacity of West Texans in relative isolation.

A: On merit raises? Wendler: Collecting data now, it's public data. You will see it as soon as it get's done. You haven't asked anything that's priveleged.

A: Will be any money for merit raises?

Wendler: Have asked for 2%, state institutions have been warned to be cautious. Will have some merit funds.

Wendler: will likely find that 98% of faculty are meritorious. Will need to rename it if so. State doesn't like to give across-board raises, but institutions tend to do this.

Fiaud: what is relationship with AC? In our area have heard that AC is getting rid of their degree that will feed into our degree. What is situation?

Wendler: there is Panhandle Community College Council, I asked if WT could join. Working on transfer issues, haven't been clear about how core curriculum works, but transfer issues on degree plans have not been explained well. People take 60 hrs, want to transfer 60 hrs, and 30 hrs transfer. Trying to have a lot of conversations, don't want to be colonizing CC, but want relationship that works best for students. B Johnson(?) is working with CC issues. Include South Plains. Want to serve them will locally. Lone Star CC system has about half vo-tech, but have 7000 students /yr looking to transfer. If we could take 100 or so students that would fit our programs would be good for all. Many might follow.

Fiaud: I found at a conference that was consortium of community colleges and universities in SES working on transfer issues, nobody was from AC, none from WT. Making agreements, but we are not a part of it. Reported to chair. We are behind ball. If we keep eyes only on panhandle, can miss things like this. There is lack of communication. Need more input/outreach with faculty vs. administration.

Wendler: please send me an email, pass on B. Johnson. He thinks faculty-faculty interactions have to be major part of articulation process.

Davis: is this led or sponsored by Coordinating Board? (this articulation group)

Fiaud: think so but it is in our subject area only.

Davis: same thing was done to engineering, but only non-participants were UT and TAMU.

Wendler: We will get pressure from demographics for recruiting freshman, as hs demographics decline will be problem. My goal is to increase quality of freshman class, keep size about same. Not expect our growth from freshmen class.

Ingrassia: senior colleague asked about the situation where U Wisc St Point is cutting lots of humanities degrees. What would be your response if legislature pushed to remove programs similarly?

Wendler: I think is mistake. Need to find one core curriculum, need to have humanities as part of it.

Ingrassia: it's elimination of majors.

Wendler: lying if they say majors don't matter and courses do they are lying. Our job is to make sure that why such programs are important is understood. Many exceptions in core tends to splinter how history looks in the core, for example.

A: Anything else?

Wendler: (to Nam): went and looked at music programs in CC, saw some that looked good based on web pages. Would be willing to organize an expedition to look at CCs with potentially good music programs to see if students would be good for

WT. Would like people with experience to look at them. Would work with transfers in music.

Nam: since you did some research. My experience was 1 yr at lone star college. What are programs you found? (can go into later)

Wendler: most in NE, some in W. Coast.

deButte: mentioned TX wheel, etc. Is that purpose of RELIS campus? What is WT's place in that?

Wendler: we were told to participate in that. Purpose is unclear to me. In College Station there are huge number of educated service workers that can't get into TAMU, with Assoc. Degrees. Was Sharp's idea to get students into 4-yr degree without loading TAMU. Cost of positions there will be covered and are supposed to generate enough interest to continue. Not sure what final result will be.

deButte: was told ESS was footing a bill.

Wendler: Not for first two years, but there will be costs.

Babb: mentioned geography. In IT there has been arbitrage of competency. Can we use our cost advantage in geography?

Wendler: We should be mindful of colonization by distance education. Where do we want to stop and how to justify?

Wendler: please send me questions ahead of time for discussion.

Committee reports:

Policy updates: none

Instructor status: Nothing from Shaffer on instru proposal

Merit (data): Blake has not committed to coming April 6, but think data has been done. hasn't come to Ambrose yet. Deans seem a bit disturbed about it.

Noting on merit raise formula until get data.

IT issues: Webb may be amenable to user's group, amenable to some kind of group for if you have higher use of technology. Seem to be more open to community style dialog. Please send suggestions to Babb/committee.

Tenure & Promotion: Revisions on T&P wanted by deans: hasn't come out of leadership council.

X drop issue: revision: handout for student handbook.

Craig moved to accept wording for student handbook from Shaffer, King seconded. Motion passed.

Magister Optimus: remember to nominate secretly. Only two more meetings

Ambrose: At University T&P meeting, Deans want to eliminate alumni evaluations.

deButte, Ambrose: Deans are ignoring them. Varying numbers.

Fiaud: part of issue is these come in very late.

deButte: not being evaluated by deans much

Fiaud: this feedback is valuable even with a few, is less of a "customer" issue.

Babb: this can be asked for by evaluating agencies. IT is a good citizenship issue.

Meredith: Can we find out exact cost? (also Burnett)

Ambrose: will find out cost from Jarvis.

Ingrassia: is there a way to get higher rate?

Davis: this is issue for college T&P committees.

deButte: what about supplemental folders in 3rd year review?

Pinkham: handbook says as decided by college, but was changed by dean after process began.

Meredith moves that we take up the issue of consistency of application of materials across the colleges that are to be submitted for 3rd year review and the Tenure & Promotion process with the Provost and Vice Provost's office, in particularly concerning the use of supplementary folders. Revett seconded. Motion passed, no opposition

Administrator evaluations: Done online by Jarvis. Will be coming out shortly.

Regents Professor: nothing up on TAMUS system yet (after mid march) Let anyone interested in Regents professor know they can apply, applicaiton is not up yet, has sent email to Provost. (Can nominate one person from university, and president agrees and submits).

University committee assignments: Ambrose working on timing, will send list to senators for each college that needs assignments. Generally can be on cmte two successive 3 year terms. May need to ask person to see if terms are up.

deButte: animal care & use committee, needs to stay on idf because uses animals in research.

Hindman: TCFS meeting. Please review notes and will discuss next time. Note DACA resolution, was not supported 100%, could take up at next meeting.

Any other announcements? Provost did give funds for food. But which wich has doubled prices. A: Ambrose Shaffer raised budget to \$3500.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
-David Craig, Secretary