

# Faculty Senate Minutes 2017 November 10

President Ambrose called meeting to order at 12:20 pm. Our guest was James Webb from IT.

Discussion with Webb (initial remarks): Many people on campus have clicked on fishing emails (44 on a recent phishing test). Duo two-factor authentication was contracted by the TAMUS system. IT here at WTAMU now has USB keys available for faculty without smartphones. TAMUS Chief Information Security Officer is Danny Miller.

Initiative on internet of things:

- Parking system (experimental)
- Looking at updating smart classrooms, updating. Want feedback from faculty Committee on WTclass:

New 3 yr agreement with Blackboard upcoming, TAMUS system is also looking at Canvas.

Working with student government on expanding wireless

- Microsoft Portal now available:
  - Office365 cloud storage
  - You can install Microsoft Office applications and have 1 TB OneDrive storage available with your WT account.
- Syncplicity (similar to DropBox is also available with unlimited storage, and is encrypted at rest (helps with FERPA, etc.)

leredith: what about research computing?

lebb: help desk is not best place to start, we have new dept: IOT (Internet of Things) and research computing. Building private network for hailstorm research; providing storage area for mathematics. The point person to contact is Shannon Purcell

ao: What can we do about issue of computers that need to NOT be updated for instruments that are older?

lebb: it is possible to have exceptions but need to have communication.

ao: The help desk says must be connected to internet.

lebb: Better not to use help desk. Contact Webb or Purcell will be better for exceptions

senator asked: What about the restrictions for data types, grade storage etc.

lebb: Texas Code TAC 202 on confidential data: off-site data must have 128bit encryption. State law says anything else has to be reported as data breach. Syncplicity is encrypted both in motion and at rest.

R. Alex: what is the turnaround time for updating office computers? updating memory etc?

Webb: gets HEAF \$100K per year for updating. Usually identify oldest 15 computers and send recommendation to deans, deans can take the recommendation or not. HELC replaces every three years, and they use those for faculty desktops as well.

R. Alex: Who to contact? Webb: Mike Young.

R. Alex: What about adding secondary memory to a computer?

Webb: Generally is a department expense, but also Young is contact.

Blanton: Will there be an IT person in new amarillo center?

Webb: short answer yes. Have been putting IT people and putting them in buildings, by biggest building footprint. Will hire a new IT position for Amarillo Center. Also trying to put instructional designers with faculty, so Christa Favela has moved to business, Dale Mccurdy to Old Main, etc. Planning to hire more instructional designers for faculty.

Blanton: So it will have one full-time person plus student workers?

Webb: Yes, we have requested several times but budget only recently approved.

Webb: also likely to drop WebX, going to skype and others, cost for WebX is \$35K. Also considering dropping Turnitin which is \$35k extra, but Blackboard has SafeAssign for free.

Babb: could we ask Bb what the database size of SafeAssign is, etc to see about its efficacy, etc.? Webb: good idea.

Webb: TAMUS system moving many systems to cloud, example Workday, Banner, etc. Likely to see more similar changes.

Pinkham: what about cost sharing with Qualtrix, would it be shared, and how?

Webb: Need some conversation about cost sharing with units that use it. Do we want to keep giving money with vendors when they increase their prices typically 5-10% per year. Trying to balance maintenance contracts with need.

Webb: if you want a token for off-campus Duo authentication please contact me directly.

Nam: Music has a lot of visiting clinicians, etc. What about paying visiting clinicians, such as issue of how to transfer SSNs, other private info?

Webb: Not recommended to use email.

Tao: what about allowing faculty to install things off the internet?

Webb: you can request administrator access on WAccess via form that has to go through Provost office.

Tao: can IT monitor the installation while we install something to see if it is safe?

Webb: Shannon Purcell can help you with that in Kilgore, using BOMGAR.

(end of Webb's visit)

Ambrose: First meeting next semester will be Jan 19, every other week except spring break. Told Provost we had no one for Piper award.

Old Business:

**T&P proposal:** deans didn't like it, so sent a counter-proposal:

A faculty member who has, or who has had during the review period, a part-time administrative, non-instructional assignment (such as associate vice president, dean, direct supervisor, program coordinator, or other non-instructional administrative appointment) with significant responsibilities in Professional Service must meet the same rigor of standards for Instructional Responsibilities and Intellectual Contributions as for any other candidate for promotion and/or tenure. The supervisor of the faculty member's administrative or non-instructional assignment shall provide a recommendation on how much consideration should be given to the faculty member's administrative responsibility in meeting the rigor of standards for Instructional Responsibilities and Intellectual Contributions. The supervisor's recommendation should be included with the direct supervisor's annual evaluations in the Promotion and Tenure Portfolio by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

(Highlighting shows changes.)

DeButte/Ambrose: Deans did want to remove possibility of no intellectual contribution, etc.

Meredith: Move accept their proposal, Hindman seconded.

Discussion:

Babb asked for extant language, Meredith and DeButte reiterated that earlier language was ambiguous. Committee wanted to articulate the consideration mentioned in the language.

Motion passed with 4 abstentions.

**Merit raise formula:**

Ambrose: Pres/Provost said in discussion that senate could get Decker to do any research we wanted. What do we want?

Babb: why is onus on us now to do investigation for proposal?

Ingrassia: modified system would be possibly better for faculty? Perhaps should look at it.

Craig: TCFS meeting did emphasize faculty governance on these issues.

Meredith: may also be a TAMUS system policy that has to be followed.

(discussion of merit followed)

Ambrose: I can go and ask if there is an A&M system policy. Do we want to deal with this?

Pinkham: what proportion of faculty are meeting standard by APS summaries? (discussed in last meeting)

Ambrose asked for volunteers for committee to look at survey questions for Decker:

Members: Pinkham (chair) Ingrassia, Nam.

President will attend next meeting, wants to talk about core curriculum.

**Committee on Instructor Promotion:**

Ingrassia: Proposal to encourage move from fixed-term to full-time status (handout) and recognize outstanding instructor each year.

Meredith: Is this one proposal or two? Looks like two.

Ambrose: break to two resolutions? (Discussion)

Meredith: how organic is this from among faculty? (from within instructor faculty)

Ingrassia: we are representatives of faculty, and fear is an issue for instructors requesting. It is our (faculty senate) duty.

Babb: what are fixed-term faculty? (clarification)

(Discussion followed of definition issues, unevenness if application across units. Idea of bringing it to attention of chairs/depts.)

**Resolution:**

Faculty Senate is interested in recruiting, retaining, and rewarding excellent Instructors at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU).

Therefore, we encourage faculty, direct supervisors, and deans to be willing to move exceptional or outstanding full-time Instructors into fixed-term positions, in accordance with the Faculty Handbook.

Moved and seconded, voted with no opposition.

Senate agreed to table issue of awards/recognitions for instructors for now.

**Issues from faculty member (deButte)**

(Five questions from earlier meeting on administrator compensation, parking, etc.)

Ingrassia: issues seem to be : compensation of administrators over time and retention issues over time.

Meredith: Also is an issue of whether Parking committee is carrying through on last years proposals. Ambrose: will meet with Rikel.

Pinkham: Can roll this into questions for Decker about faculty.

Meredith: data is out there, publicly available etc. on administrator salaries.

Ambrose: did this about 6 yrs ago, similar to other trends,

--Agreed to address to Decker's survey

Craig: TCFS meeting report, suggested also sending a senator for longer term institutional report.

No new business.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
David W Craig  
Senate Secretary.