

Faculty Senate Minutes
28 October 2011

President Gary Byrd called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. in 11 JBK.

Senators present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Byrd, Crandall, Drumheller, Jafar, Landram, Loftin, Pendleton, Rausch, Rosa, Severn, Vizzini, Ward, and Wilson

Senators absent: Bartlett, Castillo, Kuennen, and Parr-Scanlin

Senator substitutes: Nancy Cartwright for Bigham and Mary Jarvis for Johnson

Guest: Heidi Taylor

Vizzini moved and Ward seconded to approve the minutes as written from the 14 October 2011 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Byrd informed the Senators present that members of the Program Review Committee had been divided into subcommittees. The Program Review Committee has met. Before the meeting, a large volume of institutionalized data was put onto the P-drive for the committee members to review. Before 10 November, committee members were to evaluate on a sliding scale all academic and non-academic programs as being “critical to the mission” or “not critical to the mission” of the university. A separate group of individuals was formed into a committee for process analysis of each program at WT.

Byrd had a meeting scheduled with Dr. O’Brien after Faculty Senate on 28 October to discuss the proposed Faculty Ombuds Officer.

Faculty in most, but not all, WT departments and colleges received notification in October that departmental and college standards had been approved. College deans were informed in early October that the standards had been approved many months before, but information on the standards did not seem to be reaching many faculty.

Barbara Petty notified Byrd of the need for Faculty Senate to select a university Curriculum Committee member from the College of Agriculture, Science and Engineering. The Curriculum Committee will begin meeting in early November. Faculty Senators from the College will nominate interested candidates and send the names to Byrd.

Linda Washington was appointed by Dr. O’Brien to Chair the Campus Beautification Committee. Severn moved, Vizzini seconded, and the Faculty Senators unanimously voted to select Nancy Cartwright to serve on the Campus Beautification Committee.

Faculty Senators are to contact all full-time tenurable faculty in their departments and obtain feedback to bring to Faculty Senate for discussion on proposed changes in the third-year review process. This year, some faculty members being reviewed for the

third year were reviewed at the College level, while others were not. Not all third-year review portfolios had Alumni Evaluations, which were not required this year. Severn suggested starting the review process of faculty at 2.5 instead of 3 years. There was discussion on whether the categories of "Satisfactory", "Outstanding", etc. should differ between the third-year review versus faculty being reviewed for tenure (fifth year). WT has always had a third-year review by department heads, but Dr. O'Brien wants input from multiple faculty in the departments to try to prevent abuse and ensure objectivity. The Faculty Handbook needs to be updated and contain details of the new tenure and promotion information. Faculty Senators are to communicate with and gather input from faculty in their departments and bring feedback to report orally or as handouts for 22 people at Faculty Senate on 11 November. Faculty Senate will discuss and provide feedback to Dr. Hallmark.

Faculty Senators are to contact faculty in their departments and report to Faculty Senate on 11 November input on learning outcomes proposed for all WT courses. Guest Heidi Taylor answered questions about learning outcomes. She said dialog on standards/assessments is occurring and becoming heated in Texas. Taylor thinks legislators eventually will want standards for higher education. Liberal Education and America's Progress (LEAP) have learning outcomes as do other organizations in Texas. WT needs to be ahead of the issues and requirements. Taylor worries about differences between universities because WT attracts different kinds of students than do other universities. She said the university needs a set of general education outcomes but each department also should have a subset of learning outcomes. Taylor would like more university dialog and design processes that are meaningful to WT students. She said there are pockets of success at WT but not for the entire university. Taylor said WT needs to think about learning and not just grades. Capstone classes are needed. The WT Learning Assessment Committee is in its second year.

CIEQ packets with the additional questions for the Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Awards are being distributed to faculty for students in their courses. New Chancellor John Sharp said he is not using the previous arrangement for Teaching Excellence Awards. Ambrose and Byrd will check whether the extra questions should be used during course evaluations at WT this semester.

Severn announced that he is involved with the WT Veterans' Network and asked everyone to encourage students to join. Severn will send all Faculty Senators an e-mail announcement to distribute to students.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes were approved on 11 November 2011.