

Minutes of Faculty Senate

8 November 2013

Present: Alex, Ambrose, Anwar, Atchison, Blanton, Clark, De'Armond, Diego-Medrano, Drumheller, Fiaud, Johnson, Kelly, Landram, Pendleton, Takacs, and Ward

Absent: Crandall, Jacobsen, Jafar, Kuennen, Loftin, and Rausch

Guest: Commissioning (substitute for Rausch)

Call to Order: President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the JBK.

Approval of Minutes: Fiaud made a motion seconded by Kelly to approve as written the minutes of the 25 October 2013 meeting of Faculty Senate. All Senators present approved the motion.

Dr. O'Brien said WT is fund raising through the Share the Pride Campaign. About \$34 million has been raised so far. WT has a good chance of exceeding the goal by \$13 million. Funds for faculty development and capital expenditures already have exceeded goals. Less has been donated for scholarships (\$8 million now; \$13 million was projected). Scholarship donations will be emphasized this year.

WT is working on preparation for SACS reaffirmation. Final reaffirmation will be in 2016, but much needs to be done before then. A compliance report will be submitted in Fall 2015, the QEP is due February 2016, and an onsite visit is scheduled for March 2016. WT will learn in December 2016 whether the university was reaffirmed, not reaffirmed, or reaffirmed with deficiencies. Rosa chaired an audit this summer on institutional effectiveness; learning assessment is not yet where it needs to be, although Business and Nursing being accredited helps. WT must demonstrate and submit sampling across the university. Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences need the most work, and emphasis will be placed on these. Dr. O'Brien said faculty qualifications are not up to par. Some departments are relying on part-time instructors to teach core courses; more than 50% of core English, math, and communications courses are taught by part-time faculty.

O'Brien said WT increased the number of tenured faculty, but also is using more term-contract faculty. Term-contract faculty have responsibility for teaching and service but not research, so they can teach 10 sections per year. O'Brien wants more faculty to teach lower-division courses. The courses new faculty teach are left up to department heads. Commissioning is concerned about faculty teaching lower division courses and not being able to do research with upper division students. Atchison said graduate students and part-time instructors used to teach more courses. O'Brien said additional resources are needed to be able to add faculty. He does not prohibit using part-time instructors. History uses graduate students to teach recitation courses. History has two class meetings per week with regular faculty and graduate students teach on Friday's. Atchison said more students per faculty member is partly a quality issue.

O'Brien said the budget for FY 2015 is being developed, and WT is preparing for the next session of the legislature. Departments will present budgets and requests at a public budget hearing the second week of February. WT will not know the final budget until May-June. The Regents' guidelines for revenue for 2015 do not allow universities to increase designated tuition and fees unless students pass a referendum. O'Brien wants to consolidate three current fees (transportation, traffic, and student permits) into a single transportation fee and increase the total amount of revenue generated. Shuttle service will be expanded by another bus and also stop at the parking lot near the athletic complex. WT plans to start using shuttle buses owned by an outside company because WT currently is paying \$28,000-30,000 for maintenance of the shuttle buses. Opening parking zones reduced the number of tickets issued, which in turn significantly reduced revenue. WT asked the legislature twice, but failed, for funding for student success, as did everyone in the State. WT needs to be more involved with persistence of at-risk students but needs more resources to do so. Another provision in the Regents' guidelines is a proposal for 4-year guaranteed tuition. WT is looking at a mandatory 4-year guarantee that guarantees tuition for students each year. WT still needs to figure how to handle guaranteed tuition for transfer students.

In the next legislative session, WT probably will ask for an electrical engineering degree. WT hopes to soon complete the engineering building, Mary Moody, and space for the Amarillo Center. Utilization of laboratory space is currently 65% and needs to be greater to justify seeking funding for renovations. WT might renovate the education building but would do so in phases. Windows, roof, and bricks need repair. Renovating the inside of the education building could be justified when WT has 9,500 students. Kelly asked if faculty would be asked to move back to campus from the Amarillo Center, but O'Brien said probably not. Small Business Development, social work, and graduate counseling could be moved to the Amarillo Center. An MBA could be put there later.

De'Armond asked about enrollment growth between fall 2012 and fall 2016. O'Brien said freshman retention increased from 62 to 66%, and new freshmen enrolled increased by 100 because of better orientation, WT reputation, and recruiting. WT is being marketed outside the local area, and students are coming from outside the top 26 counties and outside Texas (the Metroplex, eastern New Mexico, and other states) because the tuition structure changed last year. Graduate student enrollment increased, and WT is continuing to put resources into recruiting graduate students. WT wants more international students, but wants them to come in being paid from outside sources. O'Brien said WT persistence bounced around during the past 5-6 years. WT is more hands on and doing better at contacting students to attend classes and pay their bills. But, WT might not have done enough to maintain persistence long term. O'Brien thinks 74-75% persistence is reasonable, but ACT scores and being first generation, low-income Pell eligible, minority, etc. affect persistence, although educating minority and low-income students is good for society. Persistence could increase to 75% if student ACT scores were truncated at 21 or higher. O'Brien said 23.8% of WT students this year are Spanish minority, which is slightly short of making WT a Spanish-serving institution.

Fiaud asked where a health science center might be located. O'Brien said some dorms need renovating such as air conditioning for Cousins Hall. Stafford, Guenther, and Connor will eventually be offline. Stafford could be removed for a parking lot.

Guenther and Conner could be removed for a health science center in the future. The pedestrian mall would become an academic corridor. Housing needs to be concentrated near Cross, Jones, and Centennial halls. Dr. Eddleman is working to close Stafford, but Stafford brings in revenue and is inexpensive for WT, so it was kept open this year. The price point for Founders and Centennial halls is \$650 per month, while the price point in the oldest dorms is only \$325; the cost for Cross and Jones is somewhere in between. O'Brien said Stafford could be closed if triple rooms could be found in other halls to generate more revenue. The Box might also be closed for a parking lot. Having a health science center depends on how fast student enrollment grows. During the last 5 years, student enrollment increased an average of 1.8% per year, but increased 5.96% this past year. Blanton in communication disorders said where she used to be work graduate students generated enough money to buy equipment. Not much money is generated at WT because it is difficult for older people to walk and climb stairs where communication disorders is located at the Activities Center. Blanton asked how they might let prospective clients know they exist and how to make it easier for clients to reach them. O'Brien suggested advertising on the Internet to generate clients and revenue. WT is looking at expanding the nursing clinic to empty space next door on south Washington or moving to Amarillo so more people would not need to drive to Canyon.

Atchison asked about consolidation by the Chancellor. O'Brien said there are different facets of consolidation such as systemwide e-mail. TAMUS is talking about consolidation of a data center. The pipeline goes from College Station, to Lubbock, New Mexico, Tulia, and up to Canyon, but what happens if the pipeline is disrupted? WT has a redundant, separate Internet connection through Suddenlink that goes to Amarillo. Consolidation of student information systems is being considered, such as consolidation of a help desk. Going to the Banner student information system costs more than Datatel. The System wants WT to be on the same course management system but WT could stay on Angel through 2016; Blackboard Learn will be piloted this fall. O'Brien understands that migration from Angel to Blackboard Learn is good so it will be easy to change over. TAMUS would like everyone to use the same financial system; WT currently uses Datatel. Some financial systems cost \$300,000 per year, with conversion costing \$1 million. Only WT and two other TAMUS agencies are not on the same system. When WT came into The Texas A&M University System, WT decided to use Datatel, while A&M decided to build their own system. WT found Datatel less expensive for what is needed, but it does not interface on a live basis with Famous. WT can batch into the Famous system, but not live. Maestro for grants wants to be interfaced into Famous. The architecture of Famous probably is now dated because it was developed long ago. Consolidation might save The System, but not WT, money. When WT was invited to outsource custodial, building maintenance, and grounds, O'Brien asked why SSC was to be used. SSC told WT they could not make a profit, but WT has gone to SSC because TAMU signed a contract that would save money for the TAMU system as a whole. The TAMU System is the Board of Regents, Chancellor, and Vice Chancellors, but O'Brien also has a direct line to the Regents. The budget of WT is statutory and only to WT; none goes through The System. Every one of 38 public universities must fight for its own budget. For software, the amount WT pays depends on the number of students; when WT enrollment increases, WT can start bargaining

effectively. When WT goes in with 11 universities that have 120,000 students as a whole, WT can receive a per-student deal that is less than what WT pays alone. This works if everyone starts with the same software and the bid is centralized. It would require 600 hours at \$500 per hour to write a program to interface with The System.

De'Armond asked if the WT Faculty Handbook matches A&M System handbooks, guides, etc. O'Brien said WT should match the System's broadly written policies, but individual procedures can be more specific to WT. For example, WT faculty apply for promotion and tenure after 5 years, but TAMU faculty can apply after 3 years. WT faculty have a greater load than TAMU faculty, but TAMU differs by department. The faculty workload policy says each institution has a policy, but WT does not follow to the letter what is in the Faculty Handbook because WT does not have enough faculty. There is a policy for faculty development leave, but WT did not grant leave until 4 years ago. Commissioning asked if WT plans to change the leave policy to include pre-tenured faculty. O'Brien said no university where he served has sabbaticals for pre-tenured faculty. He said other universities might give release time for faculty to work on research. Faculty leaves must be approved by the Board of Regents.

Drumheller asked about the WT website blocking content. She said she looked up "virgin" on Wikipedia and was blocked. Lane Green in IT can unblock and do releases by computer. WT had a problem with people watching porn movies. Much malware is associated with porn sites. WT also is getting phishing attacks, including a site that encrypts everything on a computer and will not unencrypt without purchasing software.

Atchison asked about additional faculty. O'Brien said it depends on enrollment growth and the next legislative session. WT GR appropriations increased the first year but got slammed the second year.

Takacs presented a concern by faculty in his department that midterm grades were due by 5 p.m. on 1 November, but many faculty did not submit grades. He asked what happens to faculty who do not submit grades. Atchison said the department head should deal with faculty who do not submit midterm grades. Discussed was whether all courses should require midterm grades, but it was decided probably not upper-level courses. Drumheller asked about retention if students are struggling; faculty do not receive feedback about students. The Student Success Center has midterm grade information, but faculty advisors should receive feedback from the Student Success Center. Fiand said some coaches check each athlete's grades but mostly only check athletes they need to play and not students who might not be doing well. Ambrose will talk to the student advising service about faculty advisors seeing advisees' midterm grades.

Clark said Bruce Brasington suggested faculty publishing in journals that require fees to publish should cite in their promotion and tenure portfolios how much they paid to be published. Anwar said Beall is a librarian in Colorado who compiled a list of predatory journals. The departmental committee should know which journals are acceptable. Pendleton said journal impact ratings should be considered. She said many journals need to charge page charges to cover publication costs. Drumheller suggested

providing better guidance on what to write in the three summaries faculty put into their promotion and tenure portfolios.

WT faculty evaluations of administrators are now posted online under WT faculty, WT access, and at the bottom of the page of “resources”. Hopefully this will encourage more faculty members to evaluate administrators in future evaluations. Commissioning asked about the consequences for administrators. The evaluations are supposed to be used while evaluating merit for administrators. Ambrose said Texas Tech University lists the individual evaluation numbers for each of 8-10 questions evaluated, not only the overall evaluation numbers. Ambrose will ask Dr. Shaffer if Faculty Senate might rewrite the questionnaire to make it shorter.

Sharon Burnett and Jovana Vukovic were nominated and elected to the Student Honors Committee. The Committee meets once a semester or year to review students for national honors.

Nominations for the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor were Pam Lockwood by Nick Flynn, Jim Calvi by Bruce Brasington, Rebecca Linke by Debra Blanton, and Lorna Strong by Vanessa Fiaud. The person nominating needs to complete the first part of the form, and the nominee needs to complete the rest of it. WT can select one faculty member to send to the state level. Forms are due by 15 November to Ambrose who will send them to Provost Shaffer to select.

Nominees for the Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators are due to Dr. Shaffer by 22 November. WT can nominate one person. The previous winners will select the WT nominee. Fiaud nominated Chuck Chase. Nominations for Faculty Development Leave are due to Faculty Senators by 2 December.

Senators were reminded to look at the TAMUS link about collegiality and read before the next Faculty Senate meeting. The link is

<http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/12.01.99.M2.pdf> .

The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as amended by Rausch were approved at Faculty Senate on 22 November 2013.