

Minutes of Faculty Senate 6 March 2015

Present: Ambrose, Blanton, Branson, Browning, Byrd, Crandall, De'Armond, DeOtte, Diego-Medrano, Dursun-Kilic, Fiaud, Hartin, Hindman, Klaehn, Osei-Hwere, Ottoson, Pendleton, and Takacs

Absent: Commissiong, Lee, Shao, and Stuntz

Guest: Bryan Vizzini substituting for Stuntz

Call to Order: President Ambrose called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. in Room 14 (Eternal Flame) of the Jack B. Kelley Student Center.

Approval of Minutes: Fiaud made a motion seconded by Hindman to approve as amended by Fiaud the minutes of the 20 February 2015 meeting of Faculty Senate. The motion passed unanimously by the Senators present.

Dr. O'Brien passed out handouts with tables on the budget projected from legislation. House Bill 1 was proposed with figures from the Legislative Budget Board and is the same as Senate Bill 1 this time. Recommendation for the biennium is \$5.342 million. Increased enrollment during the past two years is driving the increase, and WT did well compared with other institutions. WT lost some for lack of research growth because research grants for WT are not increasing as fast as at other universities.

Last week, WT received the Coordinating Board recommendation. The Coordinating Board amount differs by the way it was formulated. Compared with appropriation for the previous biennium, WT could receive \$10.4 million more (\$6.4-6.5 million plus \$3.3 million performance-based funding). Outcome-based funding during the next biennium would be based on graduation rates, retention, etc. WT chose from seven metrics weighted differently and chose not to measure graduates per FTE. The WT recommendation submitted in Fall 2014 was accepted. The Coordinating Board recommended performance-based funding in addition to regular funding in the next budget, and WT could do well. Legislators will base performance-based funding on what university presidents decide but some universities such as Houston will lose and not support. The State is focusing on public transportation, health care, and education this biennium. The Senate promised a tax cut, so enough money might not be left after the cut. Ten years ago, HEAF provided \$1,000 per student for library, equipment, renovations, and as much as 50% for major construction (WT uses less than 40% for construction), but funding has decreased. Seliger and Price want to increase HEAF funding. Dr. O'Brien served on a committee to decide whether to allow institutions to be more flexible or status quo and stay the same. WT would receive \$312,000 less per year if status quo or receive more HEAF money if a more flexible formula is used. Currently, WT has \$2.56 million. WT could have more equipment and deferred maintenance if the legislature adopts an increase.

Vizzini asked about performance-based funding and how improving WT persistence rates to 70% might change the amount of funding. O'Brien said the formula is based on weighted student credit hours and depends on the mix of students. Liberal Arts freshmen are weighted as 1, Master's 7-8, and doctoral 16-17. If growth is in areas with highest cost factors, WT would gain. WT was helped by growth in graduate programs. WT has about 1,300 new first-time full-time freshmen. With the current 0.65 persistence, multiply 0.35 times 1,300 to calculate the students lost. At 0.70 persistence, WT would lose 100 fewer students or 400 more in 4 years. Texas A&M International has a 0.75 persistence rate and received much funding. Texas A&M College Station has the highest persistence. Family income of Texas A&M students is \$70,000 but only \$50,000 for WT students, and there is a different mix of minorities. Dr. O'Brien said WT could change persistence by not admitting students with ACT scores less than 23 but would need to fire one-third of faculty and staff.

WT has two proposals for funding capital projects – highest priority is an Ag Science Complex for \$43 million that would have 140,000 square feet for labs, classrooms, and offices for academics and research and another part of the complex for a meat lab, animal science safety certification, and 60,000 square feet of covered area for animal safety and rodeo. The second priority was \$10 million to complete renovation of the second and third floors of the Amarillo Center, but that is on hold. An exception item requested \$1.1 million start up for electrical engineering (\$750,000 for equipment, a technician, and administrative staff). Funding for capital projects looks promising this session. Seliger proposed everything universities proposed with one project per campus (WT and the Amarillo Center are separate and count as two). Seliger's bill would multiply requests by 0.75. Zaffirini proposed to fund what the institutions requested. The House would limit to only one project per university, which would be the Ag Science Complex for WT. DeOtte asked where the engineering equipment would be put. O'Brien said an Ag Science Complex would double space and allow the Agriculture and Sciences Building to house sciences and electrical engineering. The current Meat Lab could be made into two floors for nursing.

Other legislation is looking at concealed or open carrying of firearms on campus. The legislation might not pass, but it seems it will. Dr. O'Brien would like to restrict where firearms could be carried on campus. Federal legislation is mandating additional reporting requirements for universities dealing with sexual violence and assault. Incoming students need training and WT will need to hire counselors to deal with assault. The Department of Education is investigating 90 universities for Title IX violations and forcing universities to have full-time Title IX coordinators such as Becky Lopez at WT. Education will start this spring. Dr. O'Brien left for a video conference with the SACS compliance committee.

Pendleton reported on the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting on 27-28 February in Austin. Representatives from Texas A&M University System universities met to discuss legislation and campus issues with Dr. Hallmark on Friday morning. At the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting on Friday afternoon, campus reports were presented and some universities were concerned about losing money because of

the Smallwood Act for veterans and dependents. Several universities were dealing with workload, post-tenure peer review procedures, evaluating administrators, and shared governance issues. There was a session on recognizing and dealing with bullying. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates months ago submitted to the Texas legislature a resolution on preventing carrying firearms on university campuses. The president of the Council, Dana Cooper, wants to create an all-US Faculty Council.

Ambrose said Faculty Senate needs to nominate candidates for Regents Professor and Senators should think of departmental members to recommend. Ambrose will check eligibility requirements and e-mail information to the Faculty Senators. Byrd said faculty need time to gather much material to submit.

Diego-Medrano asked which faculty members were selected for faculty development leave. Ambrose said the President and Provost want to fund all three applicants but all applicants want leave during the same semester which might not work. Ambrose will meet with the President and ask.

The meeting of Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie B. Pendleton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bonnie B. Pendleton, Secretary

These minutes as written were approved at the 27 March meeting of Faculty Senate.