

**Approved Minutes - Faculty Senate  
September 23, 2016**

**Present:** Alex, Bartlett, Blodgett, Branson, Commissiong, Craig, DeButte, DeOtte, Dursun- Kilic, Hartin, Hindman, Ingrassia, King, Klaehn, Lee, Lust, Meredith, Nam, Osei-Hwere, Ottoson, Revett, Seward, Shao, Tao

**Absent:** Stuntz

**Guest:** Audrey Meador for Ambrose

**1. Call to order – 12:15 by Meredith**

**2. Minutes from last meeting unanimously approved**

**3. University President, Dr. Walter Wendler**

- i. Meredith introduced Dr. Wendler who introduced himself and gave the senate an overview of his experience and background. Dr. Wendler talked about his appreciation for WTAMU's commitment to teach and likes that there is consistent buy-in from the faculty and staff as well as students. Rewarding to sense the strong support of the community and alumni. Dr. Wendler also addressed the sense of pride and ownership from the community.
- ii. He talked about the importance of shared governance and the fact that it is fundamental to the growth and progress of a university. He stated that any institution that serves people should value input from those on the ground in order to be successful because they give life and purpose to the university. Dr. Wendler says he doesn't believe the university is a business and prefers to view students as clients with needs that the university is equipped to meet.
- iii. Blodgett asked Dr. Wendler's about his experience with faculty unions. Dr. Wendler said there were unions in Southern Illinois but also said there are positive and challenging aspects to unions and explained that there could be potential conflicts between labor and management when there are too many unions across campus with competing allegiances. He stated he was not a fan of faculty unions because they diminish the craft of being a faculty member. It is a difficult thing to unionize but that need becomes necessary when shared governance is non-existent on a university campus he explained.
- iv. One concern from the senate was there seems to be a bigger gap between faculty and the administration when it comes to communication, which Dr. Wendler could look into improving.
- v. DeOtte asked about the city of Amarillo's decision to give Texas Tech \$15 million towards a new veterinary school and what our response is to this new development. Dr. Wendler said he talked to many on campus and the city about the above and that the coordinating board still needs to approve the proposal. The larger problem he said is the relationship between the City of Canyon, WTAMU and Amarillo which seems to be lacking the effectiveness one would expect. He stated that WTAMU needs to build a better relationship with the city of Amarillo especially considering how close the city is to the university in the context of distance. The fundamental issue he believes the university has not attended to the city of Amarillo and its needs and in doing so the university also neglected needs that the city can help the university attend to. Dr. Wendler will start spending more time and working in Amarillo to begin addressing the issue and building a relationship with Amarillo.
- vi. Another discussion the senate had with Dr. Wendler was about doctoral programs at WT. The president talked about the need for new doctoral programs to fit specific requirements and address areas of studies that would be unique specifically to Panhandle of Texas and the state of Texas as a whole. Proposed Ph.D. programs must meet the needs of the area rather

than duplicate national trends. He emphasized the need for creating programs that make our students employable in the area/region. He also added that proposed programs must have an objective of attracting better faculty and students to WT. Commissioning asked how Dr. Wendler feels about the education leadership ED.D. program in the works. The president said if the program addresses leadership needs in the community and schools then he will be supportive of it. He also mentioned that he had asked Drs. Shaffer and Spaulding to convene a committee to look into proposing new Ph.D. programs for WT.

- vii. Dr. Wendler will meet with Meredith to figure out what we need his help with as a senate and will be happy to come back to the senate any time.

#### **4. Old Business**

**a. *Kim Seward new ECSM Senator was introduced to the senate.***

**b. *University cross walk program update***

Canyon PD and UPD are enforcing the cross walk initiative (Operation Safe Walk); Director of Support Services has noticed a difference in jaywalkers and has seen a reduction in violations

**c. *Updates on RFID attendance system***

- i. Commissioning followed up with James Webb who was surprised that there were so many systematic problems with the attendance program. Webb would like to encourage instructors to report issues but it looks like faculty are not reporting issues with the system making it challenging for IT to address issues.
- ii. Webb agreed to create a Faculty/Students FAQ for the system and said that there is no cost for replacement of ID cards. However, if students punch a hole in the card incorrectly they would be charged for replacing the cards. Senate was notified that students have access to the attendance data which some faculty were not aware of.
- iii. Senate would like to find out how many faculty actually use the system; what the data is used for and who gets access to data collected from the attendance system. Faculty agreed there is less distraction to classes with the new system. Provost believes taking attendance helps identify students at risk and creates opportunities for advising services to help at risk students. He also believes attendance data could be synced from Civitas Learning Platform into Blackboard in the future.

**d. *Shuttle Bus Issues update***

Meredith wrote an email to Randy Rikel about shuttle buses and faculty and student complaints about the amount of wait time but is yet to hear back .

**e. *Parking update***

- i. University Parking Committee will be meeting soon to come to develop new system and recommendation for next year. Committee consists of 6 faculty members representing each college/stand-alone school appointed by the senate.
- ii. Paving of parking lots is being done now because no contractor would do it in the summer due to bidding and contractor issues so the university had no choice. Senators were encouraged to send emails to department parking committee members with parking concerns. Senate would like to invite Randy and one of the faculty members to a senate meeting so senators can ask questions about parking. A motion to that effect was approved by the senate. Senate was also informed President Wendler doesn't want to be involved with parking issues and would follow the parking committee's recommendations. Senators explained that the current parking system doesn't empower faculty or supportive of faculty roles on campus.

**f. *2-4 consistent talking points for the Deans***

Senate agreed Meredith will come up with questions for deans and senators can email questions to him to add to the list.

## 5. New Business

### **a. Regents and Piper Professor nominations –**

- i. After much discussion about upcoming nomination DeOtte motioned that we nominate Anne Macy Terry to go forward 19 senators agreed, 2 opposed and 2 abstained

### **b. Faculty Development Leave Applications**

Two leaves have been approved by President Wendler. Application deadline will be December 1 with a senate vote on Jan 20. Senators will inform their various areas.

### **c. Department head concern, RE: new training and H1B visas**

Some senators stated that members of the faculty senate are not administrators and that such concerns should be forwarded to other areas and not to the senate. Other senators reminded the senate that H1B visas directly impact international faculty members who are faculty and therefore makes the issue a faculty issue. Others insisted the university identify someone in HR with the necessary training to handle immigration paper work for international faculty members. Senators proposed a motion to table the discussion and come up with a resolution at the next meeting to present to Dr. Wendler for action and hopefully a resolution.

### **d. Other?**

- i. Senate need to fill a COMM Disorders senate vacancy, Meredith will conduct a similar process like he did for Math to replace vacancy.
- ii. AdmitHub: Senate approved a motion to nominate faculty and vote at the next meeting. Another approved motion was to invite the faculty athletics representative to next senate meeting.
- iii. A discussion concerning instructor promotion tiers was tabled by senate for the next meeting.

## 6. Announcements

- o Snacks and beverages provided by Provost for this meeting and remaining senate meetings. Senators were appreciative of the snacks.
- o Post tenure review process will begin this year, see Faculty Handbook for details
- o Provost will attend Faculty Senate meeting on 10/7
- o Dean of the College of Business will attend Faculty Senate Meeting on 10/21
- o Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities will attend Faculty Senate Meeting on 11/4
- o Freshman convocation is October 6 at 5:00PM in the FUBC, please remind returning colleagues and let new faculty know about it

**Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm**

Respectfully submitted,



Enyonam Osei-Hwere  
Faculty Senate Secretary