

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate General Session
12 April 2024
Library 101 and Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

Roll Call

Acho ✓	Beatty ✓	Bender ✓	Burke, A.	Burke, M. ✓
Darwish ✓	DelloStritto	Dillon ✓	Dunlap, J. ✓	Elkins ✓
Goh ✓	Hynds ✓	Landrum	Miketinas ✓	Night ✓
Norton ✓	Petersen	Raisinghani ✓	Richmond ✓	Rosa-Dávila ✓
Sen ✓	Sit ✓	Smith ✓	Sourdoot ✓	Terrizzi ✓
Thomas ✓	Washington ✓	Woods ✓		

TCFS Representative: Brian Fehler

Parliamentarian: Karen Dunlap

Substitutes: Ginger Garza representing TWU Libraries (vacancy); Dr. Chanam Shin representing College of Nursing, Denton (vacancy); Dr. Annette Torres Elias for Dr. Amy Burke; Giovanni Valderas for Sheli Petersen.

Recognition of Guests

Faculty: Dr. Linda Barnett, Dr. Vivian Casper, Dr. Ellina Grigorieva, and Dr. Linda Rubin

Staff: Stephany Compton

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve, Hynds; second, Burke, M.

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve, Dillon; second, Burke, M.

Motion passed unanimously

Guest Speakers

Stephanie Brown, Assistant Vice President for Student Enrichment, Health & Support

Heather Snow, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

Wonny Lervisit, Assistant General Counsel

Pregnant and parenting students: three bills passed in the last state legislative session that affect interactions with pregnant and parenting students.

- HB 1361 required designation of a student liaison; this position does not handle academic accommodations, currently filled by Mere Maddox, Associate Director of the CARE Office.
- SB 459 establishes priority registration for pregnant/parenting students; currently identified through FAFSA but adding questions to applications.
- SB412 is additional THECB proposed rules on top of Title IX, conflicts should reasonably be resolved however the student is most benefitted.

Adjustments are agreed between students and faculty and can be made without official approval.

Accommodations are larger alterations to the course, may require documentation, and go through

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student life; accommodations may be denied if they represent fundamental alterations to the integrity of the course instruction. The institution is awaiting further implementation guidance from THECB; pregnancy may be considered similar to long-term, impermanent disability.

Forum for Interim Provost

- Task payments have been used as a way to invest in faculty.
- Call forthcoming for second round of Provost Fellows; most of the first cohort is planning to continue.
- Still waiting for budget information but faculty development leaves will be announced soon.
- Signed a one year contract with Sedona as the search for a replacement that can handle PPR process and CV information continues; College of Business will continue using Sedona since it was designed for AACSB accreditation.
- Significant improvements in hiring: new hires will have access to TWU systems up to 45 days before start once they are vetted; HR has developed interview question stems that can be used without prior approval; other questions need to be approved; unapproved follow up questions can be asked; new faculty orientation has been revamped.
- Intellectual property policy won't be ready for Faculty Senate review in April.
- Preparing final report for compensation, looking at things like peer institution summer pay.
- Equity is slow, some Deans are finished and some are still making refinements to their spreadsheets; final report expected in May, desire to compare CUPA data.
- No further information about HR Chief or CIO; all three CIO candidates were good, Chancellor will decide soon.
- Extend a very heartfelt appreciation for all that faculty do.

Speaker Report

- A letter is being drafted in response to the concerns expressed about the communication issues around the graduate tuition increase; recommendation that decisionmakers rely on active communication with stakeholders instead of indirect communication.
- Part of working with Huron group is adjusting some staff titles to more properly align compensation, working to develop a real budget system that is more conducive to stakeholder involvement.
- Asking for increase in Faculty Senate budget, increase course release for Speaker, more travel funding to better include Dallas and Houston and facilitate opportunities for inclusion in leadership.
- Graduate admissions are being affected by only the last 60 credit hours of an applicant's undergraduate degree are considered for admission; applicants who have post-baccalaureate work or another graduate degree are not having that considered as part of their application and departments don't even see those applications if the applicant's last 60 GPA is below 2.5.
- Please review the Lieutenant Governor's priorities for the next legislative session.
- Excited to introduce the next Speaker at the Board of Regent's meeting in May, review the progress we've made in the direction of shared governance.

Unfinished Business

URP 02.270 Assignments and Exams during last week of classes

Motion to Approve, Burke, M.; second, Dillon.

The policy only applies to long semesters, what is meant by 'last week of classes'?

Motion passed unanimously.

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Regent Policy C.30100 Accreditation

Motion to Approve, Burke, M.; second, Dillon.

The existing policy is no longer appropriate; do we need a policy on accreditation?

Motion passed unanimously.

New Concerns

Email from Advancement seems to suggest that faculty applying for grants from foundations need to have their applications approved by Advancement before they can submit them.

Reports

Officers

Speaker Pro Tem: no report

Secretary: no report

TCFS Representative: the position is available, please consider running

Standing Committee Chair Reports

Academic Freedom and Responsibility: no report; AAUP chapter is growing.

Academic Standards Committee: Investigative portion of academic integrity violations is handled by Student Life; it is up to the departments to set consequences; considering a Student Code of Honor but that may already be addressed in student handbook. Report attached.

Administrator Evaluations: Ongoing conversation about who should be evaluated; threshold for evaluation has been supervision of people/budget(s) but not everyone is being evaluated as they should.

Budget and Planning: Meeting after Senate meeting.

Committee Selection Committee: Nominating committee is formed, all Faculty Senate offices are open.

Constitution and Bylaws: no report

Elections: One CAS seat to fill in August due to interim chair promotion.

Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism: Report in drive.

Faculty Handbook: no report

University Committee Liaison Reports

Athletic Council: Many accomplishments by our TWU student-athletes:

- Artistic swimming team placed in solo, duet and trio events at the 2024 USA collegiate nationals; placed third overall.
- Jermariah Ferguson was named to the 2023-24 RMAC Women's Wrestling 2nd Team All-Conference and advances to the 2024 national collegiate women's wrestling championship along with Livier Dubon, and Nari Miller.
- TWU had their first Lone Star Conference Tumbler of the Week in March, Jocelyn Dennie.
- Women's gymnastics placed second place at the MIC Championships. Gymnast Caitlyn Hoiland was named the MIC Newcomer of the Year and Daisy Woodring was named the MIC Athlete of the Year/Woman of the Year.
- Women's basketball had a number of athletes earn All Lone Star Conference accolades: Ashley Ingram – Player of the Year, named to All-LSC First team and Academic team; Leila Patel and Scout Huffman – named to All-LSC Second team; Jada Celsur received an All-LSC Honorable Mention; Coach Beth Jillson was named the LSC Coach of the Year for a second year in a row.

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- Coach Jillson was also named the Non-D1 All-Texas Coach of the Year. Ashley Ingram was named Non-D1 All-Texas Player of the Year, and Avere Kleinhans was named the Non-D1 All-Texas Sixth Woman of the Year.
- This season was also the first time TWU advanced to and won the NCAA D2 South Central Regional tournament, losing in the championship game to Minnesota State University- Mankato.

Curriculum Committee: Many new courses added, aviation program is almost complete.

Distance Education Advisory Committee: Met March 18, approved five courses.

Faculty Evaluation & Development Committee: Forthcoming guidelines on using student evaluations, meeting May 1.

Graduate Council:

- Completed Fall 2024 applications up 33% over last year; accepted applications were down 3%; denied was flat.
- Completed Masters applications up 36%; accepted down 10%; denied down 15%; 776 pending decisions.
- Completed Doctoral applications up 29%; accepted up 10%; denied up 3%; 380 pending decisions.
- Graduate Faculty Status: three full with dissertation chair, one full; all approved.
- Three new programs approved: Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development & Family Studies, Master of Arts in History, Master of Arts in Political Science.
- Multi-Article Dissertations, second reading and questions addressed.

Undergraduate Council: no report

Ad Hoc Committee for Student Success: no report

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm

Aaron J. Elkins, Secretary

03/08/2024

Academic Standard – Faculty Senate Subcommittee report

Academic Integrity Task Force Meeting – 03/07/2024

Heather Snow – New AVP/Dean of Student for TWU spoke

Previously was at UT Arlington and reviewed their process for student integrity / dishonesty there, here was the suggestions:

- Have a student developed Honor Code
- Process at UTA was that the behavior / investigative processes stay with Student Life
- Process of sanctions went to Dean of College where infraction occurred/college the student is in / Punishment and sanctions up to Dean and Faculty involved

Next Steps of Academic Integrity Committee

- Begin process to develop Honor Code through Student Life – get students to develop it and incorporate Integrity
- Revision of current policy that will bifurcate the current process between Student Life and Academic Affairs
- Revision of policy to include Academic Affairs processes
- More training for faculty on the new process – putting more information in syllabus about allowable behaviors, student honor code, etc.