



Texas Southern University Faculty Assembly/Senate

Dr. Rasoul Saneifard, Chair
Dr. Edieth Wu, Vice Chair

Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil, Secretary
Dr. Olurominiyi Ibitayo, Treasurer

Dr. Luis Perez-Feliciano, Faculty Speaks Editor
Dr. Vera Hawkins, Parliamentarian

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 02, 2017
Hannah Hall, Room 111, 3:00 PM

Senator Members Chair & Vice Chair

Dr. Rasoul Saneifard College of Science, Engineering and Technology (Chair)
Dr. Edieth Wu Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Vice Chair)

Senate Members Present

Abobo, Cyril	Senator, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Anga, Ahunanya	Senator, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Bell, Edward	Senator, College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Brailey, Carla (<i>via phone</i>)	Senator, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
Cavil, J. Kenyatta	Senator Secretary, College of Education
Griesinger, Nancy	Senator, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Hollomon, Mario	Senator, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Ibitayo, Olurominiyi	Senator Treasurer, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Jemison Pollard, Dianne	Senator, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
Lancaster, Iris	Senator, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
Lowe, Jeffrey	Senator, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Ojode, Lucy	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Perez-Feliciano, Luis	Senator Editor, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Perkins, Carlton	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Regis, Humphrey	Senator, School of Communication
Reynolds, Lacey	Senator, College of Education
Saneifard, Rasoul	Senator Chair, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Thoreson, Amy Claire	Senator, The Graduate School
Woldie, Mammo	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Wu, Edieth	Senator Vice Chair, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Yousefipour, Zivar	Senator, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Senate Members / Colleges Not in Attendance

Asare, Nana	Senator, College of Education
Tymczak, Christopher J.	Senator, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Walker-Hawkins, Vera	Senator Parliamentarian, School of Communication

Senate Counsel in Attendance

Walker, April Faculty Senate General Counsel, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Guest(s) from Faculty Assembly or University

Kazakos, Demetrios Professor, College of Science, Engineering and Technology



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Call to Order

C = Comments, R = Response, and Q = Question

Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard called the February 2017 meeting of the TSU Faculty Senate to order at 3:10 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2017.

Approval of the November 2016 Senate Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the December 1, 2016 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Senator Amy Claire Thoreson to approve the minutes and seconded by Senator Ahunanya Anga. The motion carried unanimously unless further modifications are necessary.

Announcements

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Announced that on January 31, 2017, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a directive to all Heads of State Agencies to institute an immediate hiring freeze throughout the end of the fiscal year. Furthermore, he stated that no agency shall post a new position or fill a vacated position except those positions that directly affect public safety. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard emphasized that the Governor indicated that waivers will be considered on a case by case basis by the institution's assigned policy advisor at the Office of Budget and Policy.

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Provided updates regarding the President's visit to the State Capitol in Austin, Texas on January 24, 2017. He stated that TSU was well received and that President Lane was introduced by the Honorable Shawn Thierry, before taking the floor of the House of Representatives to advocate for the University's legislative goals and priorities. The Senators discussed how the hiring freeze will affect the activities of the dean search committees. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard alerted that it was announced that there may be some budget cuts, however, he stated that all representatives and senators are standing behind TSU to work together to prevent these budget cuts.

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Shared that of all the Board of Regents Retreats he has attended, this was by far the best meeting that included the Board members, the President and the faculty. He stated that he was received very well, even though he was questioned by the Board for more than an hour regarding each resolution. Initially, he was asked to provide more clarification regarding the Resolution on Faculty Annual Performance Evaluation forms. In



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addition, he stated that he is hopeful that the Resolution for the Workload Policy will be approved in the upcoming April Board meeting for implementation by Fall 2017. Furthermore, after some discussions on the Resolution for Faculty Representation on the President's Cabinet, President Lane stated that he does not have a problem with this resolution and that an action item will be placed on the next Board meeting for its approval. Overall, Faculty Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard underscored that the discussions were excellent. Alternatively, he addressed the concerns they had regarding students' complaints about how some faculty are not doing their jobs. Consequently, there were lengthy discussions regarding faculty teaching issues that were raised during the Board of Regents Retreat. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard addressed these issues as well.

Discussion on floor by Senators regarding dates for the Election Process

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Discussed the Senate Elections, he announced that all executive committee positions are up for elections. He declared that the committee needs to confirm dates for the acceptance of nominations, Face-off and the Election Day. Accordingly, the Senate Election Committee decided on the following dates for the election process: March 8 acceptance for nominations from 2-4pm; March 22 the Face-off will be held from 11-1pm; and March 29 is the Election Day from 7am-7pm. All election activities will be held in the Robert J. Terry Library. Senator Dianne Jemison Pollard made a motion to approve the proposed dates for the election process. Senator Carl Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on floor by Senators regarding Senator Amy Claire Thoreson's case

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Was asked by Senator Luis Perez Feliciano to provide an update on Senator Amy Claire Thoreson's case. A lengthy discussion ensued. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard shared his view of the issues at hand that have occurred in the College of Education. Senator Lacey Reynolds explained his experiences in the College of Education. He was asked by Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard as to how many publications he had submitted in the first semester. Vice Chair Edieth Wu explained the issues that the Senate is trying to work through regarding this matter. Senate Secretary/Parliamentarian J. Kenyatta Cavil spoke to the fact that each time the Senate has serious topics of discussions there needs to be some physical documentation supporting the Senate's decision. Senate General Counsel April Walker assured the Senate that she, the provost, the senate chair and other attorneys have reviewed the



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documentation in question, and she feels that the matter will be worked out, it's just taking some time due to the serious nature of the situation. Faculty Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard reiterated that Senator Amy Claire Thoreson's case is on the table. He informed that the Senate may take appropriate action to address this issue in order to resolve the matter amicably. Furthermore, Vice Chair Edieth Wu reminded the Senate that this is a personnel matter and the Senate should proceed with caution, and use discretion when handling or distributing information.

New Business

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Reminded the Senators that the Assembly passed a Resolution to further discuss the Seniority Clause, which also needs to be clarified. He stated that he will take this resolution to the Deans' Council for its discussion.

Discussion on floor by Senators regarding the President's Inaugural Fundraising Scholarship Event

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Announced the 2017 Inaugural Maroon and Grey Affair, which is a black-tie gala scheduled for April 29, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel Houston. This premiere event is the President's launch of a fresh tradition that will use proceeds to benefit the student scholarship fund and support student programs. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard informed that he will ask the Provost's permission to purchase the table using the Faculty Senate's budget. He asked for ten people to occupy the table and requested the Senate's feedback on this event. Senate Secretary/Parliamentarian J. Kenyatta Cavil specified that if a table is purchased then, he suggests that half of the table is awarded to Faculty Senators and the other half is presented in a raffle form to faculty members who are interested in attending. Senator Amy Claire Thoreson suggested that first choice should be given to Faculty Senators. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard also suggested to the Senators to please feel free to contribute money since this is a fundraising event for student scholarships. He identified a group of ten Senators who expressed their interests in attending this event.

C: Senator Carlton Perkins: Made a motion to approve the purchase of the table for members of the Faculty Senators. Senator Lucy Ojode seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposition and no abstentions.



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C: Senator Humphrey Regis: Extended an invitation to faculty members who teach graduate students to urge their students to prepare papers that they can present at the School of Communication conference scheduled for April 20, 2017.

C: Senator Dianne Jemison Pollard: Shared her experience while touring the University Museum exhibit “Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame”, however she stated that she was the only person visiting at the time. She declared that this was a wonderful experience and encouraged other Senators to visit as well. Senate Secretary/Parliamentarian J. Kenyatta Cavil added that the exhibit is also free for students with valid identification.

Old Business

None.

Adjourn Meeting

Q: Ask for the question. Senate Secretary/Parliamentarian J. Kenyatta Cavil moved that the meeting be adjourned. Senator Ahunanya Anga seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.