

****TSU FACULTY SENATE MEETING****

3 MARCH 2011

MINUTES

Howard Beeth, Secretary

Members Present: Edieth Wu (Chair); Lalita Sen (Vice Chair); Howard Beeth (Secretary); Rasoul Saneifard (Treasurer); Alexis Brooks de Vita (Editor, *The Faculty Speaks*); C.J. Tymczak, Parliamentarian); Macaulay Akpaffiong (Pharmacy & Health Sciences); Thorpe Butler (COLABS); Kiran Chilakamarri, COST); Robert Ford (COST); Daniel Georges-Abeyie (SOPA); Doris Jackson (Pharmacy & Health Sciences); Anna James (TMSL); Wei Li (COST); Emlyn Norman (COLABS); Andrea Shelton (Pharmacy & Health Sciences); Sara White (COLABS); Mammo Woldie (Business); Zivar Yousefipour (Pharmacy & Health Sciences). **Total: 19.**

Members Absent: Demetrius Kazakos (Asst. Secretary); Byron Price (Graduate School). **Total: 2.**

Guests: Dr. Vera Hawkins (re: SACs and QEP); Dr. James Opolot (SOPA)

Agenda Items

Call to Order & Chair's Announcements

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:10 when a sufficient number of Senators finally arrived to create a quorum. Attention immediately focused on the recent meeting of the Faculty Assembly and the election therein of members to the University Rank, Tenure, Promotion, and Salary Committee. Notwithstanding several announcements that administrators should not be present during the closed portion of the meeting when nominations and voting were conducted, at least one sub-dean and one department chair remained. Furthermore, both nominated candidates to serve on the committee. When their presence became generally known, they were

again asked to leave and promptly did so, after which the persons they'd nominated to serve on the committee were re-nominated by members of the faculty.

This breach of procedure happens too often not to incite faculty resentment and passions, and both were in full flower during the discussion which followed. The Chair assured senators that she'd spoken with administrators about it. Nevertheless, some senators felt that the repeated pattern of administrative transgression warranted a formal letter of complaint. Others, however, argued that in the future a public email announcement should be universally distributed immediately prior to every Faculty Assembly meeting that clearly stipulated who could and who could not attend and participate. Additional discussion resulted in agreement that both the TSU *Faculty Manual* as well as the TSU *Faculty Constitution and Bylaws* would be posted on the Senate's web site.

On a related matter of administrative malfeasance, one Senator reported that administrators in his college routinely violated workload policy by assigning faculty too many courses. Various suggested counter-measures to this nefarious practice included alerting incoming faculty to guard against it in new faculty orientation meetings and that senior faculty try to protect and defend untenured junior faculty. It was also suggested that an article in *The Faculty Speaks* might assist in deterring this abusive practice by some department chairs and deans.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Beeth provided draft copies of the Senate's February 2011 meeting, which senators approved without change as submitted.

Ombudsman Update

The Ombudsman-elect, Senator Shelton, reported that she has met with her administrative chain-of-command to discuss this new position on campus. Further, she will soon attend an Ombudsman Workshop in Portland, Oregon to further familiarize herself with the position. By the starting date of her new job--1 May 2011--she announced that she will have devised an intake form to track action on individual cases and that this information will be available on-line.

Since the Ombudsman's role is that of assisting conflict resolution, Senators once again were inspired to complain about the behavior of the current university administration. Several voiced criticism of the recently announced 16% budget cut and wondered why administrators hadn't raised enough funds to offset this reduction, since fund raising is part of their collective job description. Other senators complained that, once again, the official University policy of "shared governance" had been massively ignored by administrators when they did not meaningfully involve faculty in budget deliberation and revision.

In the midst of this animated discussion, Senator Chilakamarri made a motion that speaking time in the Senate be limited to 5 minutes, unless other senators donated additional time to a speaker.

Senator Akpaffiong amended the motion by setting the beginning date for this rule to next month, with the April 2011 meeting. This amended motion was seconded and passed. To enforce this new rule, it was agreed informally if the Senate's Parliamentarian was absent, that Ms. Frank-Williams, the Assembly/Senate staffperson, would assume the duties of parliamentarian.

The Faculty Speaks publication

Editor Brooks de Vita announced that she would publish 1 more issue of this important campus publication during her tenure as editor. Senators warmly congratulated her for her accomplishments as editor and urged her to reconsider leaving her post. One said that it should be an Assembly/Senate priority to qualify the editor for the same benefits given to other senior officers, a suggestion that elicited approving comments and affirming grunts around the table. However, Editor Brooks de Vita did not retract her decision to retire, only noting that the editor's job was arduous and very time consuming.

Senate Elections

Much discussion was devoted to election related matters, especially the candidate nominations later in March and the election itself in April. Senator Ford, a member of the Senate's Election Committee, led the discussion, assisted by another committee member, Senator Saneifard, as well as the Chair of the committee, Senator Jackson.

Regarding the April election, various plans were discussed, including the following:

1. The election will be held on Wednesday, 13 April, from 7a-7p.
2. All voting will be in 1 location—the atrium on the first floor of Hannah Hall.
3. Electronic voting machines will replace the ballot boxes used in previous elections.
4. At the voting site, voting machine technicians will be on duty throughout election day.
5. At the voting site, election monitors will be on duty throughout election day, and Senators are expected to volunteer at least 1-2 hours of duty.
6. At the voting site, security personnel will be on duty throughout election day.
7. No political campaigning will be allowed in Hannah Hall on election day.
8. TSU's Human Resources Department and other administrative sources will provide election personnel with a faculty lists, from which a list of eligible faculty voters will be compiled.
9. In order to vote, a prospective faculty voter's name must appear on the list of eligible voters, and prospective voters must furthermore show a valid ID in the form of a TSU Tiger ID card, a driver's license, or a passport.
10. Adjunct and visiting faculty will not be eligible to vote, nor will department chairs, any kind of dean, or those who are on a 12 month contract and administer programs.
11. No write-in or absentee voting will be permitted.

12. The Election Committee will conclude its affairs by issuing a post-election report on the election.

Senator Saneifard led the discussion about the election nomination procedure, which includes the following:

1. All positions require a nominee and a nominator.
2. The nomination meeting will take place on Tuesday, 8 March, from 2-4p in Hannah Hall room 111.
3. If a nominee can't be at the meeting, that person must submit a required form signifying their acceptance of a nomination.
4. Nominators must attend the 8 March meeting.
5. The Committee intends to formulate a document for nominators and another for nominees that must be completely filled out and submitted by the close of the nomination meeting on 8 March.
6. The nominator/nominee forms will be emailed universally.
7. The Committee plans to formulate and circulate a document that describes and lists the requirements for each position.
8. The position of faculty Assembly/Senate Counsel will not be on the election ballot because it is an appointed, not an elected, position.

Senators warmly congratulated Senators Jackson, Ford, and Saneifard for the excellence of their work.

New Business

Vice Chair Sen announced a meeting of the *Faculty Manual* Committee on 10 March at 3p in Hannah Hall room 111. She reminded senators that all faculty are welcome to attend and participate in this important meeting. She also indicated that she will have budget material at this meeting.

After a flurry of miscellaneous comments about various topics, senators adjourned the meeting at 5:05p.