



Faculty Assembly/Senate
Dr. Rasoul Saneifard, Chair
Dr. Vera Hawkins, Vice Chair

Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil, Secretary
Dr. Lalita Sen, Treasurer

Dr. Robert Ford, Parliamentarian
Dr. Brooks de Vita, Editor

FACULTY ASSEMBLY/SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April, 1st, 2014, 3:00 pm
Hanna Hall, Room 111

Senator Members Chair & Vice Chair

Dr. Rasoul Saneifard (Chair) College of Science and Technology
Dr. Vera Hawkins (Vice Chair) School of Communication

Senate Members Present

Akpaffiong, Macaulay	Senator, College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Anadu Ndefo, Uche	Senator, College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Bloom, Collette M.	Senator, College of Education
Cavil, J. Kenyatta	Senator Secretary, College of Education
Chilakamari, Kiran	Senator, The Graduate School
Desselle, Bettye	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Georges-Abeyie, Daniel	Senator, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Hill, Cassandra	Senator, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Holmes, Roderick	Senator, College of Science & Technology
Khosrovani, Masoomah	Senator, School of Communication
Mosley, Erma Dianne	Senator, College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences
Ojode, Lucy	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Sleem, Aladdin	Senator, College of Science & Technology
Smith, Jacqueline	Senator, College of Education
Tymczak, Christopher J.	Senator, College of Science & Technology
Saha-Gupta, Nina	Senator Editor Faculty Speaks, College of Education
Sen, Lalita	Senator Treasurer, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Solitare, Laura	Senator, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Woldie, Mammo	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Yousefipour, Zivar	Senator, College of Pharmacy & Health Science
Zeitler, Michael	Senator, College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Science
Zidaru, Lucian	Senator, College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences

Senate Members/Colleges Absent

Owens, Emiel Senator Parliamentarian, College of Education

Senate Members/Not Present (Alternative Representative)

Broussard, Shanna College of Education
Carrington, McKen TM School of Law - (Faculty Senate General Council)

Guest from Faculty Assembly or University

Rudley, John President

Call to Order

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



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Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard called the April 2014 meeting of the TSU Faculty Senate to order at 3:05pm on Thursday, April 1, 2014.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Stated that President John Rudley would make the meeting earlier than 3:45pm as originally scheduled because he has flight this evening. Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard also recommended for Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie to facilitate the meeting.

Q: Senator Mammo Woldie: Questioned why is this an issue?

R: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Suggested this is best practices that is often used in the communication of business. The goal is to move past any impasse we might have between Faculty and Administration. "How does Dr. Rudley see his administration working with the Faculty Senate to move the agenda forward... what does he see the relationship between us being?"

Q: Senator Dianne Mosley: Questioned what are the issues?

R: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: Stated that Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard has been excluded from president's council as well as the retreat.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Welcomed President Rudley.

President John Rudley Presentation

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Stated President John Rudley that Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie would facilitate the meeting and dialogue between President Rudley and Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard for the faculty senate.

C: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: Introduced President John Rudley to the faculty senate.

C: President John Rudley: Opened the floor with a historical perspective of his relationship with the past Senator Chair Byron Price and that Dr. Price stated president Rudley would have problems with Dr. Saneifard. Shares that he does not think Dr. Saneifard has a clear understanding of what the Faculty Senate Chair's relationship to the President and Provost is. Also, there is no evaluation process as well to show how the chair is performing, he thinks this is part of the problem as well. States that his current relationship with Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard is an adversarial relationship. President John Rudley stated that two individuals made complaints about Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard. President John Rudley stated that Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard had received the contract of President John Rudley and had issues with it. President John Rudley suggested that the faculty senate should review Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard's agenda. President John Rudley says he is still open to the relationship. Stated that Dr. Saneifard received a \$500 salary increase because he asked for an increase. There were other faculty that asked for an increase as well, and deserved it. Faculty Senate should be aware and stop these kinds of antics. Puts forth that there is contention in every department and mentions that he heard that Dr. Saneifard passed out his contract at the first Faculty Meeting, and it is a point of a contention that every time he turns around he has to defend and justify himself. States that Dr. Olowkere was in his office last week complaining about Dr. Saneifard. He worries that Dr. Saneifard is out for himself and not out to represent the Faculty. Shares that the University has very real issues to deal with, we have a 10% enrollment drop, amongst other things, and he really doesn't have time to deal with these kinds of issues.



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C: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: Introduced Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard to respond to Dr. Rudley. States that Dr. Saneifard was elected as Faculty Chair and if there is an issue he does represent us, he is not representing himself, but the Senate.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Stated he has never received or seen Dr. Rudley's contract. Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard stated that he did not have an issue with President John Rudley's staff. Mr. Edward's accusation is false. Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard stated that in fact was never in his office in January during the time of the complaint. Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard stated he does not have agenda. Does not know where Dr. Rudley has gotten information, but he wishes that Dr. Rudley would pick up the phone and call him when he hears these things. There is nothing that he does on his own without the Senate's knowledge. Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard stated he is doing his job to the best of his ability. States that he is going through a lot, and is still going through a lot. Does not believe that President Rudley would allow an administrator on his staff to treat a Faculty Member like he has been treated. Asks Dr. Rudley how he would feel if he was excluded from Departmental Activities and Meetings? He would be let down.

Q: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: Questioned President John Rudley on his position regarding faculty senate representation at the President's Council and the Board of Regents.

R: President John Rudley: Stated he has not changed his mind on his position and that the Board of Regents made a decision on the matter. Board gave the President the right to have a closed cabinet meeting.

C: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: Thanked President John Rudley for his time.

New Business

C: Senator Mammo Woldie: Stated that in no circumstances did any information on the salary end up outside of committee sessions.

C: Senator Zivar Yousefipour: Stated that several senators should have had the opportunity to address the president regarding their support.

C: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Thanks Dr. Dan for Facilitating the dialogue between Dr. Saneifard and Dr. Rduely. Stated that President John Rudley's opening remarks show his position in terms of where he is in the administration and where we are as faculty, and there is a gulf there. States that one can say what they will or will not do, but one cannot say what they won't be accused of. Shares that what is happening, is that people are pointing fingers and saying "you did this", and now the accused is in the position of defending their name, or just letting it roll off of their back. Unfortunately, there is no response mechanism to really address the issues that do not make us seem divided. Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins stated she was concerned with not having an opportunity discuss her displeasure with President John Rudley's position.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Suggested President John Rudley did mention the fact that he had a flight that evening, he was not even going to show up, but I talked with him and asked him to please come.

C: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Wants more resolution, and would like President to come back, so that Senate can truly address specific issues with the President in a more structured and purposeful way. Informs the senate



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about the process of how The Board of Regents approved The President closing Faculty Chair out of the meeting, and what can be done to move forward. Suggested that the president place his position regarding whether the faculty chair is allowed to attend the president's cabinet meeting.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Thanked faculty Senate for their support. Reiterated that the complaints made by President Rudley are untrue and unfounded. Shares that he and Dr. Hawkins are targets, and although the rest of Faculty Senate does not see it, the issues that are brought forth shouldn't even be brought forth to the grievance committee. Asks "What am I supposed to do?" when Faculty is spoken poorly about.

C: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Stated that she has never heard administration speak so poorly about Faculty. Shares that at a meeting Dean of Law School says it is a War between Faculty and Administration... I do not feel that this is how Faculty feels about administrators, but administrators are feeling like this and it is an issue that detracts us from our primary purpose: moving the institution forward.

C: Senator Dianne Mosley: Stated she was concerned about a statement that Dr. Saneifard made, that he does not have an agenda. She thinks this is a problem. Without an agenda the faculty is responding without agent to any issue that comes up. We have operated for a long length of time without an agenda, and where we find an agenda and strength is in the faculty Assembly. She has not observed a legitimate faculty assembly meeting called by the Chair, or Provost, until last week. We have placed ourselves in a position of weakness, and no one is going to take us seriously. We need to assemble the faculty, and get their ideas of how we should proceed. Right now we are a laughing stock.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Responds that by "not having an agenda" he was responding to President's assertion that he had a Personal Agenda. I do not have a personal agenda.

C: Senator Laura Solitare: Stated she agreed with Senator Dianne Mosley that we do have a strategic plan and that we need an Ad Hoc committee to create a strategic planning. We do not have capacity because we do not have agenda. Need a plan that is concerned with the long term, past all of our tenures as senators, past Rasoul's tenure; Something long standing.

C: Senator Zivar Yousefipour: Stated he believes a committee should be convened to address these issues. Whatever program we need to carry forward... we cannot leave the issues that have been handed to us unanswered. This committee and faculty have to find a way to address the issue(s).

C: Senator Lucy Ojode: I think that Dr. Mosley was right, Stated she agrees that we need a broader agenda and we need goals for the direction we want for the faculty senate. However, Dr. Saneifard was speaking to not having a "personal" agenda. We need to have our own goals and agenda. The crisis that we are having is that we need to find a way to communicate with the Board of Regents, so that they can see that we have a voice. Until we do that, based on the President's position, is that he wants to have the final say with no push back.

C: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: We should all be aware that Dr. Saneifard was talking about not having a personal agenda. Disagreed with Senator Dianne Mosley and Senator Laura Solitare comments that we do not have an agenda. Shares that Dr. Ohia stated that he wanted the Senate to become more vocal and representative of the Faculty. As a long-standing senator I think that this is exactly what is happening. Our agenda is an expectation that Administration will follow the faculty Manual. Dr. Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie also disagrees with President Rudley position that because he brings resources that we should be quiet regarding issues that affect the faculty



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assembly. Our goal is to represent the Faculty, this does not become silenced because we have more personal resources. Points out that this is not a trial of Dr. Saneifard, or Dr. Rudley. We have representation, we have a way to get back on, but we are being very unrealistic.

C: Senator Kiran Chilakamari: The meeting with President Rudley has gone as predicted. Disagreed with the notion that we are not a strong faculty senate. In the past, I felt as though the Senate did not do anything, but now I feel that has changed. If you want an agenda, It should be to make your presence known in your individual colleges. That is the agenda you should have.

C: Senator Dianne Mosley: I did not say that this is a “do nothing” senate, I think it is weaker than it needs to be. Reiterated that the senate is accomplishing less than it can. Senator Dianne Mosley stated that her reference to an agenda is regarding an agenda based on the faculty assembly, and I am not aware that we have an agenda from the assembly. If we had an agenda, then President John Rudley would not be able to ask such a question as “ Is the Chair representing himself or the Faculty” and further stated, until this is done we will be operating from a position of weakness.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Stated he appreciates the comments and re-states that he does not have a personal agenda. I agree with Senator Dianne Mosley that we should have our own agenda. He supports Senator Dianne Mosley regarding the need for an agenda from the Faculty Assembly. Puts forth question: As a Senator, please bring forward your faculty issues from your college. Bring it to me, and I will take it up for you.

C: Senator Aladdin Sleem: Stated he supports Senator Dianne Mosley rights and has totally respect for that right, but vigorously disagree with her position that the faculty senate is weak. Because he is a senator, when she calls the faculty senate weak, then she is calling him a weak senator, and he believes he is not weak. The work he does on behalf of the faculty senate and faculty assembly would suggest as evidence that he is not weak.

C: Senator Christopher Tymczak: Suggested we use survey monkey to obtain input from the faculty assembly on issues the faculty may want us to address.

C: Senator Mammo Woldie: Suggested during his time in the senate, that this group has completed major tasks and projects. He stated as evidence of this, the work would include updating the faculty manual and the workload policy. Let us not undermine this.

C: Senator Macaulay Akpaffiong: Stated his opinion about \$500 that Dr. Rudley says Dr. Saneifard asked him for.

C: Senator Bettye Desselle: Disagreed with the thought that senate is weak. The Salary Committee is one example of a hard working committee. It is important to note that much of the work should be completed at the committee level. Once we sign-up for committees we should follow through.

C: Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie: Stated the faculty senate should be careful, regarding President John Rudley’s remarks and that he is purposely seeking to misdirect us. President John Rudley becomes upset when we disagree with him.

C: Senator Dianne Mosley: Stated she wishes to apologize if she offended anybody with the word weak. But stands by the premise her statement that we should create an agenda for the faculty assembly.



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Q: Senator Dianne Mosley: Questioned was there a faculty assembly called to vote on the workload policy?

R: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Stated yes.

Q: Senator Dianne Mosley: Questioned when was this done?

R: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Stated January 13 opening faculty and we check the email.

C: Senator Lucy Ojode: Suggested this was done, maybe we should have followed up with a phone call.

C: Senator Macaulay Akpaffiong: Questioned how does the faculty come together?

C: Senator Kiran Chilakamari: Stated maybe we should have a department facilitator.

C: Senator Dianne Mosley: Stated she was not suggesting it was not done, but it was not communicated very well and believes we should review the issue.

C: Senator Vice Chair Vera Hawkins: Stated any issue in the faculty manual can be re-visited. She believes most of the issues are due to Provost Sunny Ohia interpretation and in fact she has asked her dean and chair to re-visit the workload policy such that it starts at the 18-hour component, instead of the 24-hour framework. We must understand that we do not operate outside of the framework of a working relationship. Such as agenda items at

C: Senator Aladdin Sleem: Stated there are people within the faculty senate with personal agendas.

C: Senator Kiran Chilakamari: State a motion. He moved that the each department in each college elect a facilitator to bring agent items to their respective college senators. The motion was seconded by Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie.

Yes 6, No 12 – The motion did not pass.

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Announced that Charlene James was official hired full-time as the faculty assembly administrative assistant as position she currently holds.

C: Senator Lucy Ojode: Suggested we have retreat for the faculty senate to address agenda items

C: Senator Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Suggested C: Senator Laura Solitare is the chair of the committee can begin or continue with a proposal to present to the faculty senate.

Announcement

-N/A

Old Business

-N/A

Adjourn Meeting



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C: Senator Mammo Woldie: Made a motion. He moved the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by C: Senator Bettye Desselle.

Meeting Adjourned 5:12pm

DRAFT