

TSU FACULTY SENATE MEETING

1 October 2009

Minutes

Howard Beeth, Secretary

- **Members Present:** Edieth Wu (Chair), Lalita Sen (Vice Chair), Howard Beeth (Secretary), Rasoul Saneifard (Treasurer), C.J. Tymczak (Parliamentarian), Alexis Brooks de Vita (Editor, *The Faculty Speaks*), Shanna Broussard (Senator, Education), Thorpe Butler (Senator, COLABS), Oscar Criner (Senator, COST), Daniel Georges-Abeyie (Senator, SOPA), Anna James (Senator, TMSL), Sara White (Senator, COLABS), Michael Zeitler (Senator, COLABS). TOTAL: 13.
- **Members Absent:** Demetrius Kazakos (Asst. Secretary), Macaulay Akpaffiong (Senator, Pharmacy), Kiran Chilakamarri (Senator, COST), Jean Hampton (Senator, Pharmacy), Doris Jackson (Senator, Pharmacy), Wei Li (Senator, COST), Emlyn Norman (Senator, COLABS), William Saunders (Senator, JHJSOB), Andrea Shelton (Senator, Pharmacy), Michael Sollars (Senator, Graduate School), Johnnie Williams (Senator, JHJSOB). TOTAL: 11.

Agenda Items

Call to Order

Chairperson Wu called the meeting to order at 3:10p when a sufficient number of members were present to constitute a quorum, and she made some announcements. She reported that student enrollment was 9,584, an increase from projections. While this augurs well for faculty salary increases, she said that a decision had not yet been made regarding the awarding of mid-year raises to faculty. She further reported that, pursuant to the Senate's concern last month about the announcement that Professor Thomas F. Freeman had been named the dean of TSU's new Honors College without required Senate consultation, she had contacted Provost Ohia about this matter, and the provost had assured her that Freeman's name would be forwarded to the Board of Regents as Interim Dean, not Dean.

The Chair also solicited Senate members for service on various important university committees. Senator Zeitler volunteered to serve on the Bookstore Committee, joining Editor Brooks de Vita and Senator Norman. On the Student Disciplinary Committee, Senator White volunteered while three members (Senators Broussard and Zeitler, and Editor Brooks de Vita), volunteered as alternates. On the Ad Hoc Workload Committee, Editor Brooks de Vita, Treasurer Saneifard, Vice President Sen, Parliamentarian Tymczak, and Senator Zeitler volunteered for service. Vice President Sen noted that as the university drifts in the direction of research, it is important for the faculty to realize that teaching loads must be diminished in order that faculty have the requisite time and energy to engage in

more research. Concluding the Senate's discussion of staffing committees, the Chair reported that the Faculty Manual Revision Committee is moving along in its work. Senator Butler and Vice President Sen noted that the administrative decision to make department chairs administrative representatives rather than faculty representatives was made in violation of normal procedure by never consulting the Faculty Senate. Sen urged that the revised manual at least limit the terms of department chairs and that the Faculty Senate organize its own committee to monitor the University Faculty Revision Committee. In the meantime, the Chair recommended that faculty wishing to make suggestions to the university committee do so by contacting the Chair of that committee, Carroll Robinson, who has promised to post recommended changes on the TSU website for all to read.

The Chair concluded her announcements by distributing the deadlines for tenure and promotion, and by announcing that Provost Ohia would appear at some point during the meeting to interact with Senators.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Beeth explained that three sets on minutes required the attention of the Senate: a special called meeting of the Senate in April 2009, the regular Senate meeting of May 2009, and last month's meeting of September 2009. After considerable discussion, Senator Criner made a motion, which was seconded, that the April and May meeting minutes "be adopted with recognition of contention". This motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions. Senator Butler then made another motion, also seconded, that the September 2009 minutes be approved, with a correction noted by the Chair. This motion also carried by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Convocations & Commencements

The Chair explained that there is some administrative concern that there are too many meetings pertaining to these activities. She reported that a Convocation and Commencement Committee has been established to study the matter and asked for volunteers to serve on this committee, which Senator Criner agreed to do.

Faculty Support Organizations (AAUP, TFA, AFL-CIO)

The Senators discussed the merits and demerits of various faculty organizations. All agreed that that pro-active faculty organizations were needed in these troubled times, especially to protect the tenure system. With respect to TSU tenure and promotion procedures, the Chair said the administration recently has proposed changes upsetting to some faculty. New administrative requirements, for example, stipulate that applications consist of three 3-inch binders, one each for Scholarship, Teaching, and Community Service. In this regard, Senator Zeitler, who currently is up for tenure, reported that in violation of *The Faculty Manual*, he was given only two week's notice to submit his application in conformity with this new formula rather than being notified of acceptable application styles in December 2008, as required by the manual. The Chair suggested that the Senate further discuss this matter with Provost Ohia when he arrived to join the meeting.

The Faculty Speaks

Editor Brooks de Vita shared the first copy of *The Faculty Speaks* produced under her editorship. She said that she would like to publish a new issue every month but would need help in some form to do this. Secretary Beeth argued that the publication was crucial to creating a cohesive faculty at TSU. He argued further that the university, to show good faith, should adequately support both *The Faculty Speaks* as well as the Faculty Senate. He maintained that all Senators, not just some Senate officers, should be granted course reductions. The Chair responded by reminding senators that a Faculty Workload Committee has been formed that it would welcome suggestions from faculty members. By consensus, the Senators agreed to discuss these matters further at next month's meeting.

Provost Ohia

When Provost Ohia arrived, the Chair immediately expressed those concerns Senators had previously discussed prior to his arrival, and the Provost spoke directly to those points. He said the new rules were only "guidelines" to clean up the tenure/promotion application forms and to make them more uniform and professional. He said future applications would require three copies of one 3" binder and not three separate binders of original application documents. He said this and related tenure/promotion procedures would not be in effect this year but would be next year. He said applicants this year could follow the application requirements of their choice. He promised to put out a memo to this effect this afternoon. He also mentioned that he and President Rudley would be available to visit during every Faculty Senate meeting if invited.

Shortly after Provost Ohia's departure, the Senate's quorum was lost, so the following items were addressed as discussions only:

Phased Retirement: Senator Butler reported that the Phased Retirement Committee had begun weekly meetings and would have something more to report in the future.

Sabbaticals: The Chair mentioned that sabbatical policy, such as it is, varies from college to college and that President Rudley declared a moratorium on them last year. She said they may or may not be reinstated. Treasurer Saneifard said that the university should have an explicit policy regarding sabbaticals and that it should be uniform for all colleges and for all fulltime faculty employees.

Faculty Workload: Treasurer Saneifard, adding to a previous discussion of this subject, observed that graduate faculty teaching in departments without graduate programs are unfairly teaching a heavier course load than graduate faculty in departments that have a graduate program.

Campus Parking: Senator White complained that although faculty are encouraged to engage in community relations, there are ordinarily no convenient places for community visitors to park on campus. Senator Butler observed that it seems to be university practice to establish more and more reserved parking places around buildings, leaving fewer and fewer parking places for others. The Chair added that the university is trying to route more and more people into garage parking and promised to speak with Provost Ohia about this.

Faculty reimbursements for professional expenses: Senator White complained that faculty are encouraged to engage in professional activity, including professional meetings, but that the university is slow to reimburse faculty for their expenses paid in doing so. Senator Butler added that the reimbursement procedure is so slow and complicated that some faculty don't even bother applying for reimbursement. The Chair suggested discussing this next month's meeting with Provost Ohia. Senators agreed with her request that the provost be invited to appear at the beginning of the Senate's meetings.

Faculty Senate Minutes: Treasurer Saneifard expressed the desire that the tape recordings of Faculty Senate meetings be maintained in a secure location controlled by the Faculty Senate, and that the minutes be posted on the Faculty Senate website and thus made available to others.

Discussion of October agenda items IX (Evaluation Instruments), X (Salary Data/Comparison), XI (Old Business), and XII (New Business) were postponed until the November 2009 Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05p.