The new TSU President, Dr. Austin A. Lane, attended a specially-called meeting of the Faculty Senate on Thursday, June 30, 2016, at 3:30 in the afternoon. This was the first time an incoming President attended a Senate meeting, and his presence was appreciated, as he took time from his busy schedule. For almost two hours, President Lane and Senate members engaged in a dialogue that dealt with his plans to safeguard the continuous viability of TSU. Dr. Lane listened to the issues put forward by the faculty and responded to critical questions.

Answering an inquiry from a TSU alumnus, President Lane discussed his plans to streamline the registration process to make it more efficient and less time-consuming for students. He realized that students are frustrated, as they are directed from one office to another in their quest for signatures, advisors, or counselors to help them solve their registration issues. He mentioned that TSU’s current registration process places TSU at a disadvantage with its competitors. President Lane informed the Senate that he plans to make the school’s bureaucracy more responsive to the needs of our students. This proposal is just one of the several preventive measures he wants to implement to help stop the loss of our students to other local colleges and universities.

As he mentioned, TSU cannot afford to make it easier for our competitors to take away our students, therefore, increasing our enrollment is crucial to the institution’s future success. Also, he emphasized his commitment to continue expanding our recruiting efforts in the high schools and colleges in the greater Houston metro area.

Furthermore, President Lane mentioned the need to devote more resources to the classrooms to improve the educational standards TSU offers. He stated that our number one priority is to ensure
that the education our students receive provides them with the tools they require to compete in an ever-changing job market. He believes that we must return to basics by making TSU a student-centered university.

He also suggested that TSU must do a much better job managing its resources. The university has to cease spending funds on items that do very little to support education in an attempt to increase its enrollment. He also mentioned the importance of tackling the issues of salary compression and high administrative costs. For instance, Dr. Lane recognized that there is no justification for a school to have more deans than it has faculty in one of its most important units.

Throughout the meeting, Dr. Lane stressed how important it is for him to work with the Faculty Senate, the faculty in general, and other stakeholders to address the critical issues affecting TSU. The Faculty Senate/Assembly is committed to work with President Lane in his plans to move TSU forward and to ensure the future success of this proud university. Finally, Dr. Lane stated that the flourishing of an amicable relationship begins by everyone adhering to the rules and regulations contained in the Faculty Manual and university-approved policies, procedures and rules.