

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

1 December 2011

Howard Beeth, Secretary

Members Present: Howard Beeth (Secretary); Alexis Brooks de Vita (Editor, *The Faculty Speaks*); Jafus Cavil (COE); Bettye Desselle (JHJ School of Business); Angie Eaton (College of Pharmacy & Health Science); Robert Ford (COST); Daniel Georges-Abeyie (SOPA); Lila Ghemri (COST); Cassandra Hill (TMSL); Linda Johnson (COLABS); Sharlette Kellum (Graduate School); James Opolot (SOPA); Samuel Osueke (COE); Jane Perkyuns (COLABS); Byron Price (Chair); Rasoul Saneifard (Vice Chair); Lalita Sen (Treasurer); Karma Sherif (JHJ School of Business); Holim Song (COE); Sara White (Parliamentarian); Mammo Woldie (JHJ School of Business); Zivar Yousefipour (College of Pharmacy & Health Science). **Total: 22.**

Members Absent: Macaulay Akpaffiong (Pharmacy & Health Science); Chris Beineman (COLABS); Vera Hawkins (School of Communication); Mohsen Javadian (COST); Emlyn Norman (COLABS). **Total: 5.**

Guests: Provost Sunny Ohia; Faculty Ombudsperson Andrea Shelton. **Total: 2.**

Agenda

Call to Order

Chairman Byron Price called the meeting to order at 3:05p and introduced TSU Provost Sunny Ohia. Provost Ohia reported that TSU's SAC's reaccreditation was going well and that he was optimistic that there would be a positive final decision soon. The provost also reported that a meeting was scheduled the next day further to discuss faculty buy-outs for qualified faculty members; he expected to have conclusive news about this to report at the Senate's February meeting.

Following these welcome announcements, a dialogue took place between senators and the provost concerning faculty advisement and registration of students. Comments by senators suggested that all was not well concerning the newly introduced "one-stop" advisement and

registration process. Several senators complained that the registration process was complex and the training for it was inadequate. In addition, other senators also complained that too much of the responsibility for both advisement and registration fell squarely on the faculty. For example, Senator Daniel Georges-Abeyie reported that in the School of Public Affairs faculty were overwhelmed by having to service over 400 majors. He said that additional staff was required to service the needs of these students. Chairman Price added that there was widespread faculty discontent at being required to be on campus to register students between and during semesters, a job historically done by staff. And *Faculty Speaks* editor Alexis Brooks de Vita noted that despite the newly adopted registration procedures, students nevertheless continued to be registered weeks after the semester started, creating a chaotic classroom situation for faculty and a learning disadvantage for late-arriving students. In reply, Provost Ohia said that ideally staff and faculty alike should be involved in student advisement/registration but that faculty participation in registration should be voluntary, not required, and that faculty who volunteered to participate in registration should have their participation “well recognized” as a significant service activity on annual merit evaluations.

After Provost Ohia’s departure, senators continued to discuss long standing and continued problems that adversely affected teaching/learning success. Senator Georges-Abeyie complained that some students did not receive money to buy books from the university until the second month of the semester. He also complained that policy should not change when deans changed. Chairman Price suggested that senators form a subcommittee to compile a list of problems—a “manifesto”—and send it to administrators. Senator Robert Ford suggested that the Manifesto also include solutions to the problems identified. Editor Brooks de Vita and Senators Jafus Cavil and Ford agreed that a committee was a good idea. Senator Georges-Abeyie agreed to work on a list of issues to be refined by the Senate, eventually forwarded to the administration, and perhaps published in *The Faculty Speaks*.

Following the Manifesto discussion, Chairman Price introduced a new senator, Angie Eaton, representing the College of Pharmacy and Health Science, and the good editorial work of Editor Brooks de Vita was commended by several senators, which earned her a round of applause.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Howard Beeth distributed draft copies of the Senate’s November 2011 meeting, which senators approved as submitted, with the correction of one minor mistake noted by (who else?) Editor Brooks de Vita.

Old Business and Committee Reports

Chairs of various Senate committees reported on the progress of their respective committees.

Senator Mammo Woldie reported that his committee's study of salary inequities had recently met for two hours. Senior administrative officials attended. One problem, he said, was that requested staff salaries have still not been forthcoming from the administration. Chairman Price said that if this data is not provided by the administration soon, he would go the Board of Regents requesting it.

Vic Chair Rasoul Saneifard reported steady progress for the Workload Committee and Editor Brooks de Vita for the Faculty Evaluation Committee. Vice Chair Saneifard also mentioned that the University Rank, Tenure, Promotion, and Salary Committee needed its charge.

Various senators emphasized the importance of these and other committees, and urged that faculty who are assigned, elected, or who volunteer for committee service should be diligent in their work, which often affects all faculty members.

Faculty/Student Registration Concerns

Chairman Price suggested the possibility of a "Townhall" meeting between senators and students about registration and other matters, and it was agreed to consider this in the future.

Senators' Meeting Attendance Rules

The rules concerning the attendance requirements for senators at monthly Senate meetings were reviewed. Absences from two successive regular meetings automatically triggers a remediation process which, if not completed satisfactorily, results in the removal and replacement of violators.

To avoid attendance problems at Senate meetings, Vice Chair Saneifard suggested that the Faculty Senate write a letter to Provost Ohia, with copies to college deans and department chairs, to insure that senators were not assigned to teach courses or otherwise hindered from attending regularly scheduled Senate meetings from 3-5p on the first Thursday of every month. Senators agreed that it would be helpful if this was done.

Money Matters

Chairman Price argued that the Senate should directly apply for Title III grants to fund its activities. He received Senate approval to write a memo to Provost Ohia about this. Editor Brooks de Vita wondered if Title III money could not be applied for that would pay faculty to assist in student registration, perhaps as "consultants"? Senator James Opolot likewise

reminded senators that they'd previously passed a unanimous resolution to provide *Faculty Speaks* editor Brooks de Vita with compensation equal to that provided to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, and senators requested a future progress report about this. Senator Robert Ford mentioned that the Faculty Senate needed to get involved in national issues that affected the local TSU community, such as the threatened reduction of Title III funds. Chairman Price suggested that senators could travel to state, regional, and national meetings on a rotating basis to participate in discussions that affected TSU. Senators agreed that these and related issues needed further attention.

Evaluation of Administrators

While enhanced faculty participation in evaluations of administrators is long overdue, Vice Chair Saneifard nevertheless reported widespread faculty dissatisfaction with the electronic evaluation currently used by the TSU administration, which may not provide adequate identity and confidentiality protection. He said that some faculty did not submit administrator evaluations for these reasons. Treasurer Lalita Sen recommended that the Faculty Senate sponsor an independent faculty evaluation of administrators, as in the past, and that the results should be shared with the TSU Board of Regents and others in the TSU community, possibly in *The Faculty Speaks*. Senator Jafus Cavil said that a Google survey program could be used to administer such an evaluation, and Senator Holim Song volunteered to take the lead in formulating an instrument to accomplish this.

Christmas Gala

It was agreed that the Christmas Gala would take place on 6 December from 5-8p. Chairman Price said that there would be food, drink, and gifts for selected deserving faculty. He said that in the future he also favored book publication parties for authors as well as those for who did other worthy creative projects. He also voiced support for a formal recognition of the important contributions to the Faculty Senate made by former Senator Doris Jackson of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, particularly with respect to the last Senate election.

New Business and Oddments

Chairman Price suggested the preparation of a list of goals for presentation to the opening Faculty Assembly meeting in January 2012. These, he said, would focus and give guidance to the Faculty Senate next semester. Senators engaged in a general discussion of possible goals, and a Senate committee was established to itemize them. Several senators, including James Opolot and Jafus Cavil, volunteered to serve on this committee, to be chaired by Senator Lila Ghemri.

Senators also briefly discussed the creation of a “Drop Box” to facilitate discussion and communication among senators, and it was agreed that it would be set up in the near future.

Senator Robert Ford mentioned that while faculty were placed under increased scrutiny and evaluation, administrators likewise should be. He recommended that TSU Board of Regents meetings should be recorded as well as videoed.

Vice Chair Saneifard reported that he had been barred from attending a recent meeting of the Faculty Hearing Committee by committee chair Dan Adams, even though the Senate Chair and Vice Chair have historically attended this committee’s meetings. Chairman Price said that he would contact Committee chair Adams to rectify this situation.

Editor Brooks de Vita congratulated Chairman Price for his first semester of service as Faculty Senate Chair, and the meeting adjourned at 5:05p with a round of applause for him.