

ASU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 23, 2022
UC 201, and Remote Access via WebEx

Nick Negovetich President BIO	X	Twyla Tasker Vice President C&I	X	Carlos Flores Secretary TED	X	Christopher Shar Parliamentarian SW	X
Anthony Bartl PSCI/PHL	X	Alfredo Becerra NURS	X	Robert Briwa HIST	X	Michael Conklin AEF	X
Drew Curtis PSY	X	David Faught ENG/LANG	X	Manuel Garcia ENG	X	Mark Hama ENG/LANG	X
Floyd Huang PT		Erica Bailey COMM	X	Heather Lehto PHYS/GEO	X	Adam Parker KIN	X
English Ratliff AGRI	X	Babajide Sadiq HSP	X	Rene Segoviano M&M	X	Andrew Siefker Math	X
Tammy Stafford NURS (Clin)	X	Devon Stewart VPA	X	William Taylor SEC STUD	X	Grant Wilde CS	X
Ralph Zehnder CHEM	X	You-jou Hung PT (sub for Dr. Huang)	X				

Call to Order @ 3:00

Invited Guests

- General Hawkins, President - Absent
- Dr. Don Topliff, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs - Present
- Dr. Clifton Jones, Vice Provost and Interim Vice President of Student Affairs - Present
- Meghan Pace-Pena, Staff Senate President – Present
- Brady Floyd, Student Senate President - Absent
- Jayna Phinney, Instructional Technology Specialist - Present

Announcements and Questions

- University President – Absent
- Provost – Changes have been made to the CARR scholarship program. The number of hours students need to complete in a year has dropped from 30 to 24. The number of Dual Credit (DC) hours students were coming with were forcing them to take courses they didn't need just to meet the hours requirement. It does not impact any programs which require completion of 30 hours, just the scholarship requirements. Any programs requiring more hours per semester are not affected. The GPA requirement for the second year has been reduced to 2.75. The scholarship was meant for those who are worthy and needy, and we have not always focused on needy. This has not been changed on the website, but it is under construction. We would still like for them to take 15 credit hours a semester so they can graduate in four years, but twelve hours is a full-time load. The typical student comes to us with 20-30 college credits already due to DC classes. **Questions:** Our catalog is really needing updates. The PDF version is not good. Many other universities have much nicer catalogs which are easier to view. This has been discussed, and we are looking at some products that can help us.
- Vice-Provost/Interim Vice President of Student Affairs – An instructor had a student in her class who said they were withdrawing due to mental health issues and wanted to withdraw from the university. There were no indications this student was struggling. Texas Tech has a practice when a student requests a withdrawal; it's not automatic like it is here. Their panel meets weekly to review requests for withdrawal so they can reach out to students to see if there is an issue they can assist

with. There is already a committee for late withdrawals, and we are looking into the possibility of expanding that to help students stay in school. There are ways to assist these students, and this committee would help them to find those resources. Please contact the academic advisor or Meaghan Word. Meaghan can assist in finding Acadeum courses in which the student may be able to enroll. There is a 48-hour hold period when a student seeks to drop a course. They are not dropped during this time while the faculty member is contacted to see if they want to speak with the student before the drop is completed. In the past, there were various signatures required for dropping a course so we moved to allowing the students to drop without signatures, but this caused issues as well. We are trying to find a way to assist them without having barriers in the way.

Comment from Dr. Tasker: Many online students in the graduate program are non-traditional students who feel they can't reach out to their professor and withdraw. With the little window we currently have, we can contact students and see if there is anything we can do to assist them.

Comment from Dr. Curtis: Students may respond better to faculty whom they know rather than someone they don't know.

- Staff Senate President – Staff Senate met Monday. We are still accepting nominations for President Awards and Staff Excellence awards until March 25, 2022, at 5:00PM. They are on the Staff Senate website. The forms are simple to fill out. Please spread the word in your departments. If you have any staff members you would like to acknowledge who go above and beyond, we have the monthly awards for staff members on the website as well. The last two Thursday Coke Float days in the UC (May 5 and 12) will be hosted by Staff Senate.
- Student Senate President – Absent
- Instructional Technology – IT has been working on an LMS Needs Assessment Survey to identify any gaps in training or professional development. They also want to see what faculty uses and what they need to ensure they are offering timely and appropriate training for faculty and staff. The Blackboard environment continues to change, and we want to see if Bb continues to offer what is needed. Anything you can do to promote the survey in your departments would be appreciated. The survey will be released on April 18th and will remain open for two weeks. If any senators would like to see the survey and offer suggestions on questions, please let her know. **Comment from Dr. Lehto:** It was mentioned in another meeting if there was no need to switch from Bb, there is no need to spend time looking at other options. Faculty needs to respond to the survey and state their needs/wants/likes, etc. **Comments from Dr. Negovetich:** Some issues with Bb may be from lack of knowledge of what's available, so please ask faculty to fill out the survey.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Motion to accept – Bill Taylor
- Second – Anthony Bartl
- Passed unanimously

Standing Committee Reports

- Academic Affairs (Dr. Anthony Bartl) – There is an OP 06.22 revision to submit. There is a little confusion in the OP which describes professional and personal conflicts. This was described a little later in the OP so the language was moved to the front to remove any confusion.
- Bylaws and Standing Rules (Dr. Andrew Siefker) – The Constitution and By-laws have been distributed. One question was, is a Teaching Assistant (TA) considered full-time? It was determined they are not and do not vote. Article 3 Section 1 has wording which excludes adjuncts from being part of the organization. There was a question about open meetings; Roberts' Rules of Order says meetings can be closed by a simple majority, not 2/3 as our current Constitution requires. If we vote on the Constitution now, the by-laws will be voted on in the first meeting of next year. Please distribute the new copy to your faculty for feedback.
- University Affairs (Dr. Heather Lehto) – President Awards nominations were sent out to senators. Please go in and complete your recommendations and return them as soon as possible.
- Student Affairs (Dr. David Faught) – Nothing to report
- External Affairs (Dr. Drew Curtis) – OP 06.11 will be discussed in New Business. Assisting HR with the Rogers Awards

- Committee on Committees (Dr. Twyla Tasker) – Nothing to report, but we still need a volunteer to assist Twyla and Erica.

Unfinished Business

- Annual Performance Evaluations for Faculty (OP 06.28, OP 06.31) – Still on hold
- Ad Hoc Committee – Based on feedback from Dr. Topliff at the last meeting, there is no wiggle room in the calendar. The committee spoke with the faculty member who brought this idea forward and it was decided to no longer pursue this proposal.
- OP 06.12 – Faculty Leave of Absence – no changes recommended. Coming from committee – seconded by Drew Curtis – passed unanimously.
- OP 06.16 – Faculty Sick Leave – no changes recommended. Coming from committee – seconded by Bill Taylor – passed unanimously.

New Business

- OP 06.11 – Faculty Grievance Procedures – External affairs committee has minor suggestions. There were questions about numerical values. The recommended change here (and with all future OPs) to follow many writing styles with the number spelled out and written in parentheses. For example, ...four (4) ... This would be used in future OP revisions.
- OP 06.22 – Conflict of Interest – there are a couple of changes which need to be made before this is sent to faculty.
- By-laws and Constitution – For a closed meeting, do we continue with a 2/3 vote to close the meeting, or do we change to a simple majority following Robert's Rules of Order? Do we follow Roberts' Rules for everything? Vetoes may need a larger vote (2/3) rather than a simple majority to "close" a meeting. Why would we want to close a meeting? There may be times when someone who is not tenured wants to say something in private, or times when we need to have a discussion without visitors in the room. Coming out of committee: Chris Shar seconds. Make change to simple majority to close a meeting and send to faculty – passed unanimously.
- Faculty Ombudsperson – Finalized and sent to the Senate. Please read through the proposal and solicit feedback from the faculty. It needs to be approved by the Senate next month if we want to move it forward. The charter is in the appendix, and that would be the guiding document for the ombudsperson. At some point it might be necessary to find an office space for this person, but to start with, we could utilize online conferencing software.
- Wellness Check – a resolution was received asking for a suspension of the wellness check, or making it optional, unless the person is not feeling well. This is on the agenda for the President and Vice-presidents to discuss at a meeting tomorrow. There has been discussion about changing the wellness app to all illnesses instead of just COVID-19.

Roundtable

- Thank you to everyone who attended the session on the VP for Student Affairs. Next week we will be visiting with candidates for the Dean of Graduate Studies. There will be open forums for each candidate.
- Duo App – can we have more than a one day "remember me" option. IT is looking to see what other schools and organizations are doing and whether there was a decrease in security for those who leave it open for more than one day.
- The students appreciated the opportunity to participate in the forums and that faculty allowed them to ask their questions. They felt their opinions were valued and appreciated.
- Be on the lookout for information about a Values Summit on campus, April 27, 2022.
- Is the library getting rid of books? We have been heard rumors the books were going to go away and there would be no books in the library and everything would be digital. Access to library resources needs to follow the same modality as access to our courses. It's also required by SACS. Climate controlled square footage is limited on this campus. The juvenile section of the library is going to stay right now at the request of the College of Education. Not all books are going to go away. If there are specific items faculty members do not want to eliminate, please contact Dr. Jones. There is a library committee who can be contacted as well. Will we be able to get the books

before they are thrown out? Can faculty have a chance to have those books? Electronic books in PDF are easy to use, but other formats are not. The system is very awkward, so professors are having to buy copies of needed books because it's so awkward and difficult to get the books needed for courses. Some departments don't feel the library has the resources they need, so they are just not using it. In some departments, there are works which are not in an electronic format, impeding access those if those books or anthologies are not available in the library. There are works which have already been discontinued or removed. The director of the library does not have the authority to just get rid of works without speaking with departments first. While works may not have been eliminated, not ordering yearly works is basically the same thing; this means no one has access to it anymore. In some instances, only one person can use the electronic version at a time.

- History talk series is still ongoing. Next one is April 14th. Concerns were voiced about Lt. Gov Dan Patrick's move to remove tenure. Have there been discussions in the TTU system? It is a political issue and the simplest answer is to vote. We are a state institution and cannot take a political position. Currently, there is no legislative support for the abolition of tenure. The Executive Committee reviewed resolutions from other universities and did not vote to move forward with our own resolution since it is not something before the legislature at this time.
- Debt forgiveness – this was looked at by the Executive Committee as well, and it was decided not to pursue at this time. However, it can be brought forward by faculty at any time in the future. It was decided not to bring it forward because there was no solution brought forward with it.

Adjournment – 4:48