

## Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2024

### Present:

Michael Allen, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Scott Christen, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennewald, Joshua Field, Mary Lou Fornehed, Jerry Gannod, Ka Grimes, Syed Hasan, Colin Hill, Amy Hill, Alfred Kalyanapu, Matthew Langford, Richard LeBorne, Jeannette Luna, Jennifer Mabry, Twanelle Majors (proxy-Kathy Rust), Ann Manginelli, David Mann, Holly Mills, Michael Nattrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Hyewon Park, Yi Peng, Mustafa Rajabali, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Amber Spears, Leslie Suters, Thomas Timmerman, Kristen Trent, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Lenly Weathers, Brenda Wilson, Kexin Xu

### Absent:

Wei Chang, Yun Ding, Melissa Geist, Krystal Kennedy, Christy Killman, Joseph Ojo, Dennis Tennant

### Guests:

Harry Ingle, Lisa Zagumny, Kimberly Winkle

Meeting was called to order by Senate President Rajabali at 3:36pm.

#### 1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Fornehead

Second: Smith Andrews

Vote: Motion carried

#### 2. Approval of minutes/notes from previous meetings

##### a. August 26, 2024 Business Meeting

Motion: Donadio

Second: Allen

Discussion: None

Vote: Minutes approved

##### b. September 9, 2024 Meeting with President Oldham

Motion: Donadio

Second: Allen

Discussion: None

Vote: Notes approved

c. September 16, 2024 Business Meeting

Motion: Smith-Andrews

Second: Mills

Discussion: None

Vote: Minutes approved

**3. Introduction to First Generation Initiative (Harry Ingle)**

Harry Ingle presented information on the First Gen Initiative. Information about First Gen status is self-reported on the FAFSA. Defined based on the parents' education level – parents do not have a college degree. This initiative works to identify these students, create a sense of community, increase awareness and understanding, as well as developing and incorporating best practices when working with this population. The First Gen population represents nearly 25% of our freshmen.

Questions/Discussion:

- Ideas about decreasing enrollment? (Possibly Covid, changes in recruitment, free tuition at community colleges?)
- Need more departmental and other types of data; would help with retention as well
- Currently doing outreach with high schools
- Faculty and staff can sign up to be First Gen ambassadors.
- Link to presentation will be provided.

**4. Updates from Faculty Lead for the “Innovation in All We Do” priority within TTU’s strategic plan, Tech Tomorrow (Holly Anthony)**

The recommendations from the Gen Ed Vision committee have been handed over to the implementation committee. The recommendations (7) and other resources are available on the Tech Tomorrow website. There are 31 members between the implementation and gen ed committees; Linda Null and Holly Anthony are co-chairs. There will be 7 sub-committees and each will include faculty with expertise in the areas. Sub-committees are charged with overhauling student learning outcomes, category names, etc.

Other comments/discussion points:

- need for technical, financial, and data literacy areas of focus
- procedural committees: new course proposal, one-of opportunities, gen ed teaching, etc.
- all relevant information about “Innovation in All We Do” is available on the website (.edu/strategic), as well as idea/feedback forms

## 5. Carry forward of discussion point from the last business meeting

- a. Policies 205, 206 and 207: Revision of Policy 205 and 206 (Info from co-chairs of committee – Dr. Lisa Zagumny & Dr. Kimberly Winkle):

New committee has been formed for the revision of 205 and 206; 16 members - Senators Christen, Fornehed, Shipley, dept chairs, etc. First meeting held on Oct. 8, with a deep dive on the policies. Goal is to make them clearer. They should mirror each other to some extent but they don't. Process will be to tackle sections across both policies, make the language clear and easier to read without changing the spirit of the policies. After the policies are done, we will work on the handbook. We are meeting monthly through the end of the semester and hope to bring the policies back in January for a first reading and a vote in February.

Questions/Discussion:

- Is there a group working on procedures to do a similar revision? (The group is doing both – first policy, then procedures)
- Bedelia will be brought in for connectivity with procedures and streamlining of processes
- Everyone needs to participate with the process and the first reading of the policies
- Importance of departmental criteria for T/P; every voice is important in the process; departmental guidelines should be reviewed regularly
- Guidelines should be clear and concise (and departmental guidelines should be in line with the university guidelines) so that candidates for T/P are fully informed.
- What happens when the best practices of a profession are different from the university guidelines?
- Any questions can be sent to Lisa or Kim.

- b. New titles or positions - tenured and not tenured – move forward to next business meeting

## 6. Such Other Matters

- a. Need for a small committee dedicated to helping faculty with watermark?
  - might be helpful to have a support person
  - a clear set of directions for the processes would be great
  - any qualitative data being gathered on issues?
- b. Updates on meetings from councils, Tufts, Senate breakfast, etc?
  - Senate President Rajabali will update on those things, in addition to other committee meetings at next business meeting: will also follow up with Dr. Polk-Johnson

**Calendar Reminders:**

Faculty Senate meeting with VP Stinson – October 28<sup>th</sup> 2024. [Request for discussion topics](#)  
Senator meeting dates (business and other) can be found here: [Faculty Senate Meeting Dates for 2024.docx](#)

Meeting adjourned at: 5:10.

Failed to record motion and second for adjournment.

Approved on November 18,2024.