

Faculty Senate Meeting with President Oldham

Topics for September 15, 2025

Parking

Has anyone else noticed the serious lack of available gold parking spaces, even when arriving on campus as early as 8am? Could this be a consequence of the new digital parking pass system, which no longer allows faculty to see who is parking where? Without that transparency, how can faculty hold TTU Parking accountable for doing their job? We have nearly 400 full-time faculty members. If each of them purchases a gold parking pass at \$310, that's over \$120,000 just from faculty. Once you add in staff and student parking fees, the total climbs much higher. Shouldn't there be more consistent monitoring and enforcement of parking regulations? What exactly is TTU Parking doing to ensure the system is fair and functioning properly? Faculty needs to understand. (Received 8/27/2025)

Is there still a plan to build a parking garage? (Received 9/9/2025)

Several faculty members, staff members and students are complaining about the current parking situation. They say that now they are paying a fee of \$300 Plus to "not able to park" anywhere. The situation was way better when the parking fees was much less. (Received 9/9/2025)

How does the hangtag-less parking work? (Received 9/9/2025)

Shared Governance

What are your thoughts on what shared governance and the role of the Faculty Senate on campus looks like? (Received 9/9/2025)

What do you believe is the specific purpose of a Faculty Senate? More and more it seems the Senate has very little say in the direction of the University. The Senate was not able to save the the German and French concentrations or the careers of four of our colleagues. In fact, it could be argued that the dearly departed Provost used the Faculty Senate to boost her specious argument for doing away with Foreign languages. So, does the Faculty Senate actually have a purpose in your eyes? Would you support disbanding the Faculty Senate in favor of using an advisory board as was recently done at Texas State University?

Can you give us a recent example of shared governance that actually worked?

Can you tell us of a time where you gave in to the will of the Faculty Senate, even if you disagreed? (Received 9/10/2025)

Enrollment

With the enrolment not moved much in the past 15 years, statistically speaking a 5% plus or minus that we celebrate falls within margin of error. It always hovers around 10K to 11 K. With TTU constructing an enormous number of new buildings, we hear from the administration (who will never say this on record) that we are having difficulty in populating these buildings. Whatever efforts are being done in the last 15 years to improve enrollment, their results are ordinary --- so it's frivolous to expect a different result from the same experiment (someone else said it before as well 😊), we need to think out of the box and explore other avenues to attract good students and sustained growth in enrollment. (Received 9/9/2025)

TTU Ranking

With the declining ranking of the university (current us news ranking put TTU on 288, down from 249 in 2024 and even lesser than 285 in 2023) – faculty is wondering that does the university admin have a strategy to reverse this trend. No matter how much we undermine these rankings, majority of the competitive students use these rankings as an important criterion to apply to a particular program – (btw kudos to CSC whose ranking has increased - https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/news/articles/csc/2025_6_17_tennessee_tech_ranked_among_states_top_three_computer_science_programs.php)



Tennessee Tech

US News & World Report Ranking 2025

Ranked by	2023	2024	2025
National University	285	249	288