



## Texas Southern University Faculty Assembly/Senate

*Dr. Rasoul Saneifard, Chair*  
*Dr. Edieth Wu, Vice Chair*

*Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil, Secretary*  
*Dr. Olurominiyi Ibitayo, Treasurer*

*Dr. Luis Perez-Feliciano, Faculty Speaks Editor*  
*Dr. Vera Hawkins, Parliamentarian*

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

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Thursday, June 08, 2017  
Hannah Hall, Room 111, 2:30 PM

### ***Senator Members Chair & Vice Chair***

Dr. Rasoul Saneifard                      College of Science, Engineering and Technology (Chair)  
Dr. Edieth Wu                                Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Vice Chair)

### ***Senate Members Present***

Bell, Edward	Senator, College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Brailey, Carla	Senator, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
Cavil, J. Kenyatta	Senator Secretary, College of Education
Griesinger, Nancy	Senator, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Ibitayo, Olurominiyi	Senator Treasurer, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Jemison Pollard, Dianne	Senator, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
Lancaster, Iris	Senator, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences
Lowe, Jeffrey	Senator, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Perez-Feliciano, Luis	Senator Editor, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Perkins, Carlton	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Thoreson, Claire	Senator, The Graduate School
Woldie, Mammo	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business

### ***Senate Members / Colleges Not in Attendance***

Abobo, Cyril	Senator, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Anga, Ahunanya	Senator, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Asare, Nana	Senator, College of Education
Hollomon, Mario	Senator, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Ojode, Lucy	Senator, Jesse H. Jones School of Business
Regis, Humphrey	Senator, School of Communication
Reynolds, Lacey	Senator, College of Education
Tymczak, Christopher J.	Senator, College of Science, Engineering and Technology
Walker-Hawkins, Vera	Senator Parliamentarian, School of Communication
Yousefipour, Zivar	Senator, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

### ***Senate Counsel in Attendance***

Walker, April                                Faculty Senate General Counsel, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

### ***Guest(s) from Faculty Assembly or University***

None.

### **Call to Order**



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C = Comments, R = Response, and Q = Question

Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard called the June 2017 special meeting of the TSU Faculty Senate to order at 2:50 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

### Approval of the May 2017 Senate Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the May 4, 2017 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Senator Mammo Woldie to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Senator Claire Thoreson. For the record, it was suggested to include in the record of the minutes, the one-time \$3000 summer stipend for the Faculty Ombudsman. This motion carried unanimously unless further modifications are made within thirty (30) days.

### Announcements

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Shared the following updates on activities of the six dean search committees – *JHJ School of Business* interviewed three candidates although the fourth candidate withdrew from the candidacy; *School of Communication* conducted six Skype interviews and are nearing the final stages by inviting three finalists for campus interviews; *TFF Honors College* interviewed four candidates via telephone and invited three candidates to campus interviews; *College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences* completed three Skype interviews; *BJ-ML School of Public Affairs* has not taken any action on any candidates; *TM School of Law* completed eleven Skype interviews during the first round, the second round included five Skype interviews leading to three finalists being invited to campus. Furthermore, Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard announced that because of his personal busy schedule and since there will soon be a transition of leadership, he has decided not to continue serving on these search committees. Consequently, he has expressed his gratitude to Senate Secretary J. Kenyatta Cavil for accepting his recommendation to replace him in this regard. Additionally, he thanked Senate Vice Chair Edieth Wu and Senator Mammo Woldie for their leadership on their search committees.

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Announced that the request for the additional moneys to fund the summer salaries for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been approved. And although the Senate's budget still remains intact, he added that the university's budget will in fact be modified.



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C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Underscored the importance of the need for faculty to submit grade reports on time and being careful when distributing a grade. He advised that once grades are submitted, faculty should print out a screen shot of their grade report for their records, in an attempt to safeguard against grades being changed without proper authorization. He specified that the university is working on this issue and OIT is implementing an automatic electronic communication that will inform the dean, chair and faculty, which will ask them to verify if they have personally changed a grade once that change has occurred in the system.

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Discussed issues regarding some adjunct faculty members who cannot be reached when there is a grade dispute (after the semester has closed) or who refuse to meet with students, which is problematic for graduating students. He stated that he has received several reports that once these faculty leave the university at the end of the semester, they do not respond requests. He advised that these faculty members must be flagged for further disciplinary action. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard requested that these faculty members are reported to the dean, department chair, the provost and/or the chair of the Faculty Senate.

C: Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard: Reviewed the list of faculty representatives submitted by colleges/schools to serve in the next cycle of the 2017-2019 Faculty Senate – School of Business, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences. Additionally, he stated that he has received names from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, however we are awaiting the official communication confirming the representatives from Interim Dean Milton.

### Guests

None.

### New Business

C: Senator Jeffrey Lowe: Reminded the Senate of their interests in developing a strategy to approach the issues regarding low graduation and student matriculation rates. In addition, some senators discussed several factors determining low graduation rates and solutions to these problems. Senator Jeffrey Lowe indicated that this could be a systemic issue, consequently, he is interested in conducting a commission study to help identify the underlying issues. Several senators suggested to bring this matter to the attention of the leaders of the university. Senate



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Vice Chair Edieth Wu suggested a need for intrusive academic and social counseling or educational intervention. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard asked that the senators cautiously expressed their views regarding this matter in their departmental meetings and he advised that senators gain the support of tenured faculty members in their schools as well. However, he assured that the Faculty Senate will support the Senators in their efforts. Senator Jeffrey Lowe and other Senators suggested forming a taskforce to address the dismal graduation rates and student matriculation issues. Senators agreeing to participate on this committee – Senate Secretary J. Kenyatta Cavil, Senator Jeffrey Lowe, Senator Treasurer Olurominiyi Ibitayo, Senator Carla Brailey, Senator Iris Lancaster, Senator Claire Thoreson, Senator Edward Bell, and Faculty Senate General Counsel April Walker.

C: Several Senators: Expressed disappointment following the infractions that occurred during the Spring 2017 Commencement ceremony. During the ceremony, graduates were engaged in disruptive behavior without correction from the university Marshalls. Several Senators witnessed graduates leaving the ceremony before they were officially dismissed. Senator Jeffrey Lowe suggested a commencement that confers degrees in order to cut the ceremony in half the time. Senate Chair Rasoul Saneifard shared that the administration is moving toward an idea of having two separate days for holding undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies. He responded that he intends to speak with the Provost in detail regarding the Senator's concerns and suggestions for improving the commencement ceremony.

### Old Business

None.

### Adjourn Meeting

Q: Ask for the question. Senator Dianne Jemison Pollard moved that the meeting be adjourned. Senator Olurominiyi Ibitayo seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.