

# TSU FACULTY SENATE MEETING

5 November 2009

## Minutes

Howard Beeth, Secretary

- **Members Present:** Edieth Wu (Chair), Lalita Sen (Vice Chair), Howard Beeth (Secretary), Rasoul Saneifard (Treasurer), Alexis Brooks De Vita (Editor, *The Faculty Speaks*), Thorpe Butler (Senator, COLABS), Daniel Georges-Abeyie (Senator, SOPA), Anna James (Senator, TMSL), Emlyn Norman (Senator, COLABS), Andrea Shelton (Senator, Pharmacy&Health Sciences), Zivar Yousefipour (Senator, Pharmacy&Health Sciences). TOTAL: 11.
- **Members Absent:** Demetrius Kazakos (Asst. Secretary), C.J. Tymczak (Parliamentarian), Macaulay Akpaffiong (Pharmacy&Health Sciences), Kiran Chilakamarri (Senator, COST), Doris Jackson (Pharmacy&Health Sciences), Wei Wayne Li (Senator, COST), Michael Sollars (Senator, Graduate School), Sara White (Senator, COLABS), Johnnie Williams (Senator, JHJSOB). TOTAL: 9.

## Agenda Items

### Call to Order

Chairperson Wu called the meeting to order at 3:40p when a sufficient number of members finally were present to constitute a quorum. Prior to the call-to-order, members present informally discussed a few matters that did not require a formal Senate vote. In a discussion of the revision of the *TSU Faculty Manual*, Treasurer Saneifard and Senator Butler volunteered to join Senator Sen on the Faculty Senate Subcommittee which is monitoring the work of the University Committee that is proposing revisions of the *Manual*.

### Chair's Announcements

When a quorum of Senators was finally achieved at 3:40p, the Chair began a formal discussion of several matters, first of which was the issue of campus parking. Senator Butler complained that faculty have been progressively pushed out of campus surface parking spaces and are now likewise being pushed out of garage parking spaces. Senator Norman suggested that the first floor of garage parking should be reserved exclusively for faculty as well as 30% of the surface parking spaces adjacent to all campus buildings. Vice President Sen supported Norman's idea, remarking that she is concerned for the safety of faculty who

teach night classes. Secretary Beeth proposed a Senate resolution on the matter of parking, but instead the Chair said that she would talk with administrators about faculty parking concerns and report the result back to the Senate for further consideration. She also distributed lists of the members of the various Standing Committees of the Board of Regents and asked Senators to suggest the names of faculty from the College of Education and the School of Communications for service on these committees. Vice President Sen recommended two people.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Secretary Beeth noted the complications involved in compiling complete and accurate minutes: the near uselessness of the Senate's tape recorder, the largeness of the meeting room, the low voice tones of many Senators, and the fact that he is still in the process of correlating the names of many new Senators with their voices. As a partial remedy to these problems, he suggested matters would be improved if in the future speakers were called on by name to speak or would self-identify when making a comment. Following his plea, the amended minutes of the October Senate meeting were passed unanimously on a motion by Senator Butler and seconded by Senator Norman.

### **Senate Faculty Manual Subcommittee**

Vice Chair Sen began by giving a brief history of the status of chairs and their transformation from being faculty representatives nominated by the departmental faculty for fixed terms to being administrators appointed by deans and serving at their discretion. . She mentioned that accreditation agencies require department chairs to be elected by the faculty, which is not currently the practice at our university. Senator Butler forcefully argued that the process which transmogrified the status of chairs from being faculty reps to administrators was illegal, never having involved the Faculty Assembly or Senate--and that this should be the permanent position of the Faculty Senate. Vice Chair Sen, who heads the Senate *Faculty Manual* subcommittee, suggested that the current revisal of the *TSU Faculty Manual* might offer an opportunity for the faculty to reopen the issue of the Chairs' status. She called on late-arriving members to volunteer for service on the Senate's *Faculty Manual* subcommittee that will monitor the progress of the university committee charged with revising the *Manual*, and Editor Brooks De Vita did so.

### **Faculty Evaluation of Administrators**

Vice Chair Sen reported that the annual faculty evaluation of administrators, initiated by the Faculty Senate and approved by the Board of Regents several years ago, was not done last year and should be resumed this year. Treasurer Saneifard recommended that faculty evaluations should be distributed and completed at college meetings specifically called for this purpose and that no personal remarks by faculty should be allowed on the evaluation instrument. However, Vice Chair Sen reminded members that the evaluation instrument was

Board approved and could not be unilaterally changed by the faculty. She suggested the possibility, though, that the personal remarks of faculty did not have to be included in the final evaluation report. Senator Butler mentioned that future revisions of the evaluation instrument might delete the personal remarks section. In the meantime, Editor Brooks De Vita wondered if the evaluation could be administered easier on-line, an idea that Vice Chair Sen remembered was previously considered but rejected on security grounds. The Chair, however, thought that recent technology may have made electronic voting and evaluations safe enough to reconsider using. This issue was left open for further discussion and resolution.

### **Salary Data/Comparison**

Vice Chair Sen reported that her committee was still waiting for the most recent salary data and that analysis of it could be accomplished quickly once it was received. The Chair speculated that the administration would probably not address the issue of raises for the faculty until after student enrollment for the Spring semester was known in early 2010. Vice Chair Sen said that the data should permit comparing faculty raises to administrative raises. Senator Norman, an economist, volunteered to assist Vice Chair Sen in completing the salary analysis.

### **The Faculty Speaks**

The Senate congratulated Editor Brooks De Vita for putting out two very nice issues of the faculty publication so far this academic year. She announced a forthcoming November/December issue.

### **Phased Retirement**

Senator Butler, who chairs the Senate's Phased Retirement Committee, reported only modest progress, citing the difficulty of getting committee members together for meetings. His committee currently is surveying how other institutions have successfully implemented a phased retirement policy. Vice Chair Sen urged the committee to conclude its work ASAP so that a phased retirement policy at TSU could be included in the revised *Faculty Manual*.

### **Old Business/New Business**

Senator Butler and Secretary Beeth both complained about a change in university mid-term grade reporting. Heretofore, faculty reported students with D and F grades electronically, directly to the Registrar. This took very little time. But this semester, without explanation, faculty were required manually to compile and submit a deficient grade list to deans. This was time consuming and had sinister implications. The Chair said she had already queried Provost Ohia about this new, unexplained procedure and would report her findings to the Senate.

Senator Butler and Vice Chair Sen complained that TSU faculty receive a smaller discount, if any at all, at the university bookstore than do faculty elsewhere. The Chair suggested this issue should be addressed by the university Bookstore Committee and perhaps be included in the revision of the *Faculty Manual*. In the meantime, Senator Butler and Vice Chair Sen mentioned the possibility of a Senate resolution on the matter. However, the hour being late, the Senate deferred further discussion of the bookstore until next month's meeting.

The meeting was amicably adjourned at 5:05p.