

Faculty Senate Meeting Notes
October 5, 2020

Submitted by K. Craven

Members Present:

Stephanie Adams, Douglas Airhart, Dan Allcott, Michael Allen, Jeremy Blair, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Wei Tsun Chang, Kris Craven, Dennis Duncan, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steven Frye, David Hajdik, Tammy Howard, Janet Isbell, Brian Jones, Christy Killman, Nancy Kolodziej, Matt Langford, Susan Laningham, David Larimore, Emily Lee, Chad Luke, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Jennifer Meadows, Mark Melichar, Holly Mills, Lachelle Norris, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Anthony Paradis, Sally Pardue, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, Mike Rogers, Lee Ann Shipley, Troy Smith, Sandra Smith-Andrews, Barry Stein, Holly Stretz, Daniel Swartling, Lenly Weathers, Robert Wilbanks, Zac Wilcox, Kimberly Winkle, Russ Witcher, Jeannette Wolak

Members Absent:

Yun Ding, Mary Matthews

Guests Present:

Lee Wray

Call to Order

Senate President Stretz called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Pres Opening Remarks

The President began with a discussion of the meeting with the Board of Trustees. He wants to celebrate with us the historic high of 40% 4-year graduation rate. This will have a significant economic impact on the students and will also impact our overall retention rate, which is also good. He also wants to commend the university on completing a third of the three planned Preview Days. This is a campus-wide effort and they have been a great success. Safety adjustments include reduction in the size of each event, but the reports are positive. Oldham indicated his belief that the university is currently healthy but not invulnerable.

President Oldham then asked for **Feedback** on the idea of changing the **Spring schedule**. So far it looks like leaving the Fall schedule the same was the right call, however that doesn't mean we shouldn't make changes to Spring. For now, the plan is to keep the Spring schedule the same, but he is looking for input from the Senate.

Comments:

³ When given the opportunity, students will disburse. ion t.13 Tm0 -16002o/F74B0058 1 0 0 1 284put plude

- 3 No denying the amount of stress on everyone. Breaks allow for some relief, but does open the opportunity for higher risk activities. However, if breaks are allowed they should not just be for students and faculty, staff should also be given the opportunity for the same break from the stress. This should extend to the upcoming fall break next week. (President Oldham indicated that they are not sure about legal issues with giving staff additional breaks, however, he and his staff are looking at the options.)
- 3 What are the alternatives. – Response – no break with a shorter semester; Academic Affairs is planning to work with the Deans on the decision
- 3 Spring Break is a time for faculty and administrators to get some work done without the usual rigor of classes. Eliminating the Spring Break would impact the ability for this to occur.
- 3 Other things happen during Spring Break that would be impacted if it were eliminated. Examples include Study Aboard trips, service opportunities, and other alternative educational experiences.
- 3 What about a compromise of multiple shorter breaks, this will limit the opportunity for high-risk activities. However, that can impact the course schedule. Shorter breaks are often long weekends which include Friday and/or Monday. The Tuesday/Thursday classes are not affected. This creates a problem with the number of classes available for MWF vs TR.
- 3 Other activities during Spring Break are research work, like proposal writing.
- 3 Due to the COVID-19 response, some faculty members and/or students may have postponed their plans from last summer to this coming Spring Break week. Now what will they do?
- 3 Spring Break came about when moved from quarters to semesters. That is when the quarter would end and there was a break before the next quarter. Quarters didn't require breaks due to the shorter length, but needed a break between. With semesters the break is needed more.
- 3 Would this be just this semester due to COVID-19 or is this a permanent change?
- 3 Spring Break can sometimes be used to mitigate other uncontrollable factors like closures due to bad weather.

Question: What is the plan moving forward regarding online fees? Students who are opting to take online classes due to the pandemic were not prepared for the additional fees, some are struggling financially.

Response: This is something that we have been working on. Today online fees for TTU courses

- 3 After the pandemic is one thing. I am uncomfortable with charging additional fees for a route that improves safety. Not everyone can do what makes it easy for others, why should they pay a higher price?
- 3 A time will

