

Faculty Senate Meeting February 20, 2025

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Unfinished Business

- President Crawford thanks everyone for attending the meeting in Hunter Hall and on Zoom, despite the cold weather and calls the meeting to order.

Minutes Approved:

- A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes is made and seconded, with no discussion or vote required.
- President Crawford confirms the minutes are approved according to Robert's Rules.

Introduction of Bylaw Changes

- President Crawford introduces several bylaw changes, noting discrepancies in numbering and agenda order.
 - The GPA requirement for student members of faculty committees is corrected from 5 to 2.5.
 - The deadline for student member submissions is changed to May 1, with the SGA's assistance.
 - The requirement for a parliamentarian is changed to a recommendation due to difficulty in finding one.
 - The bylaw changes are open for discussion, with no concerns raised from Zoom or in-person attendees.
- A vote is taken, with 36 in favor, no oppositions, and no abstentions, updating the bylaws.

Formation of Ad Hoc Committee on Student Retention

- President Crawford announces the formation of an ad hoc committee on student retention, including members from all colleges, library, honors, EMSA, Academic Affairs, and a student member.
- Brooke Everson is appointed as the chair of the committee.
- The committee will start its work immediately, with an organizational meeting planned.
- A vote is taken and passed to establish the committee, with 37 in favor and no oppositions.

Handbook Committee Report

- Jaclyn Michael presents on behalf of the Handbook Committee, discussing revisions to Chapter Three of the Faculty Handbook.
- The committee has been working since fall 2023, with input gathered through various modes and online discussions.
- Three voting models for tenure and promotion are presented: Model A (current handbook language), Model B (minor modifications), and Model C (major modifications).
- The input period for feedback on these models is ongoing, with a quiz on Canvas for quantitative information.
- Dr. Michael encourages faculty to review the proposals and provide feedback.

Administrative Reports: Chancellor Dooley

- Chancellor Dooley thanks the faculty senate for their involvement in retention efforts and emphasizes the importance of faculty engagement.
- He mentions the Gallup Poll survey deadline of February 24 and encourages faculty to participate.
- The groundbreaking for the College of Business expansion is scheduled for March 3.
- The blue and gold Memorial event is moved to the Wofford Center due to Patton Chapel renovations.
- An update on the chancellor search process is provided, with applications to be reviewed in early March and campus interviews in late April.

Administrative Reports: Vice Chancellor Goldberg

- Vice Chancellor Goldberg discusses transitions in Academic Affairs, including the extended leave of Lauren Ingram and the reassignment of her responsibilities.
- He emphasizes the importance of faculty retention and the value of having multiple groups working on the same issues.
- A pilot for the Dropout Detective early detection system is being considered to monitor student engagement in Canvas course shells.
- Initiatives to reduce DFW rates in natural science courses and mathematics are being explored, including expanding the Step Ahead Math program.

- Concerns about classroom space availability are addressed, with a focus on scheduling across the entire academic day and potential classroom quotas.

Budget Update

- Vice Chancellor Goldberg provides a budget update, noting the governor's budget came out on February 10.
- The university lost \$1.1 million in formula funding due to a rolling average drop in enrollment before COVID.
- The university gained \$864,000 in formula growth funding, ranking fifth out of nine public universities.
- The new funding for the next budget year is \$1.5 million, with a projected need of \$3.2 million for a 3% pay increase.
- The university is considering tuition increases and capital projects, including a \$8 million project for the Fine Arts Center.

Parking and Transportation Update

- Vice Chancellor Goldberg discusses the current and projected parking situation on campus.
- The university has 6,010 parking spaces, with 2,793 reserved, 3,002 general, and 215 for visitors.
- The parking ratio is 0.45, compared to the state average of 0.46.
- The university will lose 200 spaces due to construction and needs to increase to 7,500 spaces by 2030.
- Plans include a new 700-space parking structure on 8th and Houston Street and converting Lot 10 to general parking.

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

- Associate Vice Chancellor Sean O'Brien introduces himself and outlines the key areas of focus for public safety: building relationships, organizational development, and accountability.
- The university has invested in AI technology for campus cameras to detect anomalies and behavior.

- Training for faculty and staff on emergency response and active violence scenarios is emphasized.
- The university has new equipment, including breaching equipment, advanced sidearms, and tactical medical equipment.
- The importance of relationships with external partners and the ability to respond quickly to potential threats is highlighted.

Faculty Concerns

- President Crawford addresses the issue of the faculty concern link on the full faculty web page and confirms a new discussion forum has been created.
- The Executive Committee will be alerted to any new faculty concerns.
- Faculty are encouraged to complete the COACHE survey.

The meeting is adjourned.