

Regular Faculty Senate Meeting
April 23, 2020
Via Zoom

- I. Meeting called to Order by Geoff Burks at 2:40 p.m.
- II. News & Announcements
 - a. Ken Chilton—At Graduate Council Meeting this week, it was stated that there are 475 students preregistered for summer school already.
 - b. Mohammad Akbar—has received an NSF Grant for \$406,000 for research.
 - c. Nolan McMurray—There is a need for clarification on the elections held in the Life and Physical Sciences, a need for clarification on the college elections held. Dr. Burks stated it is Dr. Triplett’s responsibility to ask for another election for this college if needed.
- III. Chairs Final Report—Dr. Burks
 - a. TSU is a unique place to work.
 - b. There are several challenges the Senate has: we should have someone at all Cabinet meetings; Faculty Senate should support a Bullying Policy.
 - c. Thanked Faculty Senate for working with him and Good Luck to all.
- IV. Chair Elect, Dr. Triplett, Report on Faculty Forum
 - a. Is working on January Faculty Forum responses.
 - b. Would like to have one-stop-shop for responding to faculty issues.
- V. Non-Instructional Assignments
 - a. Dr. Burks has sent correspondence to VPAA Mosely asking if an extension on these faculty grants is possible due to circumstances. He has not yet received a response. New Chair will need to follow-up on this issue.
- VI. CARES ACT money
 - a. TSU is to receive \$3-5M in CARES money.
 - b. Most of this money will do to President Glover to use for immediate relief, i.e. refund of room and food money. The administration is not yet sure when this will occur. President Glover is meeting with other university administrators to discuss this issue.
- VII. Modified Grading Policy for undergraduates
 - a. Dr. Triplett stated that a memo was sent on April 16th.
 - b. Students have until June 15th to decide whether they will use p/f or a grade.
 - c. Discussion followed regarding the pros & cons of the various methods.
- VIII. SACSCOC
 - a. This visit will now take place in June.
 - b. SACSCOC policy requires a certain number of people and committee member, etc., on campus for the visit.
 - c. This visit will take place if travel has been opened.
- IX. Curriculum Committee Updates
 - a. There were nearly 200 CARFS/PARFS processed this year.
 - b. Dr. Karen Smith stated there are 17 CARFS/PARFS ready today—

- i. one for HPSS;
 - ii. one for Nursing;
 - iii. Psychology wants a BS online, they have three courses online at this time;
 - iv. Interdisciplinary Studies is working on an Amazon minor with 6 courses.
 - c. All paperwork has been signed to process these CARFS/PARFS.
 - d. Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the CARFS/PARFS. There was no discussion.
 - e. Vote: yea: 34, nay: 0, abstain: 1, present but not voting: 0. Motion carries.
- X. Faculty Handbook
- a. Dr. Kilbourne is leaving as Chair of this committee; we will need a new Chair.
 - b. Dr. Kilbourne believes there are three (3) areas that need some work: what happens to faculty if/when TSU closes departments; more information on Financial Exigency plan; and, treatment of long-term temporary personnel.
 - c. Dr. Ray volunteered to chair this committee and take to handbook to completion before fall 2020. This is an ad hoc committee with separate rules from the Senate.
 - d. A motion was made by Dr. Kilbourne that Dr. Ray take over the Faculty Handbook. Motion seconded by Aurore Kamssu. There was no discussion.
 - e. Hand vote was taken to approve Dr. Ray as the new handbook chair: yea: 33; nay: 1; abstain: 0; present but not voting: 0. Motion passed.
- XI. ACT not required for fall 2020
- a. The ACT and SAT requirements for incoming freshman for fall 2020 has been waived to encourage more students to apply.
 - b. Dr. Triplett has contacted VPAA Mosely regarding clarification on this, and was told that President Glover is meeting with THEC and will provide further information on this.
- XII. Campus opening
- a. There is no information available yet regarding whether the campus will open for summer or fall at this time.
 - b. A memo has been distributed to department chairs regarding the reopening.
- XIII. Motion to amend the agenda
- a. Dr. Brown made a motion to move the New Business in front of the Elections. Motion was seconded by Edilberto Raynes.
 - b. Vote by hand signal online: Yea: 31; nay: 1; abstain: 1; present but not voting: 0. Motion passes.
- XIV. New Business
- a. Elections in Life and Physical Sciences are controversial.
 - b. Problems with Qualtrix caused some issues with voting in the Math area resulting in questionable results from voting.
 - c. Dr. Triplett would like the vote to go back the college to vote again on who they want to represent the college/department.
 - d. Dr. Triplett made a motion to have the vote returned to the college. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion.

- e. Discussion on the motion: Dr. Burks thinks Dr. Triplett should chair a meeting for the department. Dr. Triplett stated she has to leave it as it is if has been done by the Constitution; if the Dean does not do it, then it comes back to the Senate to handle. Dr. Jackson states that it was in the Constitution, Article III that states the matter should be handled from the floor in the first unit meeting of the fall semester. Also states that a secret ballot, although the language is confusing. Dr. Burks stated this had been amended to the first meeting in the spring of the year. Dr. Jackson stated she would need to see other documents. Dr. Triplett said we needed to let the latest documents and see exactly what the documents said. Dr. Burks said he will send the amendments that were passed, and if that is inconsistent we will need to address that in a future faculty forum. Dr. McCurry asked why these two college had not elected representatives. Dr. Burks stated they had been notified of the need for elections several times. Dr. McMurry from the Math Department stated there had been issues with the election. Dr. Fleming stated that until this gets worked out, she did not think we should move forward with the elections. Dr. Fleming made a recommendation that the elections be postponed until August. Dr. Burks voiced opposition to that motion, as he believes the new officers were needed before August, especially this summer with all that is changing. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion to postpone the elections until fall 2020. Dr. Burks stated that motion was totally against the Constitution. Dr. Triplet stated that her motion was for the college to go back to the table, to go back to the Dean. Dr. Triplett said she would like to amend the previous motion to state that the previous election in the college is voided—there is still one senator from the college so the college is still represented. Dr. Jackson stated that a senator serves until your replacement is elected. Dr. Triplett asked when the college will have their elections. She stated that if the Dean does not give her new names, then the Senators can step in and hold elections, but she wants to give the process back to the college and the Deans to handle. If the Deans does not respond by a set deadline, the Senate will step in. Dr. Martin stated that it was the department tradition has been to have elections in the fall after the Institute. Dr. Triplett said she will reach out to the Deans, and we will continue to work with the current Senator. She stated she wanted to move on with the motion. She restated that the motion was to vote returned to the college. This motion was seconded by Dr. Jackson.
- f. Vote was taken with a show of hands on the screen: Yea: 29; Nay: 2; Abstain: 0; Present but not voting: 0. Motion passed.
- g. Further discussion: Dr. Burks stated that the Constitution requires that nominations can come from the floor (as they did in this instance). Dr. Triplett stated she would put it back in the hands of the college and the Deans. Dr. Williams stated that ‘we weren’t told of the new rules.’ Dr. Burks responded that the Deans has not allowed motions from the floor. Dr. Triplett stated that the Deans and the full faculty will host elections and get back to the Senate by a specific deadline. Current Senators will stay in place until that time.

- h. Dr. Fleming stated she has another motion to bring to the floor. She made a motion that current person stay on the Senate. Dr. Burks stated that motion was not recognized, as the Constitution states that persons are elected in the spring. Dr. Jackson said the elections for new officers is for three positions, but not the Vice-President. Dr. Burks stated the positions to be elected in the spring are Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. Dr. Triplett stated that then the Senate is in compliance with the Constitution.
 - i. Discussion followed: Concluded that there was no debate that elections should be now. Dr. Brown said we will move forward without a Vice Chair, and without new people from the Department of Life and Physical Science. Further discussion ensued regarding the eligibility and elections in Life and Physical Sciences.
 - j. Dr. Brown, who is responsible for the elections, continued. First election will be for Secretary. Sumita Chakraborti-Ghosh and Rita Fleming are the names on the ballot. Dr. Fleming requested to be removed from the ballot. Dr. Fleming requested to be removed from the ballot. Dr. Baker was added to the ballot from the floor. Both candidates provided election statements.
 - k. Online voting took place: Dr. Chakraborti-Ghosh received 56% of the votes, Dr. Baker received 44%.
 - l. Next election was for Treasurer. Dr. Fleming and Dr. Karen Smith were the candidates. Dr. Fleming is serves as the current Treasurer. Both candidates made short speeches.
 - m. Online voting took place: Dr. Fleming received 89%, Dr. Smith received 11% of the online votes.
 - n. The next vote was for the Parliamentarian. Dr. Jackson and Dr. Dennis were the candidates for this office. Dr. Dennis is the current Parliamentarian. Both candidates provided speech statements.
 - o. Online voting took place: Dr. Jackson receive 40%, Dr. Dennis receive 60% of the votes.
 - p. Dr. Jackson addressed the Chair Elect, Dr. Triplett, and presented and discussed a written motion. No copy of the motion was available to the Senators. The motion was to not hold elections for the new Vice Chair Elect until fall 2020. Discussion: Dr. Burks stated the Constitution requires a quorum, and we are more likely to have a quorum in the fall. Dr. Triplett asked Dr. Jackson whether that was her thought: have the election of the VP Elect in the fall? Dr. Jackson responded: Yes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Kamssu. There was no further discussion from the floor of the motion before the body.
 - q. Vote: Yea: 60%; Nay: 35%; Abstain: 5%; Present and not voting: 0%. Motion passed. Dr. Triplett when the election would be—after college meetings in the fall? Dr. Burks stated if we were not here for a full faculty forum in the fall, the election would take place at the first Senate meeting.
 - r. Congratulations to all new officers!
- XV. Election of Committee Chairs
- a. These elections do not require that there are two persons on the ballot.

- b. Dr. Brown made a motion that these elections be postponed until the first fall meeting. Dr. Dennis seconded. Discussion: Dr. Jackson stated she would work with the timing of this with the Constitution. An accurate list of Committees needing chairs is needed.
- c. Vote: Yea: 22; Nay: 1, Abstain: 0; Present but not voting: 0. Motion passed.
- XVI. Need to elect a Senator to attend the summer and fall cabinet meetings
 - a. Dr. Brown, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Jackson were on the ballot. Drs. Brown and Martin declined. By acclamation Dr. Jackson was elected.
 - b. Dr. Triplett was the only person on the ballot to serve as a representative of the Senate for fall. The vote was unanimous to elect Dr. Triplett.
- XVII. Family Medical Leave for full-time employees
 - a. A document has been submitted to the Senate regarding Family Medical Leave. This was brought to the floor as an information item and will be voted on at the August meeting.
 - b. A motion was made to provide a copy to the Senators to read and consider for a full vote in the fall 2020. The secretary will send it to the Senators in the minutes.
- XVIII. Dr. Burks made a closing statement and passed the gavel to Dr. Triplett virtually.
 - a. Dr. Burks made a motion to dismiss this meeting.
 - b. Dr. Triplett thanked Dr. Burks for his service and the opportunities he had provided to faculty.
 - c. Dr. Burks made a motion to dismiss the meeting. Dr. Young-Seigler seconded.
 - d. Unanimous decision by Senators to dismiss at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Muhammad Akbar
Charles Brown
Geoff Burks
Sumita Chakraborti-Ghosh
Kenneth Chilton
Mark Claires
Carole de Casal
James De Koff
Samuel Dennis
Rita Fleming
Phyllis Flott
Jemal Gishe
Prabodh Illukpitiya
Jane Jackson
Patricio Jara
Aditya Khanal
Aurore Kamssu
Barbara Kilbourne
Marvin Lee
Charles McCurry
Nolan McMurra
Gerald Marquis
Elaine Martin
Evelyn Nettles
Wanda Payne
Jean-Claude Pedjeu
Achintya Ray
Edilberto Raynes
Michael Reed
Artenzia Young-Seigler
Karen Smith
Karen Sutton
Ali Taheri
Tiffany Terrel
Kimberly Triplett
Joseph Van Dyke
J. Williams