Representative Senate Meeting
January 23, 2012
Minutes

Attendance:
Representative Senators and Officers: 42
Ex Officio: 1
Faculty, Administrators and Guests: 15
Total Attendance: 58

1. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 1:52pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes:
The minutes for the November 9, 2011 Representative Faculty Senate meeting were approved as presented.

3. President’s Report:
President LaFollette reported that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has devoted considerable time over the last semester looking at budgetary issues and the Provost’s white paper during construction. He expressed that the Steering Committee will continue to look at those issues and will be attending to others as well (e.g., SFFs, collegial by-laws, and merit guidelines).

The last FSSC meeting was devoted to the white paper and the Steering Committee endorsed the following statement:

Now that we have had several weeks to consider the "White Paper" about restructuring, I am sure that many of you have had the opportunity to ponder, discuss, and react to this document. The Steering Committee, which has watched this document evolve, spent most of its last meeting discussing it. While this paper contains some material that is not controversial, the Steering Committee has serious reservations about some of the proposals. In particular, many of us view the proposed creation of a new combined school of the arts and other proposed restructurings with deep concern.

In the course of our ongoing meetings with the Provost we have repeatedly asked for a specific assessment of the cost savings, improvement of student experiences, and other expected results that would justify this new school.

We also asked for an assessment of possible unintended results, such as confusing and annoying the alumnae/i of these schools that would argue against taking this action. We have not yet received any specific information answering these questions.

We have repeatedly expressed our beliefs that there may be other, less extreme means for saving money and enhancing student experiences. We have argued, for instance, that cross-college sharing of some administrative activities without formally merging colleges might be an effective cost saving endeavor. We have suggested that provostial and presidential policies could be created that would encourage deans to work together to facilitate cross-disciplinary undergraduate experiences. At last spring’s joint retreat of the deans and the FSSC, we discussed many interesting ideas about revenue generation. We do not feel that such ideas have been given serious consideration prior to proposing the more draconian plan of merging colleges.
For these reasons, many members of the FSSC feel that we should not support the proposals involving the restructuring of Tyler, Boyer, and parts of SCT. However we also do not, at this point, feel comfortable acting as the sole voice of the faculty in matters as important as these. Accordingly, we have voted to call a special meeting of the University Faculty Senate with a single agenda item - the discussion as to whether the Faculty Senate should oppose that portion of the "White Paper" which proposes the above mentioned restructuring of Tyler, Boyer, and SCT. We have chosen to focus this particular meeting on the arts schools, but we have the same concerns, the same desire to understand in detail the intended and unintended consequences, of the other portions of the "White Paper", including the proposed restructuring of other schools and colleges, prior to giving them the support of the faculty. We are in the process of securing a suitable room, and will announce the date as quickly as we may. We anticipate it will be sometime next week.

He indicated that there will be a Special Faculty Senate meeting called to discuss aspects of the Provost’s White Paper. The date has not yet been identified, but will be posted as soon as possible.

4. Provost Englert’s Comments:
Provost Englert and CFO Tony Wagner addressed the Senate meeting on the following topics.
-Governor Corbett has announced a freeze with effect of reducing our appropriation by 5% (roughly 7 million) for this year 2011-2012. 2 years ago reduced our budget was reduced by 40 million, this year it was reduced by 36 million, and we have now been asked to freeze 7 million on top of that for this fiscal year.
- President Hart and Provost Englert met with members of the FSSC, Dean’s budget subcommittee and Faculty Budget Review Committee last week to discuss possibilities for addressing the current cuts. In the discussions they reiterated various principles for guiding these decisions including protecting the integrity of core academic mission and strategic compass, continuing tenure track faculty hiring, enhancing quality of academic programs, continuing to improve graduation and retention rates, providing direct services such as advising and student recruitment, and keeping student tuition as affordable as possible. The President and Provost want to continue these discussions at least monthly. The Provost ended his comments by reminding the Senate that Governor Corbett’s initial budget recommendations would be forthcoming on February 7th.

Tony Wagner, CFO, continued the presentation to the Senate with the following information:
-He reminded the Senate of the time frame for budget notifications last year; first budget proposed in March, this year in February.
-Last year the first proposed cut was 50% and ended up with 19% cut. Temple had a 9.9%/5.4% instate and outstate tuition increase; differential tuition was 85% between in state and out of state. He commented that that has to be brought down.
- He informed the Senate that President Hart was invited by Governor Corbett to a Higher Education task force meeting Friday, January 27th. Corbett may want to preview budget numbers he will put out on 2/7.
-CFO Wagner indicated that he thought Governor Corbett wants to reduce the appropriation for Temple another 25-30%.
- The state is sitting on a pension time bomb. State funds 100% state employees pensions and 50% of state teachers pensions. This is a looming problem.
- If things are held at current funding levels, we still have a 6% gap. Any cuts to current appropriations will be on top of that.
-The trustees may not have appetite for another tuition increase like last year’s; hence, budget reductions are likely to be in store.
-Temple is becoming much more tuition dependent; increases will chill that.

Provost Englert then added that he is not sanguine about what the state might do; too often discussion is trending toward voucher plan model. He emphasized that he thought it’s going to be a tough budget situation and we should prepare ourselves for that.

Questions:
-Does the university want to be privatized? (is this being done to us?)
(Englert) – The partnership between TU and state has been very important and he hopes this will be maintained. He mentioned that the recent NSF report showed how US is lagging in science and engineering and the US role in higher education is being challenged.
(Wagner) What’s happening in Pennsylvania and nationally for higher education is bad public policy; even just from an economic standpoint this is very shortsighted. We should join in supporting TU and remember this is an election year.
-Where’s the $7 million coming from?
(Englert) We haven’t determined that yet, but the Deans will be deeply involved in the decision making. The academic side will take a smaller hit of that proportionately; we are trying to protect academic side.
-What about commitment to tenure system?
(Englert) Tenure track searches are to be protected.
(Wagner) In 2008-2009, Temple is about 80 positions head count down, but we filled about 25 faculty positions. Enrollment continues to climb. On the administrative side of house we have cut 100 positions. However, we did hire more advisers, student support, and fund raising staff.
-There is a call from CADA on director of libraries; so where are the hiring directions, is there a hiring freeze?
(Englert) – We have a process, a hiring freeze process, where positions go through approval process to dean, provost and sometimes president’s level (same thing with travel). Some hires are frozen and others are being approved.

Provost Englert ended his remarks by pointing out some positive things that have been happening at Temple:
-He thanked those who replied to the white paper; he values those responses.
-He congratulated Jackie Tanaka for her study of birds and migration.
-And he congratulated The Learning Center for their program on peer review of teaching (Monday, Feb 2).

5. Vice-President’s Report:
Senate Vice-President Joan Shapiro gave her report. She reminded the Senate that Cheryl Mack, Senate Coordinator, is looking over the list of vacancies for committees. We will be having elections next month. There are currently vacancies on EPPC, UTPAC, and Sabbatical/study leave committees. The Senate will be reaching out to committees to ask for annual reports. The Faculty Herald will print some in whole or part.
The Presidential Search is proceeding; announcements will be made on web page dedicated to the search.

6. **Old Business:**
   None

7. **New Business:**
   None

8. **Adjournment:**
   There was a move to adjourn that was seconded and carried without exception at 2:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia S. Jones
FSSC Member