Meeting
Regular meeting of the full senate, 3:15 PM, Kendall Cram Room, Lavin-Bernick Center. 45 members were present; 19 were absent

Presiding: The chair, President Cowen.

Attendance:
Ex Officio: S. Cowen, M. Davies, M. Bernstein, T. Lorino, G Chavez, C. Adams (as proxy for C. Cipriano), J. Wiese

Deans: A. DeNisi, L. Query, J. MacLaren, R. Marksbury, C. Haber, P. Buekens,

Science and Engineering: P. Colombo, C. Walker, D. Mullin, K. Johannessen

Social Work: L. Pearlmutter

Student Senators: L. Aronson, D. Capek

Staff Senators: S. Barrera, R. Platner

Senators at Large: V. John, M. Kahn, J. Friedman (as proxy for D. Kehoe), J. Ruscher, J. Tasker, T. Tornqvist

Absent Voting Senators:

Minutes:
The minutes of the November 29th meeting were approved without amendment. The final amended minutes are posted on the Senate Wiki under both the December and February meeting agendas.

Elections:
There were no elections.
**President’s report**

President Cowen reminded the Senate that nominations for honorary degrees are currently being accepted.

The application season is officially over. Tulane received almost 38,000 applications, for what will be 1475 (200 less than last year) matriculating students. The 38,000 represents a sixteen percent reduction from the previous year. President Cowen noted that this was by design, in an effort to focus upon those who are serious about attending Tulane University. The target for accepted students is 9,500; last year this number was 11,700. Thus far this year, 8,300 students have been offered acceptance.

President Cowen noted that the credentials of those accepted is extraordinary (1364 for average SAT; 69% are in the top 10% of their class). It is heavily skewed towards women for both applications and acceptances.

Deposits are up from the previous year, which suggests that more students are serious about attending Tulane University.

A question was raised about the Tulane Empowers capital campaign, particularly regarding why this topic area was chosen. Dr. Cowen noted that this was a “mini-campaign” of 100 million. Forty million will go towards more scholarships for students, and more professorships/chairs for faculty. Thirty million will be used to fund “seed grants,” particularly regarding research and teaching idea that would also benefit the community. This would amount to 1.5 million a year for seed grants. The last 30 million will be used to continue to fund activities at the institution that have proven to be effective and successful.

A question was asked regarding the timeline for The Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL). It was noted that The CETL will be housed in Richardson Hall. A publicity campaign will begin following spring break (immediately before the SACS visit). A full implementation is planned on July 1st.

**Unfinished Business**

A second reading was heard regarding a modification to Section III of the Faculty Handbook. The motion involves Section III.3 of the Faculty Handbook, concerning Probationary Regular Appointments, to address the issue of delaying the tenure clock after childbirth. The motion entailed striking “may request,” and substituting “may request and be granted” a maximum one-year extension of the faculty member's probationary period. The original motion can be found at the Tulane University Senate, under the February Agenda. The motion passed 34-0.
Committee Reports

A Report from the COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES was presented. Full details on this report are available on the Tulane University Senate Wiki.

With FEMA funding, The Howard Tilton Library expansion will go forward. This will entail two floors on the top of the current building over the next three years.

The budget situation of the library was reviewed. Tulane still ranks in the lower tier comparative to other institutions, but the trend continues to improve. Tulane ranks better in collections versus staffing. Staffing remains the target for improvement. There are some concerns regarding state-based support for collections.

The Health Sciences library is undergoing its re-accreditation process, and the outcome is expected in the next six months.

A question was raised regarding how the library plans to address staffing shortages, especially as students would like to see longer hours of operation. It was noted that the Dean of Libraries is in discussions with the Provost regarding solutions to the library staffing issues.

New Business

I. A First Reading was heard regarding an amendment to Section III of the Faculty Handbook. The amendment involves Part III, Article I, Section 2 and 6. The entirety of the amendment can be found on the Tulane University Senate wiki under the February agenda.

Senator Friedman noted that the FTFR committee received a communication from the Provost regarding a suggested amendment to the Faculty Handbook. The FTFR was asked to respond to the proposal from the Provost.

Senator Friedman noted an opinion regarding the need to re-write the entirety of the faculty handbook.

The Office of Academic Affairs noted agreement, and noted that a recommendation to the FTFR would be forthcoming.

President Cowen noted that this was a first reading, and that a vote could not be entertained until the following Senate meeting. With this understanding, the floor was opened for discussion.

A question was raised regarding whether this change would come into conflict with any of AAUP regulations regarding time of service required for tenure.

It was noted that all of these regulations only apply to full-time, non-tenure track appointments, a designation not in the domain of this amendment.

A question was raised regarding the implementation of this change, if approved, and whether currently employed faculty would be “grandfathered in” under the previous language.
It was noted that the language, “After completion of the second term and a review by the school’s promotion and tenure committee... Professor of practice may be offered renewable appointments.” As such, it would appear that the amended version would apply to those pursuing renewable appointments after implementation of the amendment.

The issue was raised regarding the implicit connection of “reappointment to promotion,” as reflected by the work “shall.” The Provost’s office noted that a friendly amendment might be order to change “shall” to may be,” and suggested this to the FTFR Committee.

A question was raised as to whether, under these regulations, a person could be appointed as a Senior Professor of Practice? The Provost’s Office noted that the language would not preclude this.

A concern was raised regarding how this amendment applied to clinical professors of practice, and whether a dean could merely appoint people to clinical professors of practice.

Senator Kahn noted that for the school of medicine, mandating a one-year notice of dismissal might be detrimental to patient care.

A question was raised as to whether these amendments would mandate a three year term for professor of practice. The Provost’s Office noted that that is not the case; professors of practice can be appointed to one to three year terms. It was noted that where the appointment is for three or more years, faculty would get a year’s notice. The amendment addresses this suggestion.

It was noted that the material on pages three through five addresses other items regarding clinical, research, professors or practice, and lecturers. Though all of them are being treated the same, they have been separated for traditional purposes.

II. A First Reading was heard regarding an amendment to Section III of the Faculty Handbook, regarding “Faculty Titles”. (Part III, B, 1).

Senator Long noted that The School of Public Health would like to add the same clinical sentences to the research paragraph, permitting part-time research appointments.

Discussion was entertained, and a motion was subsequently made to “refer to committee” (FTFR). The motion passed, and the amendment was referred to FTFR.

Adjournment

Having no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01.

Respectively Submitted,

Jeff Wiese, MD

Secretary, Tulane University Senate
Secretary’s Note: All written reports mentioned in the minutes, together with the full text of approved Handbook revisions and other policy changes, are available on the Tulane University Senate Wiki located at: tulanesenate.pbworks.com