

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF May 1, 2008

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate for the academic year 2007-2008 was held May 1, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB2.20.04) with Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

#### I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Mark Allen, Rena Bizios, Rajendra Boppana, Aaron Cassill, Fengxin Chen, Sara DeTurk, Mansour El-Kikhia, Juanita Firestone, Margaret Flores, Mary Ellen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Amy Jasperson, Craig Johnson, William McCrary, John McCray, Patricia McGee, Jolyn Mikow, Ashwani Monga, Sandy Norman, Debajyoti Paul, Robert Renthal, Cherylon Robinson, Michael Ryan, Alan Shoho, Ted Skekel, Raydel Tullous, Judith Walmsley, Karen Williams, Wan Yao,

Absent: Diane Abdo, Marian Aitches, Thad Bartlett, Karen Bhnanot, Ron Brinks (excused), Lorenzo Brancaleon, Susan Bruenger (excused), Timothy Goles, Eugene John (excused), Melvin Laracey, Melody Lo, Ashwani Monga (excused), Dianne Rahm (excused), Nestor Sanchez, John Simonis (excused), Howard Smith, Jon Thompson, Mary Zey

Guests: Jule Nordhaus

Total members present: 29                      Total members absent: 18

#### II. Approval of minutes of April 10, 2008, as amended.

#### III. Committee Report

##### A. Nominating Committee – Amy Jasperson

The Nominating Committee distributed the ballots for the election of the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The candidates were Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia and Dr. Patricia McGee. The ballots were counted and certified. The new Chair of the Faculty Senate for the next two years will be Dr. El-Kikhia.

#### IV. Reports

##### A. Senate Chair – Dr. El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia reported on the resolution on sexual harassment which he had Diane Abdo draft. The resolution reads as follows:

“When a faculty member of this institution is accused of violating a university policy, such accusation and the proof must be based on factual evidence, and not hearsay or mere rumor. Such factual evidence must be presented as part of the faculty members’ due process within the university’s disciplinary procedural structure. Since tenure protects a faculty members’ academic freedom, the faculty members’ tenure status is not relevant to the disposition of the accusation against him or her. Tenure is designed to provide job security, not to shield or provide immunity from wrong doing. Therefore, faculty members’ tenure status should not be a factor in determining his or her continued employment at the university in an administrative or teaching position.”

The faculty discussed the resolution and recommended changes. The resolution now reads:

“When a faculty member of this institution is accused of violating a university policy, such accusation should not be based on hearsay or mere rumor. Additionally, during university disciplinary procedures addressing such matters, factual evidence of wrongdoing must be presented as part of the faculty member’s due process.

“Tenure is not relevant to the disposition of accusations of wrongdoing against a faculty member. Tenure is intended to protect a faculty member’s academic freedom; it is not intended to shield or provide immunity from wrongdoing.

“Therefore, in cases involving wrongdoing, a faculty member’s tenure status should not be a factor in determining his or her continued employment at the university in an administrative or teaching position.”

The faculty will vote on this resolution at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

He announced that a special meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on May 15, 2008, to review and discuss the HOP. The meeting will begin at noon, and box lunches will be served.

Dr. El-Kikhia thanked the faculty for their time and involvement.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman reported there had not been a meeting of the Faculty Advisory Council since the last Faculty Senate meeting. There is one issue on which he needs to receive feedback. A “Regent’s Handbook” is being prepared on faculty issues for each of the Regents. He requested that the faculty submit to him any concerns which need to be included in this handbook.

Dr. Norman reported there would be a HOP Committee meeting on Monday, May 5. One of the agenda items will be the Faculty Grievance Process. He requested that any questions or comments be forwarded to him before the meeting.

C. Graduate Consent Calendar – Dr. William McCrary

Dr. McCrary presented the revised proposal for a Graduate Certificate Program in Spanish Translation Studies. The revised proposal was accepted and will be forwarded to the Provost Office.

V. Unfinished Business –

A. HOP

The faculty discussed several sections of the HOP and the issues they have with these sections.

Dr. El-Kikhia recommended they review the sections of the HOP which have been forwarded to them and bring all questions and comments to the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

B. Conflict of Interest

Dr. Frederick reported on the conflict of interest issue. He met with Dr. Prior and Ms. Reyes of the System offices in February. He stated that at that time he requested a delay in implementing the policy beyond the March 1 deadline. They agreed to the extension. The language which the Faculty Senate suggested regarding the section dealing with “Honoraria” was problematic because System felt that it only applied to faculty. The intent of the policy, as the System laid it out, was that it applied to administration. The suggestion made by the OGC was to put this wording in the comments/summary section to make it clear that this new policy did not impact the faculty member’s right to accept an honorarium for giving a talk based on their academic expertise. System sent out an e-mail reporting this change before he had had an opportunity to get back to the Faculty Senate. He apologized and hopes that things will be better coordinated in the future. The current UTSA policy is the language that has been approved by the OGC.

VI. New Business – There was no new business

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick reported that he has finished his college visits and stated that next year he plans to visit each department.

He reported on Team 2016. The committee is working toward an implementation plan. The UT System Chancellor’s office recently visited the campus. They were pleased with UTSA’s goals and objectives. The System would like to see an implementation plan. The Team 2016 committee is working on identifying strategies and tactics that go with the goals and objectives. The committee will begin drafting this document in June. It should be finalized by September.

Dr. Frederick reported on the External Program review process. The System wants UTSA to carry out regular reviews of its programs. Currently, the University is

specifically targeting graduate programs. He would like to see UTSA take the external review process and make it a review of the departments and the issues they face, to get good advice, and move the departments forward, both at the undergraduate and graduate level. He will be working with the faculty to modify the external review process, and have a prospectus by the end of the fall semester.

Dr. Frederick reported the Faculty Honor's Convocation will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Faculty will be recognized and will receive awards for their contributions to teaching, research, and service.

He encouraged the faculty to participate in commencement and help UTSA recognize the achievements of the students.

#### VII. Open Forum

Amy Jasperson announced that the Sys Fac is making a presentation to the Board of Regents. They are collecting information from all of the campuses about student success stories. She requested that these stories be forwarded to her by May 23, 2008.

She also announced that the election for the Secretary of the General Faculty was held. There was only one candidate, Dr. Sandy Norman. Dr. Norman will continue to be the Secretary of the General Faculty.

#### IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted.