

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF April 16, 2009

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate for the academic year 2008-2009 was held April 16, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB 2.06.04) with Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Yoris Au, Steve Bach, Ron Binks, Rena Bizios, Fengxin Chen, Joel Christensen, Kim Cuero (Audrey Dentith), Sara DeTurk, Beth Durodoye, Mansour El-Kikhia, John Frederick, Mary Ellen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Judith Haschenburger, Amy Jaspersen, Eugene John, Craig Jordan, John McCray, William McCrary, Jolyn Mikow, Sandy Norman, Ben Olguin, Robert Renthall, Cherylon Robinson, Michael Ryan, Hatim Sharif, Alan Shoho, John Simonis, Howard Smith, Raydel Tullous, John Wald, Carola Wenk, Karen Williams

Absent: Marian Aitches (excused), Susan Bruenger (excused), Aaron Cassill (excused), William Cooke (excused), Juanita Firestone (excused), Robert Hard (excused), Victor Heller (excused), Zlatko Koinov (excused), Sharon Nichols (excused), Darryl Ohlenbusch, Branco Ponomariov (excused), Hazem Rashed-Ali (excused), Nestor Sanchez, (excused), Ted Skekel

Guests: Ashley Diaz, Pamela Bacon, Norma Guerra, Jeremy Sullivan, Drew Stephen, Curtis Hart

Total members present: 34 Total members absent: 14

II. Approval of the March 19, 2009 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia reported that the Board of Regents approved the firing of 123 faculty members at UTMB-Galveston. A settlement was reached, and those faculty affected will each receive \$25,000. However, he noted that advertisements have been posted for the same positions.

He also reported that David Prior, Vice Chancellor, indicated the Governor has instructed that all information regarding higher education be posted on the WEB. Dr. El-Kikhia expressed concern about privacy issues related to this requirement, but he felt that any changes would be postponed until after the election.

System Faculty will meet only three times a year because of budget cuts.

The Regents supported adding a faculty member to the Board of Regents. This change is expected to occur next year.

B. University Assembly Report- Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Sandy Norman briefly reported that the University Assembly will meet on April 28th. He also discussed HB 1893, which will allow concealed handguns on college campuses. He expects the bill to pass the House. However, this means there will be pressure on the administration to deal with the bill and its consequences.

Dr. Amy Jasperson, senator from the Department of Political Science, provided additional information concerning the gun bill. Dr. Jasperson stated that the bill's passage may necessitate training and equipment to promote safety.

The Student Government Association has indicated that students have strong opinions on both sides of the issue. However, the majority of the faculty appeared to be opposed to allowing guns on campus.

C. Curriculum Committee. Dr. Robert Renthal presented on behalf of Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali.

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the following proposals:

- MUS 2473, Music and Film
- Health and Kinesiology- Specialization in athletic medicine

Dr. Renthal briefly explained each proposal and presented feedback from the committee. The Faculty Senate members discussed the proposed course and specialization.

The proposal for MUS 2473 was approved by the Faculty Senate.

Questions were directed to the representative from Health and Kinesiology, Dr. Curtis Hart. Dr. Curtis addressed the Senators' questions and clarified the terms and the concept of "medicine" used in the specialization. The specialization in athletic medicine was approved; however, a modification will be made on the official memo.

D. Academic Policy- Dr. Michael Ryan

Dr. Mike Ryan discussed issues pertaining to students' registration holds. The report of the Academic Policy and Requirements Committee is attached.

E. Graduate consent calendar- Dr. William McCrary

The MA in School Psychology proposal was approved by the Faculty Senate.

Dr. William McCrary reported on the new slate of officers for the Graduate Council. Nominees are as follows:

- 1) Norma Cantu, Chair
- 2) Jim Dykes, Secretary
- 3) Lance Lambert, Parliamentarian

An electronic vote by the Faculty Senators will be conducted and Dr. McCrary will be notified of the results.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. HOP- Cherylon Robinson

Dr. Cherylon Robinson reported on HOP policy 5.9- Class attendance policy, specifically Section b.2, Student Absences on Religious Holy Days.

The Senate recommended deleting the section stating that absence notification “must be delivered by certified mail” and retaining the provision that absence notification must be made in writing and must take place before the absence.

V. New Business

A. Ms. Pamela Bacon, Associate Vice President for Administration

Dr. El-Kikhia introduced and welcomed Pamela Bacon who presented information on the following areas of parking and traffic:

- 1) Policies on parking and traffic holds (transcripts, registration, parking permits)
- 2) Rationale behind the \$100.00 dollar hold minimum.

The senators discussed parking and traffic policies, including those governing registration holds and the payment process. Senators suggested that payments be centralized through the registrar’s office or through ASAP. Ms. Bacon concurred and agreed to review the registration hold policy.

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick briefly summarized and reported on the proposal for 3-year reviews of college deans.

VII. Open Forum

There was no discussion.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted at 5:30 pm.