

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF October 8, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2009-2010 academic year was held October 8, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.03.12) with Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

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

Present: Diane Abdo, Sos Agaian, Yoris Au, Steve Bach, Manuel Berriozabal, Mark Brill, Norma Cantu (James Dykes), Joel Christensen, William Cooke, Kim Cuero, Sara DeTurk, Beth Durodoye, Carol Dyas, Mansour El-Kikhia, John Frederick, Mary Ellen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Robert Hard, Judith Haschenburger, Victor Heller, Amy Jaspersen, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Zlatko Koinov, Margarita Machado-Casas, John McCray, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, John Merrifield, Jolyn Mikow, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Sandy Norman, Ben Olguin, Branco Ponomariov, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Robert Rico, Cherylon Robinson, Ted Skekel, Johnelle Sparks, Virginia Trummer, Raydel Tullous, Carola Wenk, Bennie Wilson

Absent: Ron Binks (excused), Joel Christensen (excused), Randy Manteufel (excused), Sharon Nichols (excused), Darryl Ohlenbusch, Anand Ramasubmaranian (excused), Hatim Sharif

Guests: Ashley Diaz, Aaron Cassill, Larry Williams, Ken Pierce, Johanna Hunziker

Total members present: 40                      Total members absent: 7

#### II. Approval of the September 10, 2009 minutes

The minutes were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia briefly reported on the SYSFAC meeting. He is concerned about faculty not being included in annual cost of living increases provided to state employees. He noted that he has asked if university faculty are considered state employees.

Dr. El-Kikhia said that Dan Branch, Chair of Higher Education Committee in the House, is supportive of UTSA. Dr. El-Kikhia reminded senators to vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and cited the importance of the propositions on the ballot.

Dr. El-Kikhia also noted that the System wants to increase the number of students attending college. Such an increase would necessitate offering more classes.

B. University Assembly Report- Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman gave a brief report on the University Assembly. He announced that UTSA is doing well in the areas of research, teaching, service and enrollment. He said that President Romo would be giving a state of the university address, and Dr. Norman encouraged senators to attend. Head Football Coach Larry Coker and Athletic Director Lynn Hickey were guest speakers at the University Assembly's first meeting of the year [September 23<sup>rd</sup>]. Also, a representative of Student Government Association (SGA) made a presentation on a Students' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Dr. Norman also mentioned the possibility of UTSA becoming a smoke-free campus.

C. Curriculum Committee- Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the following proposals:

- Minor-Adaptive Decision Models for Business [EXHIBIT A]
- Minor-Technology Management [EXHIBIT B]
- Minor-Facility Management [EXHIBIT C]

Dr. Rashed-Ali briefly explained each proposal and presented feedback from the committee. After the senators discussed the proposed minors, they unanimously approved the proposals.

D. Academic Policy- Dr. Bennie Wilson

The Academic Policy Committee reviewed the following proposals:

- Proposal from the Associate Deans' Council to Change the Automatic "W" Date for Undergraduates [EXHIBIT D]

Dr. Bennie Wilson discussed issues regarding the proposal to change the automatic "W" date for undergraduates. Dr. Larry Williams, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, explained the proposal in further detail. Currently, undergraduates (except for freshmen) who have missed the deadline for withdrawing from a single course have only two options for withdrawing: withdraw from all courses or receive a final grade of "F" in the course(s) from which they would like to withdraw. After the senators discussed the proposal to change the automatic "W" date for sophomores, juniors, and seniors, all but one senator voted in favor of the proposed policy.

E. HOP Committee- Cherylon Robinson

Dr. Robinson presented the proposed changes to the PPE policy. Senators discussed issues related to the changes.

IV. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

V. New Business- Kenneth Pierce, Vice Provost for Information Technology and CIO

Ken Pierce explained that all UTSA laptops and personal laptops with sensitive material must be encrypted in the near future.

Questions arose about websites, and Mr. Pierce indicated that the Communications office is currently in charge of the websites.

Senators voiced concerns about available technology and the communication between faculty and students in case of an emergency closure of the campus.

Academic Technology is seeking new methods and ways to solve some of the major issues in the future.

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick reported that the Grievance Policy is in the Office of General Counsel and should be returned to UTSA shortly.

A Diversity Advisory Board has been formed [15 members], and Dr. Frederick is planning to schedule the first meeting soon.

He indicated that a task force had been formed to study a possible merger between UTSA and UTHSC. The Task Force is expected to visit UTSA. Neither the Chancellor of the UT System nor President Romo appears to be in favor of the merger; however, some elected officials want to explore the possibility.

Dr. Frederick discussed the CAP program. CAP students, who are eligible for general admission to UT Austin, attend UTSA (or another designated UT university) while they are attempting to meet transfer requirements. UTSA wants to reduce its enrollment of CAP students who are in the bottom 50% of the group. Approximately 25-30% of entering freshmen are CAP students.

Dr. Frederick announced that through the incentive funding program UTSA was awarded \$1.8 million, and approximately \$1 million can be used toward the implementation plan for SACS accreditation. The remaining \$800,000 may be used to supplement summer classes.

He also discussed that Deans were being encouraged to ensure that new hires completed their dissertation in a timely manner.

VII. Open Forum

Some senators expressed concern about Promotion and Tenure files being available electronically.

The Provost announced that he is hoping to have the Deans' evaluations online by the end of the month. Information will include a summary of activities and survey questions.

IX. Adjournment

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