

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of December 9, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2010-2011 academic year was held December 9, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB 2.06.04) with Dr. Carola Wenk, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Sos Agaian, Robert Ambrosino, Yoris Au, Manuel Berriozabal, Mark Brill, Garry Cole, William Cooke, Karen Daas, Beth Durodoeye, Carol Dyas, Mansour EL-Kikhia, MaryEllen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Lars Hansen, Robert Hard, Judith Haschenburger, Victor Heller, Amy Jasperson, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Kimberly Kline, Zlatko Koinov, Donald Kurtz, Melvin Laracey, Richard Lewis, Randy Manteufel, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Wayne Wright (for Josephine Mendez-Negrete), John Merrifield, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Annette Portillo, Branco Ponomariov, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Dan Sass, Misty Sailors, Macneil Shonle (for Daniel Jimenez), Johnelle Sparks, Patricia Thompson, Raydel Tullous, Carola Wenk, Bennie Wilson, Alistair Welchman

Absent: Alycia Maurer, John McCray (Excused), Jolyn Mikow (Excused), J. Mitchell Miller, Darryl Ohlenbusch, Anand Ramasubmaranian, Libby Rowe, Hatim Sharif, Ted Skekel,

Guests: John Frederick, Kelly Garza, Patti Glenn, Rebecca Luther, Nandini Kannan, Larry Williams, Amir Karimi, Lisa Firmin, Ann Eisenberg, Sandy Norman, Barbara Smith, Nancy Martin, Barbara Centeno, Kerry Kennedy, Janet Parker

Total members present: 42

Total members absent: 10

II. Approval of the November 18, 2010 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Elections

- Corey Sparks was voted onto the Budget Committee as the COPP representative.
- Mary McNaughton-Cassill was voted onto the Executive Committee as the COLFA representative.

IV. Reports

A. Chair of the Faculty Senate- Dr. Carola Wenk

Dr. Wenk said that she would like to stick more closely to Robert's Rules of Order and asked that issues be addressed to the senate committee chairs prior to the senate meeting. She gave examples of motions that would be appropriate to use during the senate meetings. Dr. Wenk shared a sample email that students received notifying them that his/her online teaching evaluation was available to complete. She also shared the percentage of students that responded to the online teaching evaluations by college this semester. The total response rate was 38% university wide. Dr. Wenk went over issues about online teaching evaluations gathered by the ad-hoc committee and listed on the OIT website. She stated questions or concerns about teaching evaluations should be directed to Tom Coyle who will work with the administration to address the issues. Dr. Wenk said the updated plus/minus grading policy has been circulated and would go into effect in Fall 2011. She said the new policy will be included in the 2011-2012 UTSA Information Bulletin. Dr. Wenk mentioned that there would be changes to the Undergraduate Catalog regarding this new policy, and the Graduate Catalog will have an amendment on their website. Dr. Wenk mentioned an email from a high school teacher in McAllen, TX regarding college readiness standards. She also mentioned that the Resource Strategy Team is investigating budget cut options and will make recommendations for different plans to implement budget cuts. Dr. Wenk mentioned the F&A Expenditure Task Force consisting of twelve members, nine administrators and three faculty without any administrative appointments, tasked with developing guidelines on how to implement the new F&A distribution model. Dr. Wenk and Dr. Hard were not able to attend the last meeting and no representative was allowed to attend on their behalf. She said she is not yet aware of the outcome of that meeting. She said a new revision of the PPE Policy was sent to the HOP and Academic Freedom and Tenure committees, and it will be circulated to the entire senate soon. Dr. Wenk mentioned that the criminal background checks are ongoing. She said the senate executive committee proposed a stopgap measure for the criminal background check policy intended to safeguard faculty receiving a retroactive criminal background check. The question was called and the stopgap measure was voted in favor of unanimously.

The wording of the stopgap measure is as follows: "If a faculty member receives a problematic criminal background check result, he or she must be provided with the written details of the report. The faculty member will have the right to respond to the report as well as the right to a peer review by a committee of tenured faculty appointed by the President from a list identified by the Faculty Senate."

B. Secretary of General Faculty- Dr. Amy Jasperson

Dr. Jasperson said that the Ad-hoc Committee on the Criminal Background Check policy is working on revising the HOP 4.30 Criminal Background Checks and will update the senate when more information is available. The Committee is using the UT-Dallas draft campus policy as a model. She mentioned that the one-time merit payment was distributed and everyone should have received two payroll statements in December. Dr. Jasperson also mentioned that the UTSA football program accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference. She said that the University Assembly heard a report from Human Resources about the HRMS issue with lapse of benefits and how they are planning to avoid future issues. Also, HR presented a report on the procedure that is being followed for the retroactive CBCs for all UTSA employees. She mentioned the Dream Act;

students did not get a meeting with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson. Dr. Jasperson said there has not been a UT system level meeting since early in the semester, but she will bring more information on a range of issues to the January meeting.

- C. Evaluations, Merit, Rewards and Workload Committee- Dr. Amy Jasperson
Dr. Jasperson presented the resolution on On-line Teaching Evaluations. She accepted the amendment to replace “their” with “his/her” in the resolution. The question was called, seconded and passed unanimously.

The passed resolution reads: "Although the results of the recently adopted online course survey instrument may provide individual faculty with important formative student feedback, the instrument is currently in a testing phase. Until the validity of its results is confirmed, any attempt to use data resulting from it for summative evaluation must be done with prudence. Therefore, the data generated from the test phase instrument cannot be valued at a level less than "good" (2.5) for purposes of annual merit evaluation. Evaluation of a faculty member's overall annual teaching effectiveness should in all other ways comply with his/her department's established evaluation guidelines."

She mentioned that the committee is also looking at workload policies across campus.

- D. Committee on Handbook of Operating Procedures- Dr. Melvin Laracey
Dr. Laracey said HOP 5.03 Student Publications was revised dramatically in response to questions that were raised by the senate. He said the committee had no objections to the changes made and the senate consented to HOP 5.03.
- E. University Curriculum Committee – Dr. Raydel Tullous
Dr. Tullous passed out a few handouts pertaining to the B.A. in Multidisciplinary Studies. Dr. Tullous stated that the degree has evolved with the help of the suggestions provided previously. She said the Curriculum Committee and the Office of Undergraduate Studies has worked together to make a quality program. She said that part of the improvements were the addition of a Program Coordinator and an Academic Advisor. She listed some of the program’s strengths as integrated learning, flexibility and the possibility to add internships to the program. She listed the challenges as the need to explain the choice of discipline and the integration of disciplines. Although she has no official data, Dr. Tullous said she contacted other universities with similar degrees and received favorable feedback. The motion to approve the B.A. in Multidisciplinary studies was called and seconded. The results were 28 in favor, 8 opposed and 1 abstention, the motion passed. Dr. Tullous spoke about courses being considered for the Core Curriculum. She said ART 1103, Introduction to Visual Arts, was sent back to the department for more information. The revisions were reviewed and approved by the committee. A motion to approve the addition of ART 1103 was called, seconded and voted in favor of unanimously. Dr. Tullous said that the recommendation for SOC 2023, Drugs and Society, will be postponed until the department chairs from the Sociology and Biology departments have met in January. Dr. Tullous stated that the recommendation to add PHI 2043, Introductory Logic, to the Core Curriculum did not pass the committee. She said the committee did not feel it met the criteria for a math requirement. She said they

believed it did not provide any real world quantitative and data management skills. She also stated that the QEP is focusing on courses that gather and interpret data in the Core Curriculum. A motion to accept PHI 2043 was called, and seconded; however, during the discussion a motion to postpone the decision for this course was called, seconded and voted on: 29 yes and 5 no, the motion to postpone was passed. Dr. Tullous said the issue of changing Level I and Level II Science into one course was sent to the College of Science for more input and she will report on this again when she has more information.

- F. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee – Dr. Mary McNaughton-Cassill
Dr. McNaughton-Cassill said the committee reviewed an Academic Freedom case this fall. She said this was the first time anyone has invoked HOP 2.34 III.C. The case involved a dispute with a faculty member and the IRB, which is complicated because the IRB process is governed by legal and ethical guidelines, but at the same time decisions made by the IRB can regulate people’s research programs. The committee sent a recommendation to the faculty member’s dean citing that they believed the faculty member’s freedom had technically been limited by the decision of the IRB; however, they recognized that IRB issues have to be evaluated differently. The committee will not go further than that. Dr. McNaughton-Cassill said that the committee recommends the senate form a committee to address IRB issues. The committee also recommends a possible change to the HOP policy wording in regards to the length of time allowed to review and submit a recommendation. Dr. McNaughton-Cassill said the committee has formed three subcommittees that will evaluate the revised PPE guidelines, the revised PIP guidelines, and RowdySpace issues that arose with the tenure and promotion process. A motion to form a senate committee to deal with IRB process issues was called, seconded, and passed unanimously.

V. New Business

- A. Kerry Kennedy, Vice President for Business Affairs
Janet Parker, Associate Vice President for Financial Affairs and
Barbara Centeno, Associate Vice President of Human Resources

Mr. Kennedy said the state deficit is approaching \$25 billion. He said UTSA was asked to cut 5% of its budget and just recently asked to cut another 2.5%. He said that he will learn about any additional budget cuts between January and August of next year. He said the President appointed a Resource Strategy Team that has been meeting weekly to address budget reductions. He listed the three guiding principles Dr. Romo asked the team to consider during this process: 1) Place students’ success first, protect the teaching and research mission, and allow students the ability to complete a degree, 2) Safeguard faculty and staff positions to the extent possible, and 3) Reinforce a mindset of enhanced efficiency. Ms. Parker said that early predictions suggest that special items may not be funded in the state budget. She said a net potential reduction of 14.7% is likely. It was stated that likely the rainy day fund will not be used to offset state budget shortfalls and that the budget cuts will seem more drastic at the beginning of the legislative session but will perhaps improve as the session continues. Ms. Parker said that UTSA has already budgeted an additional 8.8% cut from additional

revenue which would otherwise be reinvested in the university, and we are therefore prepared to handle a budget cut of 15%. Ms. Centeno presented various budget cut options involving human resources. It was stated that potential plans about budget cuts will be sent to the UT System and the system will decide the direction to take and when to make the information available to the public.

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick announced that Rogelio Saenz is the new dean for the College of Public Policy, and UTSA received reaccreditation from SACS. He reminded the faculty senate that commencement was taking place in the upcoming week and encouraged them to attend. The Provost said that low producing programs would need to either be discontinued, be absorbed by another program or receive an exemption. He said the CLS (Clinical Laboratory Science) program would likely receive an exemption because it has a partnership with the UT Health Science Center. The Philosophy Department's Classical Studies program will be combined with the Humanities program in order to remain operational. He said the university was going to ask for an exemption for the graduate program in Art History as it is only four years old. He said the M.S. in Geology was also flagged as a low producing program; however, UTSA and UT Arlington are creating a joint program between the two schools in order to keep the programs going at both universities. He said both the B.A. in French and the B.A. in German will be folded in to the recent B.A. in Modern Languages.

VII. Open Forum

There was no discussion.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:47 PM.