

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of March 11, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2009-2010 academic year was held March 11, 2010, 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, Manuel Berriozabal, Norma Cantu, Kim Cuero, Sara DeTurk, Beth Durodoye, Carol Dyas, Mansour El-Kikhia, John Frederick, Mary Ellen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Lars Hansen, Robert Hard, Judith Haschenburger, Amy Jaspersen, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Randy Manteufel, John McCray, Jolyn Mikow, J. Mitchell Miller, Sharon Nichols, Sandy Norman, Ben Olguin, Branco Ponomariov, Anand Ramasubmaranian, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Robert Rico, Cherylon Robinson, Hatim Sharif, Ted Skekel, Raydel Tullous, Alistair Welchman, Carola Wenk, Bennie Wilson

Absent: Steve Bach (excused), Ron Binks (excused), Mark Brill (excused), William Cooke (excused), Victor Heller (excused), Zlatko Koinov (excused), Margarita Machado-Casas, John Merrifield (excused), Mary McNaughton-Cassill (excused), Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho (excused), Darryl Ohlenbusch, Johnelle Sparks (excused)

Guests: Ashley Diaz, Akshay Thusu, Ann Jimenez

Total members present: 37 Total members absent: 10

II. Approval of the February 11, 2010 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair of the Faculty Senate- Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia announced that nominations for Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty will be concluded before the next Faculty Senate meeting; elections will be conducted in April. All nominations should be sent to Dr. Johnelle Sparks, Chair of the Nominating, Elections and Procedures Committee, or to Ashley Diaz.

Dr. El-Kikhia announced that he will be unable to attend the April Faculty Senate meeting. He then summarized his accomplishments as Chair of the Faculty Senate and said that serving on the Senate for the past 10 years had been a pleasure. The new Chair will serve a two-year term.

Dr. El-Kikhia announced that the SACS COC On-Site Committee will visit UTSA's campuses March 23-25. He emphasized the importance of the SACS visit and asked Senators to distribute the QEP information to their entire faculty.

B. Secretary of General Faculty -- Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman briefly reported on the February 16 University Assembly meeting. Representatives from the Student Government Association attended the meeting and spoke about parking and transportation issues. Staff Council gave a brief report.

C. Curriculum Committee- Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali

- BS in Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Rashed-Ali explained the proposal from the Department of Biomedical Engineering. The committee reviewed the proposal and unanimously approved it with a few concerns.

Dr. Ong, who attended the Faculty Senate meeting to represent the Department of Biomedical Engineering, fielded questions from Senators about the proposed degree plan. Some senators expressed concerns about the funding for this program.

A motion was made and passed to table this proposal until the next meeting.

E. HOP Committee- Dr. Cherylon Robinson

Dr. Cherylon Robinson gave an unofficial report on the PIP and FIP policies. During the discussion, Senators expressed concern about the current policy, which allows a faculty member to be placed on a PIP at any time. A motion was made and passed to charge the HOP Committee with examining PIP guidelines for PPE only. Another motion was made and passed to charge the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee with working on the FIP policy and on the Provost's recommendation for the PIP. The Provost will meet with this committee.

Dr. Frederick agreed that the PIP policy on his website is problematic. He agreed to withdraw the policy and that he would work with the senate to develop a new policy. Dr. Frederick told the Senate that the university should be concerned about faculty performance more than once every six years because issues in performance can propagate for a long time before faculty are assisted. The purpose of a PIP is to improve faculty performance, he explained.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. UTSA Honor Code- Akshay Thusu and Anne Jimenez

Akshay Thusu presented the final draft of the Academic Honor Code.

The senators unanimously approved the draft.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

The Provost reported that he has been looking at the redistribution of F&A, and he said he has received good feedback from the faculty.

Questions arose concerning the PIP and the Provost's draft guidelines on merit. Dr. Frederick indicated that when he used the term "below average" in the merit guidelines, he was thinking "unsatisfactory." Thus, when a faculty member had repetitive unsatisfactory performances, he felt the chairs should be proactive and assist in faculty development. Dr. Frederick stated that two consecutive satisfactory performance ratings did not become an unsatisfactory rating.

The Task Force charged with reviewing the summer terms has recommended no change. He said that he will be reviewing the 3-week May semester to ensure that the courses have academic integrity. For example, the courses offered during this term should not have heavy reading and writing components.

VII. Open Forum

Dr. Carola Wenk addressed an issue regarding HOP 4.09 Student Employee policy. She is concerned with TAs and RAs having to be enrolled in a specified number of hours in order to be compensated under certain categories. This policy may be reviewed at <http://utsa.edu/hop/chapter4/4-9.html>. A motion was made and passed to send this issue to the Academic Policy and Requirements Committee.

Dr. Bennie Wilson asked Senators to send him any faculty responses concerning the plus/minus grading system. Since the committee has received many positive responses to the proposal, in order to ensure a thorough examination of the proposal, he is particularly interested in the rationale for any negative responses that the faculty might have regarding the proposal.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:45 pm.