

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of October 13, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2011-2012 academic year was held October 13, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in the Travis Room (UC 2.202) with Dr. Carola Wenk, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Robert Ambrosino, Manuel Berriozabal, Rajesh Bhargave, Kimberly Bilica, Frank Chen, Glenn Dietrich, Matthew Dunne, Beth Durodoye, Carol Dyas, Donovan Fogt, Robert Hard, Anne Hardgrove, Judith Haschenburger, Mary Kay Houston-Vega, Amy Jasperson, Drew Johnson, Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Donald Kurtz, Juliet Langman, Richard Lewis, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Alycia Maurer, John McCray, Emilio Mendoza, John Merrifield, Joycelyn Moody, Byongook Moon, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Libby Rowe, Juana Salazar, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Johnelle Sparks, Patricia L. Thompson, Raydel Tullous, Alistair Welchman, Carola Wenk, Bennie Wilson, Walter Wilson

Absent: Sos Agaian (excused), Gary Cole (excused), Renee Cowan, Mansour El-Kikhia, Daniel Jimenez (excused), Marcelo Marucho (excused), Branco Ponomariov (excused), Anand Ramasubramanian (excused), Misty Sailors (excused), Ted Skekel

Guests: John Frederick, Sarah Leach, Nancy Martin

Total members present: 41

Total members absent: 10

II. Approval of the September 8, 2011 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

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

Dr. Wenk announced that the new committee chairs for the 2011-2012 year have been elected. She said that the full list can be found on the senate's webpage.

Dr. Wenk thanked everyone who conducted the elections and thanked the newly elected chairs for agreeing to serve. She pointed out that the 3 proposals (1: Proposal for Revisions to the BS in Health; 2: Proposal for Revisions to the BS in Kinesiology; and 3: Proposed Minor in Professional Writing) from the last

Faculty Senate meeting were all approved by a majority electronic vote. Dr. Wenk discussed the new Faculty Appreciations Committee, which was formed to brainstorm ways to demonstrate appreciation for faculty members. She shared a copy of the report that the committee sent to the Provost containing a list of suggestions for recognizing and celebrating faculty, which can be found on RowdySpace. She told anyone who had additional ideas to contact the committee chair, Dr. Alan Shoho. Dr. Wenk pointed out that teaching evaluation dates are November 14-21 for the fall semester and April 16-23 for the spring semester. She said there has been a petition from UTSA's student government to increase the number of food options on the downtown campus, provide more name brand food options, and increase the hours of operation for these locations. A copy of the petition can be found on RowdySpace. Dr. Wenk said that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has endorsed SGA's resolution to increase the selection of food on the downtown campus.

For more information, the Chair's Report can be accessed at:

http://www.utsa.edu/Senate/fsminutes/2011-2012/10-13-2011/FS_chairReport_10-13-11.pdf

B. Secretary of the General Faculty - Dr. Amy Jasperson

Dr. Jasperson thanked the faculty for their review of Regent's Rule 31102 (faculty post-tenure review). She said that feedback has been relayed to the UT System Faculty Advisory Council which adopted a resolution outlining a series of concerns forwarded to the UT system. Both the UT System version of suggested changes and the System Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) resolution are available on RowdySpace. In addition, there is an alternate Regent's Rule revision that came from some faculty to address concerns with the original revision. Dr. Jasperson said that all feedback should be sent to herself or Dr. Wenk by Monday at noon. Other revisions to Regent's Rules 90101, 90102, and 90103 address intellectual property. Dr. Jasperson said that these are proposed as changes to be brought up at the November UT Regents meeting and urged the Faculty Senate to provide their comments. She announced that David Prior, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs resigned on September 28th, but is staying on until a replacement is found for his position. At the last System Faculty meeting, Dr. Jasperson said that Regent Cranberg spoke about www.myedu.com, the new online student planning resource that the UT system will soon be utilizing. She said that a task force is being created to continue development of the student resources available through the site. Those who are interested in providing input to the task force should send feedback to Ken Pierce, who is representing the UTSA campus. Dr. Jasperson said that the faculty voluntary separation packages have been announced and eligible members should have been notified. Others who feel they may be eligible but did not receive a package should contact Human Resources. Dr. Jasperson said that Rob Robinson gave a report at the last University Assembly meeting. He discussed the upcoming move away from Blackboard CE8 and said that OIT has been looking at other learning management systems to be implemented starting in 2013. Another meeting to

discuss this topic will be held next Tuesday. Dr. Jasperson also reminded the Senate that the new faculty technology lab will be opening in the spring of 2012 and will be located on the 1st floor of the MS building on the main campus.

C. Provost's Report – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick gave an update on the Freshman Focus program and said that it's an important step in boosting the success rate of students, and that the program helps students to transition from high school to college. Dr. Frederick said that although he gives credit to and admires the excellence of other Tier One universities, his goal is to develop a Tier One university that is appropriate for San Antonio and one that is distinctive to our students. He said that in recent years, the freshman to sophomore retention rate has been hovering around 65%, but was up to 69% last year. Ideally this rate should be around 85% for the Tier One status UTSA is aiming for. The Freshman Focus program is a step in the right direction towards achieving this goal and in helping the students we currently have to succeed. Dr. Frederick said that Voluntary Separation Incentive Packages have been announced and were sent out to those faculty members that were determined to be eligible. He urged faculty to contact Human Resources if they believe they may be eligible and to pass this information on to other colleagues.

D. Committee on Handbook of Operating Procedures – Dr. Donovan Fogt

The HOP committee reviewed four proposals being revised.

1. 2.22 - Periodic Performance Evaluation (PPE) of Tenured Faculty

Dr. Fogt pointed out the change which was proposed – “faculty development leave will not extend the 6 yr timeline for PPE”. The committee's recommendation is to accept the change. A comment was made that the option of other types of leaves should be included in the policy as not counting as part of the 6 year timeline for PPE. For example, there may be a leave where the faculty member is supported by partial UTSA salary or benefits, but the nature of the leave in the past would not have counted as part of the 6 year PPE review. In addition, another section of the policy that was examined explained that nothing in the policy would be interpreted or implied to infringe on the tenure system. A comment was made that the wording seems to be of a protective nature (not contentious) and similar wording can also be found in the Regent's Rules. The decision was made not to remove this wording because it is meant to be protective. Another comment was made regarding the annual workload plan. It is stated that the plan should reflect PPE criteria, but further clarification is needed to determine if this applies to everyone, or only those faculty members that utilize a workload plan. The Faculty Senate agreed to send any comments or suggested wording to Dr. Fogt.

2. 2.25 – Developmental Leave Program

The committee had no issues with this policy.

3. 2.33 – Faculty Proficiency in English
The committee is asking for various clarifications on procedures determining the development plan, clarifying what is meant by “student complaints” and how many count as a “significant number”, and consequences if the development plan is not completed by the faculty member. It was also noted that the current definition of faculty member includes student teaching assistants, and it was recommended that due to the hardship of imposing the cost of possible development plans, student teaching assistants should be exempt from such a procedure.

4. 9.23 – Procedures Governing Private Gift Solicitation, Acceptance, and Management

The committee had no issues with this policy.

E. Research Advisory Committee – Dr. John Merrifield

The Research Advisory committee was asked to review HOP 10.11 – Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, Testing or Public Exhibitions. The committee feels that more input is needed from people that are actively involved in performing testing on animals. The committee is still reviewing this policy and plans to obtain input from the biology, anthropology, and health and kinesiology departments.

F. Academic Policy and Requirements Committee – Bennie Wilson

Dr. Wilson said that the Academic Policy and Requirements committee reviewed the Provost’s policies regarding what should be included in course syllabi. The committee agreed that the items to be included in the syllabi are items that pertain to all students and are matters that they should be aware of, specifically the Roadrunner Creed and the Academic Honor Code. Some faculty members have expressed concern about these items being printed verbatim in the syllabi. Upon reviewing the policy, Dr. Wilson’s committee found that the Provost’s policy encourages a link to these items on syllabi, and does not mandate that they must be printed in syllabi verbatim. Dr. Wilson said that the committee’s conclusion was to “include reference to the code and the creed in the syllabi in a form at the discretion of individual faculty members”. He said that faculty members can include the information in any way, as a link or printed verbatim, as long as it is referenced in some form. In addition, the committee recommends that the creed and code should be published in the student information bulletin, if not already listed there.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

G. Freshman Focus – Nancy Martin, Associate Vice Provost

Nancy Martin referred faculty to the handout she brought that summarizes the Freshman Focus program. She explained that a freshman academic taskforce was formed last year by the Provost to answer 7 main questions he proposed. At the end of last year, a report was submitted to the Provost with recommendations for things to do to create a comprehensive coherent freshman experience. This year, the steering committee formed the “Freshman Focus” program which is a continuation of the original committee. There are currently 12 people on the committee, and each one is chairing a subcommittee which is looking at recommendations within the program. She said a full report can be found online. The goal of Freshman Focus is to increase retention and graduation rates for UTSA students. She said this year recommendations have been broken down into tasks to prepare for implementation which likely will not happen until sometime around the fall of 2014. She said that as they move forward, the subcommittees may be changed, dissolved, or added to as needed. Dr. Martin answered a question regarding the fall and spring example schedule. She explained that it’s a block course schedule and would be given to students based on what major the freshman student is pursuing. The goal is to keep the block schedules as generic as possible for freshmen that go on to change their majors, but enable a continuation of credit towards their degree. The committees are also moving forward towards the creation of a university college to house all incoming freshman, which is expected to help them in adjusting to their first year of college. Dr. Martin said that anyone with questions can contact her directly.

VI. Open Forum

There was no discussion.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:56 pm.