THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of March 8, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2011-2012 academic year was held March 8, 2012, 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, Manuel Berriozabal, Karan Bhanot, Kimberly Bilica, Gary Cole, Renee Cowan, Carol Dyas, Robert Hard, Anne Hardgrove, Judith Haschenburger, Mary Kay Houston-Vega, Amy Jasperson, Donald Kurtz, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Libby Rowe, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Woodie Spivey, Raydel Tullous, Alistair Welchman, Carola Wenk, Bennie Wilson, Walter Wilson

Absent: Robert Ambrosino (excused), Rajesh Bhargave (excused), Frank Chen (excused), Glenn Dietrich, Matthew Dunne, Beth Durodoye (excused), Mansour El-Kikhia, Donovan Fogt (excused), Daniel Jimenez (excused), Drew Johnson, Juliet Langman (excused), Francisco Marcos-Marin (excused), Marcelo Marucho (excused), Alycia Maurer, John McCray (excused), Emilio Mendoza, John Merrifield (excused), Joycelyn Moody (excused), Byongook Moon (excused), Judy Perry, Branco Ponomariov, Anand Ramasubramanian (excused), Hazem Rashed-Ali (excused), Misty Sailors (excused), Juana Salazar, Ted Skekel, Johnelle Sparks (excused)

Guests: Dennis Blessing, Dorothy Flannagan, Sarah Leach, Ken Pierce, Page Smith, Wan Yao, Zenong Yin, Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 25   Total members absent: 27

II.   Approval of the February 9, 2012 minutes

With no quorum present, approval of the minutes was postponed until the April 12th meeting.

III.   Reports

   A.   Chair of the Faculty Senate - Dr. Carola Wenk
         Dr. Wenk discussed the recent restructuring in the Vice President for Research's office. She said that the Provost is currently serving as interim Vice President for Research for about two years. She said that the search for a new VPR is planned to be initiated in about one year. The Provost is working on soliciting feedback from various groups to gain input on reorganizing the VPR's office, and will make recommendations to the President in the next week or two. Dr. Wenk said that she has asked for the External Evaluations Committee report.
         Dr. Wenk said that HOP policy 10.07 on cost sharing (previously HOP 10.06) was rejected last April in the senate due to concerns with wording that "cost sharing is highly discouraged". She said that the policy now approved by the HOP committee to be forwarded to the President is a new version with similar language, but now includes a written exception possibility.
         Dr. Wenk mentioned that the nominations process for Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty is currently open until the end of March. She said that elections for the Chair of the Faculty Senate will take place at the next senate meeting in April. Elections for the Secretary of the General Faculty will be conducted in April through eligible voting faculty members within all colleges. Dr. Wenk and Dr. Jasperson shared that they would not be running for re-election and urged faculty members to cultivate shared governance and greater leadership skills among a broader range of faculty members. The question was asked how the faculty members from each college would receive the nominations/ballots. Dr. Wenk said that the college ASOs would distribute the necessary information in order to make sure that only faculty members who are eligible to vote receive it.
         Dr. Wenk mentioned there have been meetings between the administration and faculty members to discuss alternatives to FAIR. One alternative called "digital measures" is being considered and a request for proposals may be issued soon.
         In addition, Dr. Wenk said that the registrar's office is working on establishing a wait listing option at the request of the Student Government Association to improve the registration process. She said that the program has been piloted through the college of engineering, and is now expanding to other colleges.
         Dr. Wenk said that the administration is considering utilizing mobile devices or conducting teaching evaluations in the classroom in order to improve the response rate from students.
         Lastly, Dr. Wenk said that the senate agreed at its last meeting to work on a resolution regarding the revision process of the Regents Rule on post-tenure review. She asked the senate to consider forwarding the draft resolution that she received to the Academic Freedom and Tenure committee to review. It was agreed to forward the draft to the committee for its review.

         For more information, the Chair's Report can be accessed at:
         http://www.utsa.edu/Senate/fsminutes/2012/03-08-2012/FS_chairReport_3-8-12.pdf

B.   Secretary of the General Faculty - Dr. Amy Jasperson
Dr. Jasperson said that funding for the new joint academic and administrative building located next to the North Paseo Building was approved. The building will include space for classrooms, administrative offices, and labs. In addition, UTSA struck oil on the McKinney ranch property. All of the profits will benefit scholarships for students. A new freshman admissions policy will be implemented in 2013. See more details on the University Assembly website. Also posted on the Assembly website is a powerpoint presentation on current OIT items, including the replacement of the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) with Learn 9-1. By spring 2013, the implementation of passphrases, and a central number for all IT issues via OITConnect at x5555 will be complete. Results of the Staff Council smoking survey are also posted on the University Assembly website. So far, no decision has been made regarding a smoking ban on campus. Dr. Jasperson said that 24 faculty members enrolled in the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP), and will retire on August 31, 2012. A pilot testing phase of MyEdu, the student class advising and scheduling tool, will launch on 4 campuses (not UTSA) at the end of March. UTSA has provided input to shape the tool to be a more useful resource. Drs. Jasperson and Wenk will email faculty with requests for further input as needed. Dr. Jasperson notified faculty that the Freshman Focus Initiative has been approved by the Freshman Focus university committee (documents can be accessed through Rowdyspace and the Faculty Senate website). She said that a Faculty Concerns Subcommittee is looking at faculty concerns in relation to this new initiative and said that any feedback can be sent to her. She said that proposed teachers for this new course are non-tenure track faculty that will be housed in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. The Student Government Association has requested that faculty clearly state in their syllabus if the class will be graded on a +/- scale or not.

C.   Provost's Report – Dr. Jesse Zapata
Dr. Zapata told the senate that he is now meeting with the Faculty Senate executive committee for Dr. Frederick. He said that there were some faculty issues which were discussed at the last meeting with him regarding the core curriculum proposals that were due this week.   He said that there is no opportunity to modify proposals after they are reviewed by the committee. He said that Nancy Martin held workshops for faculty to explain the process and indicate the timeline. Dr. Zapata noted that some colleges did a good job of modifying their reports internally, and explained that the timeline used for submitting proposals is necessary to get the information into the course catalog on time. The other issue that was discussed was the possibility for the committee to go beyond the state and federal guidelines in specifying course content and assessment tools. Dr. Zapata said that this should not be an issue in the future.
He talked about the Finish UT program, which is an accelerated bachelor's completion program that gives students access to an interdisciplinary degree via online courses. He said that all UT campuses were asked to participate, and only three campuses accepted: UT Permian Basin, UT Arlington, and UT El Paso. All three of the campuses already have a very advanced online course curriculum.

Dr. Zapata explained that UTSA is not participating in the program due to an increased focus on web-enhanced courses and online hybrid courses. The hybrid courses, which were initiated through the distance learning experience with the downtown campus incorporate 50% of learning in the classroom and 50% learning online. A question was raised about the extra $95 fee for the hybrid courses. Dr. Zapata said that he would find out what this fee is for.

Dr. Zapata mentioned that Dr. Frederick is pleased with the results of the Graduation Rate Improvement Plan (GRIP). He hopes that it will aid in leading more faculty to UTSA, as well as more advisors, and other valuable resources and strategies to enhance the university.

He said that Dr. Frederick is in the process of reviewing the VPR's office to address any potential issues, and plans to report his recommendations to the President after spring break.

Dr. Zapata confirmed that 24 faculty members have enrolled in the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) which has generated $2.24 million in available salary monies. He said that 80% will be distributed to the deans for recruitment within the colleges. He said that the program was successful, but does not anticipate it to be offered again anytime soon.

D.   Graduate Council – Dr. Kim Bilica
        Dr. Bilica said that the notification of the dietetics/nutrition program transfer came to the graduate council in November 2011. The 5-year program is being transferred from the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) to UTSA's department of Health and Kinesiology. Dr. Page Smith, Associate Dean of Faculty for COEHD Graduate Studies said that the program is a combined BS/MS degree with 150 credit hours (30 are masters hours) and will be available for students entering in the fall of 2012. Dennis Blessing, Associate Dean at UTHSC was introduced to give a brief history of the program. Dr. Blessing said that the program started in 2009 at UTHSC. It was originally centered in Laredo, and was built to serve south Texas with a cohort in San Antonio. The program has two options for specialization – medical nutrition and a public school option. He stressed the importance of the need for a dual BS/MS degree, since a MS degree is required in order to work as a licensed dietician. The dietetics/nutrition program has been granted admission into candidacy for accreditation. Dr. Blessing said that the program was funded through a special designation through the legislature, targeting south Texas. He explained that the program was closed out in 2009-2010 due to a funding cut in the health professions programs. Since the dietetics/nutrition program was just starting out, it only had 20 students and 3 faculty at the time, but was anticipating an expansion at a later date before the program funding was cut. The UTHSC representatives believe in the necessity of this program and are appreciative of UTSA for incorporating it into its health and kinesiology department.

E.   Nominating, Elections, & Procedures – Anne Hardgrove (for Juliet Langman)
        The committee had five proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate bylaws:

1) Clarification of who may serve on the Faculty Senate – the committee would like to include examples of specific administrative positions that cannot serve. The comment was made that it may be more clear to add the wording "such as" so that the requirement doesn't have to include every single position to be named. Dr. Hardgrove said that any comments can be sent to Dr. Langman to be taken into consideration at the next committee meeting.
2) Clear up contradiction in the election procedure for Faculty Senate Chair – The committee would like to clarify that the Faculty Senate Chair is elected by senate members, and the Secretary of the General Faculty is elected by all eligible voting faculty members. The bylaws also need to be clarified when interpreting the different procedures for conducting elections between the Chair and the Secretary of the General Faculty.
3) Add the Faculty Senate Research Committee (FSRC) as a standing committee. A committee charge has been created and the committee will be listed on the senate webpage under 4h. The University Curriculum Committee (currently 4h) will move to position 4i to keep the committees listed in alphabetical order.
4) Set up a maximum number of members of a senate standing committee – The bylaws currently require a member from each college to serve on each committee. The proposed change is to incorporate at least 1 member and no more than 2 members from each college, in order to spread membership among colleges. This should encourage more equal representation and participation throughout the committees. Due to the stringent guidelines, the committee may reconsider whether or not all senators must serve on a committee.
5) Allow for proxy voting – Currently, designated representatives are allowed to attend senate meetings in place of a faculty senator that cannot attend on behalf of the department. There is no current wording as to whether or not the representative is allowed to vote. The committee recommends allowing proxy voting and including it in the bylaws.

F. HOP Committee – Walt Wilson (for Donovan Fogt)
HOP 8.11 Selection and Monitoring of Food Service Contractors
Dr. Wilson said that the HOP committee had four minor suggestions to the HOP policy.
1) Consider a pre-meeting timeline to allow for greater community input.
2) Include representatives from various entities (SGA, Faculty Senate, and Staff Council) to allow for greater diversity and input.
3) Revise the wording "loosely formed committee" to indicate who is involved and how membership is obtained.
4) Include representatives from the downtown campus to include their unique needs.

Dr. Wenk said that reports from the IRB and Curriculum committees would be postponed until the next Faculty Senate meeting.

G. Research Committee
HOP 10.04 Conflicts of Interest in Research & Intellectual Property
Dr. Wenk said that the committee's representative, Mike Tapia, was not in attendance, but she wanted to mention the policy being reviewed by the committee. She said that there have been changes in federal regulations for health-sponsored research funding, so the UT system had to issue a new policy, in addition to a model policy. The model policy is being used to change the university's HOP policy to conform to the new requirements. These new standards apply the same NIH policies to all academic research, funded or unfunded, including student research. The policy is currently under stakeholder review. Dr. Wenk said that she is on a subcommittee with Misty Sailors and Marianne Woods to work out remaining issues. She said that the current version of the policy can be found on Rowdyspace, and said that the current federal policy only applies to NIH researchers. Dr. Wenk said to send any feedback to John Merrifield by March 27th to be discussed at the senate research committee meeting. Dr. Wenk encouraged everyone to give feedback and said that this new policy, which is more stringent, will impact everyone doing funded or unfunded research or anyone accepting money from any outside entity.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Ken Pierce – Vice Provost for Information Technology
  Mr. Pierce discussed some key OIT projects that have an effect on faculty. The first project is the research data center opening in late June on the bottom floor of the MS building. The faculty instructional technology lab, which will be located in the same building, will serve as a resource for faculty to integrate technology with teaching. Mr. Pierce said that he expects the online learning team to move in during the last week of March. Mr. Pierce also mentioned the upcoming upgrade to Blackboard. The CE8 version will be replaced with Learn 9.1 which will be hosted at Blackboard's data center. In addition, he said that the implementation of blackboard mobile for iPods, iPads, and the android market will be happening soon. He said that by the start of the 2013 spring semester, everyone will be converted to the new system. Mr. Pierce said that OIT will offer training for the new interface and will retain the same Blackboard support staff. He said that UTSA's mobile application will be going live this month and should be available on the android market within 24 hours, and the iTunes store within 2 weeks. The application will include UTSA news, events, calendars, maps and is free to download. In addition, he said that students will be able to log in and view their schedules, grades, holds, etc. since the system will be integrated with the ASAP and Banner systems. He briefly mentioned the new Peoplesoft system, which currently has two staffed individuals, and will include additional staffing based on

the UT Share matrix. He said that there is a planned migration for the Office 365 email and calendaring system to be hosted off campus through Microsoft, and expects the addendum to be signed this week. The change will include a mailbox with an additional 20 gigabytes, and the option for unlimited storage with an archive for an additional payment. Mr. Pierce expects to make this move in the summer months, and said it should be relatively transparent to the user. The new OIT passphrase/identity management portal will be incorporated this month due to the overwhelming majority of survey respondents in favor of passphrases. The new passphrases must be composed of 15 characters minimum and there are no restrictions on what you use, with no password expiration dates. Mr. Pierce said that the passphrases will be implemented according to the normal password change cycle, as each user's password expires. He said there is also an option for the user to give an alternate email address and/or cell phone number to be able to retrieve their passphrase. Mr. Pierce mentioned the new crash plan, a tool used to backup individual workstations. He said it will reduce the risks of data loss by performing backup maintenance every 30 minutes to every hour. The crash plan won't require a hard drive or thumb drive to be used to back up a user's computer anymore, and users can designate a second computer for backup if needed. Mr. Pierce said that he is the liaison for MyEdu and said that he is working on a strategy that includes both MyEdu and the Graduation Rate Improvement Plan. He said that he hopes to have the plan ready in May and thanked UTSA representatives for their involvement in the process. He also mentioned that he is working on an official voting faculty email list that will have the ability to be updated daily, and expects it to be ready for implementation in April when senate voting takes place.

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 5:19 pm.