

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of December 10, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2009-2010 academic year was held December 10, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB 2.06.04) with Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Sos Agaian, Steve Bach, Manuel Berriozabal, Mark Brill, Norma Cantu, Sara DeTurk, Beth Durodoye, Carol Dyas, Mansour El-Kikhia, John Frederick, Mary Ellen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Lars Hansen, Robert Hard, Judith Haschenburger, Victor Heller, Amy Jaspersen, Palani-Rajan Kadappakkam, Zlatko Koinov, Margarita Machado-Casas (Howard Smith), Randy Manteufel, John Merrifield, Jolyn Mikow, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Sandy Norman, Anand Ramasubmaranian, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Cherylon Robinson, Hatim Sharif, Johnelle Sparks, Virginia Trummer, Raydel Tullous, Carola Wenk

Absent: Yoris Au (excused), Ron Binks (excused), Joel Christensen, William Cooke (excused), Kim Cuero (excused), John McCray (excused), Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Sharon Nichols (excused), Darryl Ohlenbusch, Ben Olguin (excused), Branco Ponomariov, Robert Rico (excused), Ted Skekel, Bennie Wilson (excused)

Guests: Ashley Diaz, Aaron Cassill, Carolyn Ellis, Dana Forgione, Carla Gomez, Debbie Jamison, Bennie Keckler, Jan Kemp, Krisellen Maloney, Ken Pierce, Diane Walz

Total members present: 34 Total members absent: 14

II. Approval of the November 12, 2009 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia announced that the Executive SYSFAC meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2009.

Dr. El-Kikhia commended Dr. Sandy Welch for her work in preparing UTSA for Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and in implementing the Faculty Academic Information Reporting (FAIR).

He reported that construction of a new parking garage will begin next year; parking fees will increase.

B. University Assembly Report--Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman did not have a report.

C. Consent Calendar--Dr. Norma Cantu

- MBA-BH/MPA dual degree is now approved.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Smoke free campus

No resolution was proposed; however, the senators briefly discussed this topic.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on Instrument Surveys

Dr. Thomas Coyle presented the committee's report regarding selection of a course/faculty evaluation instrument. He discussed the feedback he had received from the senators.

The senators discussed the report and the three options presented: 1) the "draft" instrument 2) a new instrument with two mandatory questions and additional items 3) the current IDEA survey.

Senators expressed their concern about evaluations being conducted online; particularly they were concerned with confidentiality issues for students and with the response rate. Both the Provost and Mr. Ken Pierce indicated the issue of confidentiality could be resolved.

Some senators suggested incentives to increase the rate of student participation in an online survey. One suggestion was to release a class assignment only after the student completed the online evaluation. Another was to hold final grades or to impose registration holds if students did not complete the evaluation.

Mr. Pierce stressed the importance of choosing an instrument soon in order to obtain or create appropriate software to pilot an online evaluation during the spring semester.

After the discussions, 26 senators voted in favor of the instrument described in Option No. 2, and five voted against. The survey in Option 2 includes two mandatory items plus additional items. One mandatory item will focus on the instructor, and the other will focus on the course.

Provost John Frederick stated that all courses will be evaluated and that the evaluation will be conducted online.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Dr. Krisellen Maloney- Library update

Dr. Maloney gave a PowerPoint presentation on library renovations.

Renovations are designed to provide:

- Better spaces for students to study and do research
- Technologies students need to do their work in a digital age
- A “one-stop shop” for academic support services
- A high-use, browsable physical collection

Senators raised questions about security in the library as well as at the entrances and exits. Dr. Maloney stated that security cameras are located throughout the building, and security guards are on duty 24 hours.

Dr. Maloney reported that the library is undergoing a “weeding” process. The staff is eliminating duplicate books and reviewing [along with the faculty] other books that may not be required. She noted that libraries are not graded by volume counts.

B. Mr. Ken Pierce- Promotion and Tenure plans using RowdySpace

Mr. Pierce gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the following items:

- What is RowdySpace?
- Security/confidentiality
- Permissions
- RowdySpace and Promotion/Tenure
- Help/Support

The first RowdySpace training session will be held on December 15, 2009. A user guide will be provided through the Provost’s website.

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

No report.

VII. Open Forum

No discussion.

IX. Adjournment

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