

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of April 12, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2011-2012 academic year was held April 12, 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 Aгаian, Manuel Berriozabal, Kimberly Bilica, Glenn Dietrich, Carol Dyas, Donovan Fogt, Robert Hard, Anne Hardgrove, Judith Haschenburger, Amy Jasperson, Daniel Jimenez, Juliet Langman, Richard Lewis, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Marcelo Marucho, Alycia Maurer, Emilio Mendoza, John Merrifield, Judy Perry, Libby Rowe, Misty Sailors, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Johnelle Sparks, Woodie Spivey, Raydel Tullous, Carola Wenk, Bennie Wilson

Absent: Robert Ambrosino, Karan Bhanot, Rajesh Bhargave (excused), Frank Chen, Gary Cole (excused), Renee Cowan (excused), Matthew Dunne (excused), Beth Durodoye (excused), Mansour El-Kikhia, Mary Kay Houston Vega, Donald Kurtz, John McCray (excused), Joycelyn Moody (excused), Byongook Moon (excused), Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho (excused), Branco Ponomariov, Anand Ramasubramanian, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Juana Salazar, Ted Skekel, Alistair Welchman (excused), Walter Wilson (excused)

Guests: Sarah Leach, Nancy Martin, David Vance (for Joycelyn Moody), Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 29

Total members absent: 22

II. Approval of the February 9, 2012 and the March 8, 2012 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

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

Dr. Wenk said that there was no new information on HOP 10.07 "Cost Sharing on Sponsored Programs". She mentioned the reorganization of the VPR's office and

notified the senate members that the Provost's Research Enhancement Report is available for viewing. She also said that there will be open meetings from May 1-3, where the Provost will be seeking input from all faculty regarding this restructuring process. Dr. Wenk said that there are currently two research advisory committees, the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), which is an appointed body by the President that provides advice to the administration, and the Faculty Senate Research Committee (FSRC), which is an elected committee that only advises the senate. She said that it had been decided to keep the two committees separate, since they had different committee charges.

Dr. Wenk said that a new system, Digital Measures, would be replacing the FAIR system by the fall semester and assured the senate that OIT would be transferring the current data in FAIR to the digital measures system.

She said that the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) conducted surveys on teaching evaluations across the state. These surveys, which can be found in the Rowdyspace meeting folder, indicate response rates, survey methods, and other data of interest regarding teaching evaluations across the system.

Dr. Wenk said that the senate's executive committee met with the Chancellor a few weeks ago. She said that the Conflict of Commitment policy came up in the discussion. The policy focuses on how faculty time is spent, and she said that a revision is currently being worked on at the system level to revise the Regents Rule by next month. She said that she would provide more updates as they are received.

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

http://www.utsa.edu/Senate/fsminutes/2012/04-12-2012/FS_chairReport_4-12-12.pdf

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

Dr. Jasperson congratulated Dr. Wenk on receiving the President's Distinguished University Service Award. She said that voting on the tuition increase had been postponed at the most recent Regents meeting.

Dr. Jasperson also told the senate that UT Austin has recently become a smoke free campus. She said that President Romo is currently forming a taskforce, composed of students, faculty, staff, and administrators to take a closer look at the smoking policy at UTSA.

She reminded faculty to urge their students to complete the teaching evaluations, which will close next week. She said that it is possible for faculty to view their current course response rates by checking with the department chair for daily updates.

Dr. Jasperson mentioned the "We Are UTSA" capital campaign kickoff. She said that the goal is to raise \$120 million for student, faculty, outreach and enrichment programs. 31% of that amount (\$36.7 million) will be used for endowed chairs, faculty research funding, and start-up labs. She directed anyone with questions to contact the faculty Co-Chair of the campaign, Dr. Alan Shoho.

She said that there has been no SYSFAC meeting yet, but there is a full agenda planned for the next meeting at the end of April, including a discussion of MyEdu.com. She said that a course attribute survey was conducted among

faculty, and the results (or attributes) correlated with the student focus groups that also participated. Dr. Jaspersen mentioned that Nancy Martin would be discussing the Core Curriculum and Freshman Focus programs later in the meeting. Dr. Jaspersen said that any input on the Academic Inquiry proposal can be emailed to her to pass along to the Subcommittee on Faculty Concerns, which she is chairing. The committee is currently working on a report.

C. Provost's Report – Dr. Jesse Zapata (for Dr. John Frederick)

Dr. Zapata said that there are currently two HOP policies being reviewed. The first is a revision to an existing policy, HOP 2.02 “Faculty Titles and Tenure Status”. The second is a new policy, HOP 2.50 “Non-tenure Track Faculty Recruitment, Evaluation, and Promotion Processes”. He said that in the past few years, the process of standardizing faculty recruitment procedures has been addressed and the titles will be extended to non-tenure track (NTT) faculty. He said that the recruitment process for specific NTT faculty titles is being reviewed. In addition, Dr. Zapata said that the lecturer series of titles is being expanded to include “distinguished senior lecturer”, and the definition of lecturer titles is being revised to specify ways of promotion and recruitment depending on the faculty member's appointment level. He said that the Board of Regents has adopted a new series of titles including “Assistant/Associate/Full Professor in Practice”, and said that research titles for NTT faculty are being reviewed as well. Dr. Zapata mentioned that he will be discussing additional edits with Dr. Wenk and a team of senate members.

He told the senate that the Provost's Research Enhancement Report is available to view. It is a comprehensive action plan with a timeline specified, which details how the restructuring process will occur.

He also mentioned the new University College and Freshman Experience, and said that the first steps will be implemented slowly beginning in the Fall of 2012.

Dr. Zapata mentioned the annual appraisal policy, and said that Dr. Mary Kay Houston-Vega is currently working on revisions to it. He said that the Provost's White Paper will likely be converted into the policy. Dr. Zapata told the senate that he would verify at what point the new 4-category structure for reviews is going to be implemented. He also said that he is working on revisions to HOP 2.22 “Periodic Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty” with Dr. Rebekah Smith, Chair of the senate's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

Lastly, he told the senate that the Student Government Association president is urging faculty to specify whether or not they use +/- grading in their syllabus, to increase awareness among students.

D. Graduate Council – Dr. Kim Bilica

The Faculty Senate unanimously consented to Kim Bilica's re-appointment as the Graduate Council Chair for a second term.

Dr. Bilica had two Graduate Certificates to present to the senate for consent:

- Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis – This is a 15-hour certificate that was developed out of the Department of Educational Psychology and

the Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching. Dr. Bilica said that the certificate will help prepare students for the behavior analyst certification board, which qualifies them to earn certification as an ABA-certified instructor. She said that no additional faculty will be required, and she expects the program to have approximately 20 students participate each year.

- Certificate in Rhetoric and Composition – This is a 12-hour certificate housed in the Department of English, which is intended for individuals earning their Masters or PhD in English. Dr. Bilica said that it will offer additional support to individuals who are instructional or professional writers.

E. Nominating, Elections, & Procedures Committee – Dr. Juliet Langman

- Elections for Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty
Dr. Langman said that there were 2 nominations for senate chair, with 1 agreeing to serve. By acclamation Dr. Rebekah Smith (Psychology) was elected Faculty Senate Chair for 2012-2014. Dr. Langman said that there were 3 nominations for Secretary of the General Faculty, with 1 agreeing to serve. By acclamation Dr. Misty Sailors (Interdisciplinary Learning & Teaching) was elected Secretary of the General Faculty for 2012-2014.
- Revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws
Dr. Langman said that it was time to vote on the five bylaw revisions that her committee presented to the senate last month.
 1. Clarification of who may serve on the Faculty Senate – passed
 2. Clear up contradiction in election procedure for FS Chair – passed
 3. Add Faculty Senate Research Committee (FSRC) as a Standing Committee – passed
 4. Set up a maximum number of members of a Senate standing committee – passed
 5. Allow proxy voting – a redacted version of Roberts Rules was agreed on and added to the bylaws – “Senators may designate a proxy from their department who shall have voting rights.” – passed

F. Curriculum Committee – Dr. Raydel Tullous

Dr. Tullous said that her committee reviewed the proposal for a certificate in Latin. The certificate is 15 semester credit hours and was developed due to increased student demand and interest in Latin language courses. This certificate would serve as further study for graduate students in the Department of Philosophy and Classics. There was a motion to approve and the certificate in Latin was unanimously approved.

G. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee – Dr. Rebekah Smith

The committee presented a resolution regarding SYSFAC’s decision to support the revised Regents Rule 31102. The resolution states that although faculty

members support the PPE process, they believe that this version is not in the faculty's best interests to support. Dr. Smith said that the committee had mixed opinions when voting, so the committee is proposing two votes. The first is to endorse the resolution and the second is to send it to SYSFAC. A motion was made to conduct a vote using paper ballots and the motion was approved. A paper ballot vote was cast and the responses were 21 voting yes, 5 voting no, and 1 abstaining to endorse the resolution. The second vote showed 19 voting yes, 5 voting no, and 1 abstaining to sending the resolution on to SYSFAC.

The second item from the committee is a list of proposed changes to HOP 2.22 "Periodic Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty". Dr. Smith said that these revisions address the new Regents Rule 31102, and that her committee would like to make some changes to the policy. A few of the proposed changes include:

- The reviewing committee should consider all accomplishments from the past 6 years anytime there is a PPE, whether it is early or not, to include a longer timeframe;
- The minimum timeframe for a performance improvement plan should be 3 years, unless the accomplishments of the plan are met prior to the 3 years;
- Performance improvement plans should begin at the start of the next academic year to allow for a full 3 years to complete the plan; and
- The reviewing committee should not provide a report for any outcome that is not an "unsatisfactory". In other words, any outcome that does not trigger a performance improvement plan does not need a detailed committee report. This will prevent the items to improve on, which may be documented, from making their way into the next PPE review.

Dr. Smith said that it is not clear when the policy is going into place, but that any feedback may be sent to her.

H. Research Committee – Dr. John Merrifield

Dr. Merrifield said that the research committee met to discuss HOP 10.04 "Conflict of Interest in Research & Intellectual Property". He said that the revised policy has to be at the UT System by May 1st. The committee has concerns about the policy, which reads like a legal document, and is requesting feedback to work with the administration to make a more user-friendly policy.

I. IRB Committee – Dr. Richard Lewis

The committee met to discuss HOP 10.10 "Research Involving Human Subjects". They currently have 4 revisions to the policy, which will help to clarify some of the language and provide greater detail that is lacking in certain sections. Overall, the committee approves of the policy with minor adjustments. Dr. Lewis said that any feedback may be sent to him by April 26th.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Nancy Martin – Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies
Dr. Martin discussed the revisions to the Core Curriculum program and gave a brief overview of the Freshman Focus Initiative.
 1. Core Curriculum revisions
Dr. Martin said that these are state mandated revisions, which were approved by the coordinating board in October of 2011. She said that statewide implementation will occur in the fall of 2014 for all institutions in Texas. She showed the senate a timeline for when the various steps have to occur to have the revisions in place by the deadline. She said that the Core proposal will be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval in September of 2012, and the 2014-2016 course catalog is planned to be presented to the senate in the fall of 2013. She said that the Core Curriculum Committee is reviewing 138 proposals (across 8 components) which they received from the subcommittees.
 2. Freshman Focus Initiative
Dr. Martin said that the initiative is currently underway to get a comprehensive freshman program at UTSA. It will include the creation of a university college which will include all new freshmen, freshman transfers, pre-majors, and undecided majors. Students in these groups will transition out once they have decided on a major, have 30 hours of coursework, and have no TSI deficiencies. Dr. Martin said that the program will likely be phased in through pilot programs. In addition, freshmen will be blocked into 2 courses, including an academic inquiry course. The classes which will be offered on both campuses, will be capped at 25 students each, and will include a mix of majors. The date for full implementation is by the 2014-2015 academic year. She said that additional info may be found on the following websites:
www.utsa.edu/coreqep
<https://coreproposal.utsa.edu>

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 5:42 pm.