

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of October 10, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2013-2014 academic year was held October 10, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB 2.06.04) with Dr. Rebekah Smith, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

#### I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, David Akopian, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Pepe Chang, Jim Dykes, Yongli Gao, Mark Giles, Suat Gunhan, Robert Hard, Richard Harris, Harry Jarrett, Drew Johnson, Turgay Korkmaz, Richard Lewis, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Lydia Martinez-Rivera, Patricia McGee, Debbie Menger, John Merrifield, Joycelyn Moody, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Antonio Petrov, Clyde Phelix, Libby Rowe, Misty Sailors, Juana Salazar, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Johnelle Sparks, Woodie Spivey, Rob Tillyer, Heather Trepal, Bennie Wilson, Wayne Wright, John Zhang

Absent: Robert Ambrosino, Rajesh Bhargave (excused), Karla Broadus (excused), Fengxin Chen, Frank Chen, Karen Daas, Glenn Dietrich, Martha Fasci, Vaidya Gundlupet (excused), Marian Martinello (excused), Marcelo Marucho (excused), Ashok Nedungadi (excused), Branco Ponomariov, Anand Ramasubramanian, Elaine Sanders, Alistair Welchman (excused)

Guests: Nazgol Bagheri, Mansour El-Kikhia (for Vaidya Gundlupet), Anthony Espinoza, John Frederick, Richard Jones, Sarah Leach, Melanie Stein, Sandy Welch

Total members present: 37

Total members absent: 16

#### II. Approval of the September 12, 2013 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. Provost's Report – John Frederick

Dr. Frederick announced that the College of Engineering Dean's search has begun. A search committee has been formed, and the search will involve the same

consultant that UTSA has previously used. Interviews are expected to take place this spring.

The December commencement will once again take place in Alamodome, but this time there will be three ceremonies; one on Friday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> and two on Saturday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. The three ceremonies should be shorter in length, and the students will enter 30 minutes early with faculty members following. Another change that will be made this year is that faculty members will sit in the front of the group, instead of at the sides. Dr. Frederick encouraged faculty members to attend so they could congratulate students as they exit the stage. He said that a shuttle service will run to and from the downtown campus, but will end 1 hour before the ceremony begins (due to increased traffic at that time). He asked that faculty members arrive at the event early and said that work is continuously being done to improve the commencement experience.

B. Chair of the Faculty Senate - Rebekah Smith

Peer Observation

Dr. Smith reminded the senate that peer observations are a new mandatory component for all Promotion & Tenure cases beginning in fall 2014. The peer observations should feature the developmental/mentoring aspect, rather than be of an evaluative nature. She said that in the summer of 2012, a task force was formed by the UT System to draft a report on peer observation and the task force report was discussed by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality committee at the September 2012 UT System Faculty Advisory Council (SYSFAC) meeting. Based upon SYSFAC discussions, UTSA's senate executive committee formed an ad hoc committee in February 2013 to proactively draft a policy on peer observation, anticipating that such a policy might eventually be required by system. The senate did not advocate for the use of peer observation, but anticipated it as a possible requirement and wanted to be prepared. In April 2013 a draft policy was brought to the senate for feedback. This fall UT System guidelines requiring peer observations for P&T were distributed to campuses. At the September 2013 meeting of SYSFAC the SYSFAC Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality committee was tasked with drafting a model policy. At UTSA Drs. Barbara Millis, Alan Shoho, and Rebekah Smith drafted guidelines which are consistent with the recommendations received from the senate, with some adjustments required to comply with UT System's guidelines.

Travel Requirements

She reminded the senate about the new travel requirements and said that the newly approved agencies must be used when booking air travel that will be reimbursed. There is no requirement to use approved travel agencies if a faculty member will not be reimbursed for airfare expenses. Dr. Smith also clarified that there was no priority for limited funds to be used on airfare only.

Chair's Council

She said that the topics discussed at the Chair's Council yesterday included a GRIP update, a presentation on competency testing, a short QEP survey, and the peer observation guidelines. In order to streamline the core curriculum, departments should verify that all current prerequisites are necessary. In addition, courses not

offered recently should be looked at to see if they should be eliminated. Additionally, there is a proposal to allow academic programs to offer competency testing that would allow students to place out of courses that are not covered by other competency testing systems, such as CLEP.

Dr. Smith said that a new senate Vice Chair will need to be elected, as the current representative, Johnelle Sparks has decided to step down in order to fulfill her other commitments. Dr. Sparks thanked the senate for allowing her to serve on the executive committee as Vice Chair and said that she would remain active on the senate. Dr. Smith put out a call for nominations and said that an official election would be held at the November senate meeting.

#### Bylaws Recommendations

She said that while addressing the issue of electing a new vice-chair, she noticed that there was currently no clear process in the bylaws that determines how a senate officer should be replaced. She said that the Nominating, Elections, and Procedures committee will be addressing this issue as well as a few others and expects a committee report with recommendations to be presented at the November senate meeting. A vote on the committee's recommendations will take place at the December senate meeting.

#### EARN

Dr. Smith said that she was one of the six faculty representatives that tested the pilot Early Alert System (EARN). She said that more feedback will be coming from the other pilot testers, and the system should be open to everyone in spring semester. Another feature which has been developed will allow midterm grades to be automatically transferred from Blackboard Learn to ASAP. She directed the senate to reference a handout prepared by Ken Pierce which explains the process in more detail.

#### Other Issues

Dr. Smith announced that there is an option for UTSA to join the COIA (Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics). Clyde Phelix is the senate representative on UTSA's Athletics Council who may be contacted for more information as well as feedback on this issue, no later than October 24<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Smith asked the senate to send feedback and specific complaints regarding any bookstore issues (receiving textbooks late, etc.) to Jim Dykes.

### C. Secretary of the General Faculty – Misty Sailors

Dr. Sailors gave an update on the University Assembly meeting held September 17<sup>th</sup>. She said that President Romo reported that census date enrollment was 28,758, which is down due to the increased admissions standards. The San Saba residence hall is open and is 100% full. President Romo also reported that UTSA has made an offer to purchase a building from Valero and is awaiting their response. The building is over 250,000 square feet with 8,800 parking spots and 11 acres of land. The new Park West athletic complex is open, thanks to the support of the city of San Antonio and Bexar county. President Romo also said that UTSA received no tuition revenue bonds, which means that there will be no new Experimental Science Building for now. Other updates discussed at the University Assembly meeting included information on the 83<sup>rd</sup> legislative session

and the increases to some of UTSA's programs and centers. More funding was received for the Hazelwood Act and the campus carry law did not pass.

Dr. Sailors said that the following topics were discussed at the September SYSFAC meeting:

- A report was presented regarding inappropriate employee relationships with students, which is posted to Rowdyspace. The report will be presented at the November board meeting and SYSFAC is considering a resolution to the report.
- Rule UTS180 and the UTS model policy on Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment are expected to be implemented in November. UTSA's draft policy is currently being compared to UT System's model policy for consistency.

In addition, SYSFAC passed the following resolutions:

- FAC Core Curriculum Statement supporting academic freedom and increased faculty involvement
- Creation of a System-wide Task Force for Environmental Sustainability Practices on Academic and Medical Campuses
- Resolution in Support of the Liberal Arts
- Resolution Concerning the Integration of Ethics, Humanities, and Professionalism in Health Care; and a Resolution on the Anatomical Board

#### IV. Unfinished Business

- Approval of member for panel:
  - **HOP 10.02 – Misconduct in Research or in Other Scholarly Activities**  
The following individual was unanimously approved by the senate to serve on the existing panel:  
COS – Judy Haschenburger
- MA in Geography  
Drs. Richard Jones and Mansour El-Kikhia from the department of Political Science and Geography confirmed that the proposal which was presented at the senate's September meeting had been modified to include additional GIS courses and greater flexibility. The amended proposal was unanimously approved by the senate.

#### V. New Business

- Network Access Control (NAC) project - Anthony Espinoza, Information Security Officer  
Mr. Espinoza explained to the senate that the NAC project integrates hardware and software to set up rules for how devices (desktops, laptops, etc.) connect to the UTSA computer network. It ensures that minimum security requirements are

met prior to a device being allowed to connect to the network, allows all devices to be seen that are connected to the network, and better ensures the security of the network. The Office of Information Security is currently using the program effectively and Mr. Espinoza said that the program would soon be expanded to all departments (within small groups). The first phase will affect only wired devices and desktops. The timeline for the project indicates that authentication will begin in November. Although there are some potential issues that may be expected, the Office of Information Technology is working to minimize issues by communicating through multiple venues and by deploying the program to small groups at a time. Departments may experience some problems with network services during this pilot period. He said that any questions may be directed to Information Security or OIT.

- GRIP Report - Sandy Welch, Vice Provost for Accountability & Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Welch discussed the importance of faculty and departmental involvement in the GRIP. She said that the new freshmen class is scholastically impressive, with 68% of freshman ranking in the top 25% of their graduating class and 88% ranking in the top half of their graduating class. UTSA's acceptance rate this year was 60%. She emphasized that UTSA is competing with other schools for the best students and encouraged faculty to think of ways in which UTSA could attract the best students. She said that freshmen are receiving assistance with the First Year Experience program, the re-engineering of advising, and additional software support. Dr. Welch said that faculty could expect to see a positive change in their classes and that it is important to be able to respond effectively to these stronger students. Some options are taking a more hands-on approach, encouraging class attendance, activating GRIP Early Alert messages, and merit-based scholarships. She encourages departments to work with high schools and other institutions to recruit students into programs early.

## VI. Open Forum

A question was asked regarding a Human Resources issue. Now that the state no longer provides employees with floating holidays, if a new faculty member with no accrued time off needs to cancel a class, but is not sick (for example, if they have car problems or an issue related to child care, etc.) how is that handled? Dr. Smith said that she would bring this issue up to the executive committee for discussion.

## VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:05 pm.