

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of February 13, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2013-2014 academic year was held February 13, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Rebekah Smith, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Felicia Castro-Villarreal, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Karen Daas, Glenn Dietrich, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Yongli Gao, Mark Giles, Vaidya Gundlupet, Suat Gunhan, Robert Hard, Richard Harris, Turgay Korkmaz, Richard Lewis, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Marian Martinello, Lydia Martinez-Rivera, Marcelo Marucho, Debbie Menger, Joycelyn Moody, Ashok Nedungadi, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Antonio Petrov, Clyde Phelix, Anand Ramasubramanian, Misty Sailors, Elaine Sanders, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Johnelle Sparks, Woodie Spivey, Rob Tillyer, Alistair Welchman, Bennie Wilson, Wayne Wright, John Zhang

Absent: David Akopian, Robert Ambrosino (excused), Rajesh Bhargave (excused), Karla Broadus, Frank Chen (excused), Harry Jarrett, Drew Johnson, John Merrifield, Branco Ponomariov, Libby Rowe (excused), Juana Salazar (excused), Heather Trepal (excused)

Guests: John Frederick, Rosalind Horowitz, Sarah Leach, Mark McCoin (for Libby Rowe), HungDa Wan (for Frank Chen)

Total members present: 41

Total members absent: 12

II. Approval of the January 16, 2014 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Rebekah Smith

Policies

Dr. Smith said that stakeholder feedback on HOP 2.10 is due to Bob Hard by February 17. The HOP committee will present a report at the senate's March meeting.

Academic Policy re A+ grades

She said that feedback on the Student Government's proposal to have an A+ grade earn 4.33 towards GPA is due to Bennie Wilson by March 20. The Academic Policy and Requirements committee will present a report at the senate's April meeting.

GRIP

Dr. Smith said that Glenn Dietrich attended the last GRIP meeting. There was discussion on orientation revisions to include the new advising structure and a focus on the 4-year graduation expectation. Ways to increase participation in the SI, tutoring, and JumpStart programs were discussed as well. Dr. Smith said that graduate enrollment is down and a more detailed report from the Graduate School may be found on Rowdyspace.

Department Chairs' Council

The following topics were discussed at the last chairs' council meeting on February 12th: PeopleSoft training (the go-live date has been pushed to May 1), a discussion of HOP 8.14-8.18, EARN participation and initial results, and catalog revision deadlines.

Automatic Grade Transfer Process

This process is currently being piloted with COLFA and COEHD. It requires correct set-up of gradebook and Dr. Smith said that additional training is available online. However, F grades must still be accessed through ASAP.

Elections

Dr. Smith told the senators that memos have been sent out to the Deans requesting elections for faculty senators with expiring terms this year. She provided a list of the senators whose terms are expiring and noted which of those senators are eligible for re-election.

Recording of meetings

Dr. Smith notified the senate that although the usual recording equipment was not present during today's meeting, the meeting was being recorded utilizing a more cost-effective method.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Misty Sailors

Dr. Sailors reported the various recommendations that were passed at the January SYSFAC meeting including the creation and endorsement of a model policy on peer evaluations, support of the faculty at UT Brownsville and UT Pan American, and the following SYSFAC recommendations that were voted on by the senate:

- Creation of a Space Utilization committee
 - The senate voted to unanimously approve the recommendation
- Creation of an Information Security Advisory Committee (with members recommended by the senate)
 - The senate voted to unanimously approve the recommendation
- Adoption of language from the document entitled: "Recommended Language Describing Information that Requires Encryption"
 - The senate voted to unanimously approve the recommendation

Dr. Sailors said that a UT System taskforce is reviewing the 9000 series of Regents' Rules pertaining to Intellectual Property. This is likely to affect UTSA's HOP 10.15 policy.

- C. **Provost's Report – John Frederick**
Dr. Frederick said that the PeopleSoft implementation has been pushed back to May 1. He notified the senate that there will no longer be an option to spread their 9-month salary over 12 months. However, he said that Human Resources is able to split paychecks into $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$, and place the funds in separate accounts if desired. He confirmed that medical insurance premiums will utilize an initial 3-month spread which is expected to begin next year. He told the senate to contact PeopleSoft's SPOC system for help and/or questions.
He said that there is currently a high rate of failure in introductory courses. 75% of the new students admitted this year are in the top quartile of their high school class and the D/F/W rates seem to be high for these students who are capable of succeeding. He urged the departments to examine courses with high D/F/W rates in order to try and address any issues and potentially lower these rates. He encouraged departments to ask themselves "how can we help our students succeed?".
Dr. Frederick said that he understands the frustrations with entering grades in Blackboard. One positive aspect of this is that students seem to be more aware of their grades, which is enabling them to keep track of turning in assignments on time. He said that Ken Pierce is working on new innovations to the system, which are expected to be available this summer.
Dr. Frederick answered a question related to UTSA's recent request for a tuition increase. He said that the Board of Regents have delayed the discussion of this topic until their April meeting.
- D. **NEP Committee – Jim Dykes**
Dr. Dykes facilitated an election for a new Faculty Senate Secretary and Karen Daas was elected by acclamation.
- E. **Research Committee – Wayne Wright**
Dr. Wright said that the Research committee reviewed and revised HOP 1.34 during pre-stakeholder review. After approval, the revised document was sent out for stakeholder review, yielding no additional comments. The Research committee recommended that the senate approve HOP 1.34. The senate voted to unanimously approve the policy.
Dr. Wright explained that a UT System taskforce is currently being formed to revise the Regents' Rules on Intellectual Property. Because of this, the Research committee recommended that the senate wait to make revisions to HOP 10.15 after the Regents' Rules been updated.
- F. **HOP Committee – Robert Hard**
The HOP committee reviewed HOP policies 8.14-8.18. The committee noted some concerns such as a lack of clarity, broad definitions and the need for a greater focus on costs and staffing burdens for implementation. The committee recommended continued work with Jesse Zapata and Ken Pierce to further discuss revisions to the policy. The senate voted to unanimously approve the HOP committee's report.

G. Curriculum Committee – Lydia Martinez-Rivera

The Curriculum committee reviewed a request from the College of Business to discontinue the Bilingual Business Certificate in Spanish due to low enrollment (only 6 students in the past 2 years) and difficulties in locating instructors that can teach the course in Spanish. The Curriculum committee recommended that the Bilingual Business Certificate in Spanish be discontinued. The senate voted as follows:

- 21 in favor
- 4 opposed
- 6 abstentions

Therefore, the committee's recommendation was approved.

The Curriculum committee also reviewed a proposal from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts for a Minor in Museum Studies. The committee recommended approval (with one recommendation). Their recommendation is to remove three elective courses (COM 2113, ENG 2413, and IDS 2083) that are not specific to the minor. The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee's recommendation.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Discussion of Course Evaluation Measures – Rebekah Smith
Dr. Smith said the senate's executive committee discussed a possible change to the measurement of course evaluations. Course evaluations are currently averaged using a mean number. She said that using the median number may yield a more accurate depiction of the evaluations' true averages. The senate agreed to review a formal proposal at the next meeting.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:01 pm.