

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of December 11, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year was held December 11, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Karen Daas, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

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

Present: Diane Abdo, David Akopian, Rajesh Bhargave, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Karen Daas, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Edgar Ghossoub, Mark Giles, Vaidya Gundlupet, Robert Hard, Richard Harris, Jill Hernandez, Harry Jarrett, Richard Lewis, Chad Mahood, Randall Manteufel, Joycelyn Moody, John Nix, Chris Packham, Clyde Phelix, Anand Ramasubramanian, Libby Rowe, Elaine Sanders, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Howard Smith, Rob Tillyer, Melissa Wallace, Alistair Welchman, John Zhang

Absent: Robert Ambrosino, Armando Arciniega, Karan Bhanot, Emily Bonner (excused), Anthony Chronopoulos, Samer Dessouky, Yongli Gao (excused), Suat Gunhan (excused), Marian Martinello (excused), Patricia McGee, Debbie Menger, Michael Moyer, Ashok Nedungadi, Wing Chung Ng, Antonio Petrov, Branco Ponomariov, Lloyd Potter, Teresa Sellers, Bennie Wilson (excused)

Guests: Richard Boon (for Emily Bonner), John Frederick, Sarah Soulek, Jeremy Sullivan (for Patricia McGee), Hongjie Xie (for Yongli Gao)

Total members present: 34

Total members absent: 19

#### II. Approval of the November 6, 2014 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Karen Daas

Dr. Daas gave an update on the following policies:

- HOP 2.34 Faculty Grievance Procedure – back from legal affairs
- HOP 2.38 Academic Program Abandonment – all recommendations accepted – has been forwarded to the President for final approval

- HOP 10.15 Management, Use and Commercialization of UTSA Intellectual Property – on its way to legal affairs
- Final Exam Policy – There will now be a 15-week requirement (previously 16 weeks) for class meetings beginning in the spring. This change will allow faculty to give a final exam during the last week of classes but they will no longer be required to meet in the 16<sup>th</sup> week. If faculty still want to give a 3-hour final exam in the 16<sup>th</sup> week, they may do so as long as they meet during their regularly-scheduled exam meeting time.

Dr. Daas said that faculty will again be able to hood their doctoral students at this semester's commencement. She also asked for volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc committee to review remote proctoring. The committee will have input on the software used for online classes.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez said that the University Assembly met in October and analyzed President Romo's Tier One pillars. She said that it was primarily a discussion that focused on broad ideas/ways to reach the university's goals.

She said that the following topics were discussed at the most recent Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting:

- The nationwide number of NTTs (70% of faculty in university positions are non-TT positions)
- IP issues (Texas universities are currently split on IP requirements) and the benefits of using Creative Commons
- New proposals approved on a "rolling" basis
- An update on merit received/not received at each TX university
- The re-hiring of faculty at UT PanAm/Brownsville (all faculty had to reapply; not all got their positions back; and some with different pay rates)

C. Provost's Report – John Frederick

Dr. Frederick said that interviews are underway for the new Dean of the Graduate School. A decision will likely be made in January.

He said that the VPBA search committee has selected about a dozen candidates to interview the second week of January. From those, 3-4 will be selected to interview on campus.

Dr. Frederick said that commencement this semester will be held at the convention center for the first time (due to the Alamodome being unavailable). He encouraged everyone to park on campus and take the shuttle to the convention center if possible. He said that UTSA is working with the city on securing the Alamodome for the next few years for commencement. Dr. Frederick explained that the hooding process will be slightly different this semester. Rather than the deans hooding their PhD students, their advisors will hood them with assistance from Dr. Frederick.

He reminded the senate that a legislative session is scheduled for next month. He said that UTSA's major priorities are increased formula funding, funding for a new building, and state relief for the Hazelwood Act. If the state were to fund the

Hazelwood Act, this would create approximately \$11 million in permanent funding for the university.

Dr. Frederick said that “performance-based” funding is also being considered (primarily relating to undergraduates). This type of funding would measure each university’s student success metrics and would add them to the current method of funding. He said that UTSA’s estimated projection under this type of funding looks promising.

D. Graduate Council – Elaine Sanders

Dr. Sanders shared some updates from the most recent Graduate Council meeting. Master’s application numbers for the upcoming spring semester are comparable to last year’s spring semester. In addition, many of these students are international students. She said there is one proposal for program abandonment underway: the certificate in securities studies. Typically reasons for program abandonment include a lack of student enrollment and/or a lack of funding. Dr. Sanders said there are several new program proposals currently underway:

- PhD in Civil Engineering
- PhD in Higher Education
- MS Business
- MS Data Analytics
- Operations and Supply Chain Management certificate
- MA in Educational Psychology
- MS Geoinformatics
- Sociology/Demography hybrid PhD

E. HOP Committee – Robert Hard

The HOP committee reviewed HOP 8.19 Server Administration, HOP 8.20 Information Resources User, and HOP 8.21 Application Administrator. The committee recommended approval of HOP 8.19 and 8.21. They also recommended approval of HOP 8.20 with modifications (see report for details). **The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee’s recommendations.**

F. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

The committee reviewed four core curriculum course proposals for the 2016-2017 catalog. In agreement with the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), the senate’s curriculum committee recommended the following:

- ES 1213 Environmental Geology – Accept
- WS 2023 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies – Accept
- BIO 1033 Drugs and Society – Accept
- ENT 2003 Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Reject

**The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee’s recommendations.**

G. EMRW Committee – Richard Harris

Dr. Harris said that the committee received little feedback on the Peer Evaluation/Observation of Teaching policy. One potential policy modification is whether or not to change the name of the policy (from Peer Observation) to Peer Evaluation. In order to receive more feedback, a vote will be scheduled for the January senate meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:20 pm.