

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of April 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year was held April 9, 2015, 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, Emily Bonner, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Karen Daas, Glenn Dietrich, Jim Dykes, Yongli Gao, Edgar Ghossoub, Mark Giles, Vaidya Gundlupet, Robert Hard, Jill Hernandez, Turgay Korkmaz, Richard Lewis, Randall Manteufel, Patricia McGee, Debbie Menger, Michael Moyer, Wing Chung Ng, Chris Packham, Branco Ponomariov, Lloyd Potter, Anand Ramasubramanian, Libby Rowe, Elaine Sanders, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Rob Tillyer, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, John Zhang

Absent: David Akopian, Armando Arciniaga, Karan Bhanot, Rajesh Bhargave (excused), James Dawes, Samer Dessouky, Martha Fasci, Suat Gunhan (excused), Richard Harris (excused), Harry Jarrett, Chad Mahood (excused), Marian Martinello (excused), Joycelyn Moody (excused), Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Antonio Petrov, Clyde Phelix, Derek Plantenga (excused), Teresa Sellers (excused), Howard Smith, Bennie Wilson

Guests: Christie Blizard, Ron Ellis (for John Nix), Kimberly Fonzo (for Joycelyn Moody), John Frederick, Mary Kay Houston Vega (for Richard Harris), Patricia Jaramillo, Barbara Smith, Sarah Soulek

Total members present: 32

Total members absent: 21

II. Approval of the March 19, 2015 meeting minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Karen Daas

Dr. Daas said that the EARN committee is working on ways to make the system more user-friendly, as less than 10% of faculty are currently using it. She said that there is a senate activity log on Rowdyspace that lists the actions of the senate for each meeting, along with the outcome (approved/not approved).

The list may be accessed at the following link:

<https://rowdyspace.utsa.edu:443/department/FacultySenate/Action%20Memos/FACULTY%20SENATE%20ACTION%20MEMOS.xls>

Dr. Daas reminded the senators that committee elections will be held at the May meeting, and encouraged senators whose terms are ending to bring the new senator that will be representing their department in the fall. She said that the senate's budget committee will begin meeting this summer, and said to contact her if interested in serving on the committee. Dr. Daas announced that the senate's executive committee will be meeting with the new Chancellor tomorrow. She also encouraged senators to attend the Faculty Mixer at the main campus directly following the May 7th senate meeting (in the Faculty Center from 5-7pm).

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez said that the President gave a legislative update at the most recent University Assembly meeting. Although early estimations of the budget show cuts to funding, the President seems hopeful about merit next year. There is hope that there will be assistance with funding the Hazlewood exemption to ease the burden on individual universities. Dr. Hernandez noted that “performance-based funding” was discussed at the last SYSFAC meeting; however, the conversation seems to have shifted to “performance-based tuition”. This shift could have different implications for individual universities. Dr. Hernandez also said that the President announced that a new parking garage has been approved for the main campus.

C. Provost's Report – John Frederick

A question was asked regarding the summer salary cap. Dr. Frederick explained that it's a UT System policy and federal reporting guidelines require the cap to be in place. He said that he would be open to start compression studies when the policy is accepted. He said that there is currently no word on the final budget. It appears that a reduced amount has been recommended, but some legislators are wanting to fund the formula at a higher percentage. This would give UTSA the same budget as last year and any increases would be prior to a tuition increase. Dr. Frederick said that the Hazlewood exemption has cost around \$11 million in tuition for UTSA. Going forward, the university will try to encourage the use of Pell Grants, in order to collect some of the unused Hazlewood funds. Dr. Frederick said that funding for a new building looks positive. The new building will have upgraded science labs and additional classroom space. Dr. Frederick said that the Chancellor will be visiting UTSA tomorrow, and he will be discussing UTSA's plan to improve graduation rates. He reminded the senate that commencement is May 9 and 10 in the Alamodome. A contract has been signed that will allow UTSA to reserve the Alamodome for commencement for the next few years. Dr. Frederick said that 4 of the 6 Tier One pillars have been presented to the CMO and that detailed strategy discussions are likely to begin soon. Dr. Frederick discussed the future of NTTs and the opportunity to expand the use of full-time higher-level NTTs in both teaching and service activities.

D. Graduate Council – Elaine Sanders

Dr. Sanders announced that the Graduate Council had elected Michael Baumann as the new chair for 2015-2016. The senate voted to unanimously approve Dr. Baumann as the new Graduate Council chair.

E. NEP Committee – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that the NEP committee reviewed the senate bylaws and were proposing the following changes:

- Specify which ex officio members have voting rights (Article II, section 1,c)
- Restructuring of the executive committee to include committee chairs (Article VIII, section 4, a)
- Restructuring of senate committees (Article VIII)
- Other minor changes/clarification as needed

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

F. HOP Committee – Robert Hard

The HOP committee reviewed HOP 10.03 Organized Research Units. The committee proposed four changes (including some additional statements) with the goal to encourage and formalize greater levels of faculty involvement and awareness in the activities of these units. See report for full details. **The senate voted to approve the committee’s report (with one friendly amendment) as follows: 29 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.**

G. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

The curriculum committee reviewed 2 of 3 proposals (the third was tabled until the May meeting).

- *Removal of Restrictions on Military Science courses*

Dr. Welchman provided additional information on the proposal for the removal of restrictions on Military Science courses that was tabled from the March meeting. Barbara Smith from advising also attended to discuss any additional concerns. See full details in committee report. **The senate voted to approve the committee’s report as follows: 28 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.**

- *Minor in Civic Engagement*

The curriculum committee reviewed a proposal from COPP to establish a minor in Civic Engagement. The committee unanimously recommends approval of this proposal. **The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee’s recommendation.**

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 4:35 pm.