The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 academic year was held December 10, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 2.04.22) with Dr. Karen Daas, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance


Absent: Karan Bhanot, Pepe Chang, Martha Fasci (excused), Michael Gilbert, Jamon Halvaksz (excused), Harry Jarrett, Richard Lewis, Randall Manteufel, Ashok Nedungadi, Wing Chung Ng (excused), Chris Packham (excused), Matthew Reilly (excused), Teresa Sellers (excused)

Guests: Anne Hardgrove (for Wing Chung Ng), Maricela Oliva, Sarah Soulek

Total members present: 40 Total members absent: 13

II. Consent Calendar

• Approval of minutes – November 5, 2015
The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair’s Report – Karen Daas
Dr. Daas said that the senate has a new official university seal to use going forward. She said that campus carry recommendations were presented yesterday. There has been discussion on whether to include the convocation center as a permanent exclusion zone and whether to include campus-owned vehicles as exclusion zones. Dr. Daas said to check the campus carry webpage
for more updates. She said that feedback on the export control HOP policy is
due to Glenn Dietrich by January 11th. She said that UTSA is looking at re-
instituting faculty-initiated drops for students that don’t meet certain
requirements. Dr. Daas said that Police Chief Steve Barrera will be attending
the January senate meeting to discuss active shooter response training and
information. She also said that the senate’s NEP committee will be conducting
a survey on what to include for faculty orientation in the fall. She also
encouraged everyone to attend the senate faculty mixer immediately following
today’s meeting.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez
Dr. Hernandez gave some updates from UT System. She said that Dr. Daniel
(Deputy Chancellor) met with the SYSFAC executive council on UT System
campus carry requirements – the 3 main principles include following the law,
ensuring safety, and an attempt at seamless integration of zones. He shared a
draft report recommending consensus exclusion zones for all campus and some
universal non-exclusion zones (see full report for details). If any area is marked
as an exclusion zone, by law, there must be proper signage. The UT System
perspective is that faculty offices, while not universally known exclusion zones,
may be permitted as an individual exclusion zone on a case-by-case basis with
proper signage. For events such as disciplinary hearings and kid’s summer
camps, transportable signage may be used.
Dr. Hernandez also reported on the dual credit initiative. She said that the
taskforce is gathering data from all campuses to present to the Board of Regents
in the spring.

C. Provost’s report – John Frederick
Dr. Frederick encouraged faculty to attend December commencement. A
question was asked about the reason for combining graduation ceremonies and
having multiple college ceremonies on the same day. He said that since the
convocation center is no longer able to be used for commencement, the
Alamodome has no restrictions on how many guests may be invited. Timing
and cost is also a factor in determining how and when the ceremonies take place.
He also said that proposed changes to the summer term were discussed
yesterday with department chairs and asked if the senate had any concerns. A
question was raised regarding departments’ freedom to allocate funds. He said
there won’t be restrictions on how departments choose to use this extra funding.

D. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman
The senate’s curriculum committee reviewed 3 proposals:
  o Proposal for a Minor in East Asian Studies – The senate voted to
    unanimously approve this proposal.
  o Proposal for a Minor in Nutrition – The senate voted to approve this
    proposal (32 yes, 0 no, and 3 abstentions). There was also discussion on
    improving the review process to cross-check courses being offered across
    multiple departments.
o SPN 1034 – The senate voted to unanimously approve the revised proposal.

E. HOP Committee – Glenn Dietrich
   The HOP committee reviewed HOP 5.01 Student Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). There was discussion on whether to include a mechanism to notify students if there is anything placed in their record that’s not related to grading. A motion was made and was seconded to vote on this friendly amendment to the policy. The senate voted not to include the amendment. The senate voted on the policy as written and the policy was approved by a vote of 31 yes, 4 no, and 1 abstention.

IV. Unfinished Business
   There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business
   o Jesse Zapata – Annual Faculty Grievance Committee Report
     Dr. Zapata said that the new chair of the grievance committee is Gerald Juhnke who was unable to attend today’s meeting, but Dr. Zapata would share some information regarding the process and recent changes.
     Some recent changes implemented over the summer include:
     ▪ The mandatory involvement of an Ombudsperson
     ▪ Notification that a grievance has occurred (while in the informal stage)
     ▪ Any grievance involving an annual appraisal begins as a formal process
     ▪ The review panel no longer conducts a formal hearing; rather, they review the documentation submitted and offer a recommendation to the Provost. Both parties can respond and the Provost will make a final decision.
     Any questions regarding the grievance process may be submitted to Dr. Zapata or Dr. Juhnke.

VI. Open Forum
   It was announced that the campus carry survey has already been distributed to students and will be distributed to faculty and staff soon. A full report by the campus carry special committee will be given at the January senate meeting.

VI. Adjournment
   There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:00 p.m.