

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of February 25, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 academic year was held February 25, 2016, 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

Present: Jennifer Alexander, Michael Baumann, Karan Bhanot, Christie Blizzard, Emily Bonner, Pepe Chang, Jackie Cuevas, Karen Daas, Glenn Dietrich, Karen Dodwell, Jim Dykes, John Frederick, Yongli Gao, Dmitry Gokhman, Vaidya Gundlupet, Ruyan Guo, Jamon Halvaksz, Richard Harris, Gregory Hazelton, Jill Hernandez, Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Richard Lewis, Chad Mahood, Randall Manteufel, Byongook Moon, Michael Moyer, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Chris Packham, Lloyd Potter, Dan Sass, Howard Smith, Kelly Suter, Liang Tang, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, Karen Williams, John Zhang

Absent: Saadet Beeson, Rajesh Bhargave, Janis Bush, James Dawes (excused), Samer Dessouky, Martha Fasci, Edgar Ghossoub (excused), Mark Giles, Michael Karcher, Rui Liu, Ashok Nedungadi, Derek Plantenga, Teresa Sellers

Guests: Sarah Soulek, Jeremy Sullivan (for Michael Karcher)

Total members present: 39

Total members absent: 13

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – January 28, 2016
The minutes were approved.
- Grad Council certificates/programs:
 - Graduate Certificate in Special Education Advocacy
 - Graduate Certificate in ISTEM Education
 - Graduate Certificate in E-STEM
 - Graduate Certificate in Environmental Sustainability
 - Graduate Certificate in Environmental Science
 - MS in Geoinformatics

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report – Karen Daas

Dr. Daas said that the campus carry taskforce met on February 5th, and a report is expected in March. She said that she will be attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting tomorrow, and that there will be a greater overview about what other campuses are doing in regards to campus carry. Dr. Daas said that there are some upcoming HOP policies that the senate will vote on next month, including:

- 5.09 – Class Attendance
- 4.20 – Authorized Leave
- 1.33 – Conflict of Interest, Conflict of Commitment, and Outside Activities
- 10.01 – Export Controls

Dr. Daas said that Faculty Senate elections are underway for a new senate Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty. She has nominated Emily Bonner to serve as chair and nominated Jill Hernandez to continue in her roll of secretary. Nominations are due April 1st and a formal vote will be held at the April 21st senate meeting. Faculty Senate executive committee member/chair elections will be held at the May 5th senate meeting, followed by the annual senate mixer.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez said she met with the Chancellor last week who approved the dual credit initiative study. Site visits will begin in about two weeks. She also attended a data analysis conference and said she will post the meeting slides to the Faculty Senate SharePoint site.

C. Provost's report – John Frederick

See new business.

D. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Lloyd Potter

The committee presented their recommendations regarding the summer teaching whitepaper to the senate. There were no changes suggested, so the recommendations will be forwarded to the Provost.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

There was discussion about a memo that was recently sent out regarding D/F/W rates. Dr. Frederick explained that there has been an ongoing issue of high D/F/W rates and has contacted the Deans and department chairs in the past to get their ideas on how to make improvements. The data shows variations within the same course offerings. There are instances of different instructors teaching the same course that have drastically different D/F/W rates. The goal is not to lower standards in order

to improve D/F/W rates, but rather to keep standards high and help students in meeting those standards. Departments will likely have different solutions depending on their individual disciplines. Dr. Frederick said that there is a new mechanism that will be in place soon that allows instructors to have greater control over dropping students in their classes that repeatedly don't attend. After some discussion, Dr. Daas said that she would forward the memo to the senate in order to draft a collective response addressing concerns raised by the memo, and offering solutions. The senate's Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit committee will draft a report for review at the next meeting.

VI. Open Forum

An invitation was extended to all faculty to attend a free recital being held tonight at 7:30pm in the recital hall. The performer is David Portillo, a graduate of UTSA.

VI. Adjournment

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