

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF November 12, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2009-2010 academic year was held November 12, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.03.12) with Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Sos Agaian, Yoris Au, Manuel Berriozabal, Joel Christensen, Sara DeTurk, Carol Dyas, Mansour El-Kikhia, John Frederick, Mary Ellen Garcia, Rhonda Gonzales, Robert Hard, Judith Haschenburger, Victor Heller, Amy Jasperson(Andrea Aleman), Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam, Randy Manteufel, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, John Merrifield, Jolyn Mikow, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Sandy Norman, Branco Ponomariov, Anand Ramasubmaranian, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Cherylon Robinson, Hatim Sharif, Ted Skekel, Johnelle Sparks, Raydel Tullous, Carola Wenk (Clint Whaley), Bennie Wilson

Absent: Steve Bach (excused), Ron Binks, Mark Brill, Norma Cantu (excused), William Cooke (excused), Kim Cuero (excused), Beth Durodoye (excused), Zlatko Koinov, Margarita Machado-Casas (excused), John McCray (excused), Sharon Nichols (excused), Darryl Ohlenbusch, Ben Olguin, Robert Rico (excused), Virginia Trummer

Guests: Ashley Diaz, Aaron Cassill, Ann Jimenez, Patricia Graham, Akshay Thusu, Kelly Gambill

Total members present: 32 Total members absent: 16

II. Approval of the October 8, 2009 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia announced that the SYSFAC had not met within the last month. The next meeting of the SYSFAC is scheduled for December 11, 2009.

He announced that the HOP Committee needed a replacement for Dr. Richard Harris. Dr. Robert Hard has agreed to serve on the HOP Committee.

Dr. El-Kikhia reported that proposed changes to the PIP and PPE policies were being sent to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and the HOP Committee. The policies may be discussed at the December 10th meeting.

B. University Assembly Report- Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman reported that the University Assembly had not met within the last month. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd.

C. Curriculum Committee- Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the following proposals:

- Undergraduate Catalog
http://www.utsa.edu/gcat/inprogress/10-12_review/10-12_draft.html

Dr. Rashed-Ali briefly explained the document and indicated that the committee had approved the catalog. After the senators discussed the proposed undergraduate catalog, they unanimously approved it with pending changes from the computer science department.

IV. New Business

A. Akshay Thusu, Honor Code Chair and Kelly Gambill, President of the Honors Alliance

Mr. Thusu, Honor Code Chair, gave a brief explanation of the UTSA Honors Alliance, which was established in 2002. The Honors Alliance's mission is to provide leadership development, volunteerism, and recognition while promoting academic integrity within the university community.

The President of the Honors Alliance, Ms. Kelly Gambill, and Mr. Thusu presented the 2009-2010 Drafted Education Plan for the UTSA Honor Code. The draft included the process for implementing the UTSA Honor Pledge over the next several years.

During the discussion, the Senators indicated support for an Honor Code, but they had a number of concerns about its implementation. For example, senators questioned the practicality of requiring students to write the code on every assignment submitted. They also discussed penalties for Honor Code violations.

No vote was taken on the matter; however, the senators and Honor Alliance representatives agreed to further discussion about the Honor Code. Dr. El-Kikhia will ask the Provost to establish a task force to look into all aspects of a University-wide Honor Code.

B. Anne Jimenez- Assistant Dean of Students and Judicial Affairs

Ms. Jimenez thanked the faculty for their input on the Honor Code and discussed some of the university's policies concerning scholastic dishonesty. She then explained EPIC Journey

sanctioning, a process of using engagement, personal involvement, interpersonal involvement, and community to teach students who violate the university's Student Code of Conduct how their situation applies to the greater community.

Senators expressed their concern about scholastic dishonesty and the measures taken to address the problem.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Instructor evaluation instrument update

Dr. Raydell Tullous presented examples of teaching evaluations from different universities. Three options for UTSA's evaluation process were suggested: (1) adopting the survey developed by the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee, (2) customizing the survey for each department with the exception of two mandatory questions used university wide, or (3) continuing with the IDEA survey. All documents will be sent to senators for departmental review and feedback.

Provost John Frederick said he preferred using an online survey.

VI. Provost Report – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick reported that the guidelines for Department Chairs were being revamped. The current guidelines regarding Chairs' responsibilities, selection, length of term, etc. are in the HOP. The suggested changes account for less than 10-15% of the current guidelines.

A proposal has been made for online orientation for Non-Tenure Track faculty and perhaps post-doctoral faculty in the future. He asked the Faculty Senate to suggest any other groups who could benefit from online orientations.

Dr. Frederick discussed the ongoing evaluations of the Deans: College of Engineering, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, and College of Science. The confidentiality aspect of these evaluations is the main priority. All the information is being stored on a secure server and only the provost will have access to responses. He also asked for feedback on the current online dean evaluation.

The UT System is requiring course evaluation results to be available online by the 2010 fall semester; all classes will be evaluated. He asked faculty to recommend university-wide incentives to encourage students to participate in on-line course evaluations.

VII. Open Forum

No discussion.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted at 5:40 pm.