

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of March 6, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2013-2014 academic year was held March 6, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Rebekah Smith, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

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

Present: Diane Abdo, David Akopian, Emily Bonner, Felicia Castro-Villarreal, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Karen Daas, Glenn Dietrich, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Yongli Gao, Mark Giles, Vaidya Gundlupet, Suat Gunhan, Robert Hard, Richard Harris, Drew Johnson, Turgay Korkmaz, Richard Lewis, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Lydia Martinez-Rivera, Joycelyn Moody, Ashok Nedungadi, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Antonio Petrov, Anand Ramasubramanian, Dan Sass, Rebekah Smith, Johnelle Sparks, Rob Tillyer, Bennie Wilson, Wayne Wright, John Zhang

Absent: Robert Ambrosino (excused), Rajesh Bhargave, Karla Broadus, Natasha Burns (excused), Frank Chen, Harry Jarrett, Marian Martinello (excused), Marcelo Marucho, Debbie Menger (excused), John Merrifield, Michael Moyer (excused), Clyde Phelix (excused), Branco Ponomariov, Libby Rowe (excused), Misty Sailors (excused), Juana Salazar (excused), Elaine Sanders, Woodie Spivey, Alistair Welchman

Guests: Samson Alva (for John Merrifield), Barbara Baran-Centeno, Donna Edmondson, John Frederick, Doug Hartzler, Sarah Leach, Nancy Martin, Javier Martinez, Janakiram Seshu (for Clyde Phelix), Juliet Wiersema (for Libby Rowe)

Total members present: 34

Total members absent: 19

#### II. Approval of the February 13, 2014 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Rebekah Smith

###### PeopleSoft

Dr. Smith notified the senate of a new update that was received today from the PeopleSoft team. It has been confirmed that a 12-month salary spread option WILL be available for faculty members who don't receive grant-funding during the

academic year. This option is also being offered at the Arlington, Brownsville, Permian Basin, Tyler, and (likely) the El Paso campuses. However, faculty members with salary from grant-funding (during the academic year) will still be required to use a 9-month distribution. She said that the PeopleSoft team will explain these new updates later in the meeting.

#### SGA

Dr. Smith said that the Student Government Association has submitted a request to add 4.33 points towards GPAs for A+ grades. The senate's Academic Policy and Requirements committee is currently reviewing the proposal. Feedback should be sent to Bennie Wilson by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Elections

Dr. Smith reminded the senate that elections for senators for the 2014-2015 year should be conducted soon. She also said that elections for Faculty Senate chair and Secretary of the General Faculty will be held at the senate's April meeting. Nominations for either position may be sent to Karen Daas, chair of the Nominating, Elections, and Procedures committee.

#### B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Rebekah Smith (for Misty Sailors)

Dr. Smith gave a brief update on the last University Assembly meeting held on February 18<sup>th</sup>. She said that the assembly drafted and signed a letter of appreciation to be sent to Chancellor Cigarroa. A formal announcement was made confirming Sam Gonzales as the new Vice President for Student Affairs. There has also been a new committee formed, the Student Leadership Council, which reports directly to the President's office. Dr. Smith said that Staff Council has recently formed a Health and Wellness committee at UTSA, and a brief report on the UTSA History Project was given by Marian Martinello, Retired Faculty Association President.

#### C. HOP Committee – Robert Hard

The HOP committee reviewed HOP 2.10 Faculty Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure. The committee determined that most of the proposed changes were non-substantive or involved changes that were already instituted. One proposed change will require faculty to vote at the DFRAC level, rather than reserving their vote for the CFRAC or UFRAC level. Dr. Hard said that the committee supports this change. A second change involves the level of contribution that a departmental representative may have while serving on the CFRAC. The representative would only be able to respond to questions (in cases where they oppose the DFRAC's position). As the departmental representative can be a key source of information from the department level, the HOP committee proposed the following re-wording: *"In the CFRAC or UFRAC deliberations, that person shall not advocate a position that is counter to the recommendations expressed by the majority of the DFRAC in their report."* This re-wording would allow the representative to speak more openly and provide additional details about the case, while still protecting the DFRAC's recommendation. This change would likely need to be integrated through practice and with the enforcement of the chair of the CFRAC. The senate voted as follows:

28 approve, 1 opposed, 5 abstentions

**Therefore, the committee's proposal was approved.**

D. Curriculum Committee – Lydia Martinez-Rivera

The Curriculum committee reviewed 10 proposed core curriculum courses for the 2015-2016 academic year (see report for more details):

- Social and Behavioral component courses –
  1. BIO 1033 Drugs and Society
    - The curriculum committee does NOT recommend this course.
  2. EGR 2803 Project Economics
    - The curriculum committee does NOT recommend this course.
  3. CS 1023 Cultural Implications of the Information Society
    - The curriculum committee does NOT recommend this course. (This is the only course that the senate curriculum committee disagreed with the University Curriculum Committee.)

The senate voted on the committee's recommendations for courses 1-3 as follows: 28 approve, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions.

**Therefore, the committee's recommendations were approved.**

- Creative Arts component course –
  4. DAN 2013 Introduction to Dance
    - The curriculum committee recommends this course (with corrections).
- Life and Physical Sciences component courses –
  5. CHE 1073 Basic Chemistry
    - The curriculum committee recommends this course.
  6. CHE 1103 General Chemistry I
    - The curriculum committee recommends this course.
  7. ES 1113 Environmental Botany
    - The curriculum committee recommends this course.
  8. ES 1123 Environmental Zoology
    - The curriculum committee recommends this course.

The senate voted on the committee's recommendations for courses 4-8 as follows: 34 approve, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

**Therefore, the committee's recommendations were approved.**

- Government and Political Sciences component courses –
  9. POL 1223 States, Communities, and Public Policies
    - The curriculum committee does NOT recommend this course.
  10. POL 1213 Civil Rights in Texas and America
    - The curriculum committee recommends this course (with corrections).

The senate voted on the committee's recommendations for courses 9-10 as follows: 34 approve, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.

**Therefore, the committee's recommendations were approved.**

As the undergraduate catalog is now under a yearly review, departments are encouraged to resubmit course proposals next year, rather than submit revisions within the same year.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

## V. New Business

- PeopleSoft Update – *Barbara Baran-Centeno, Associate VP Human Resources*

Ms. Centeno told the senate that PeopleSoft will be able to accommodate 12-month salary spreads for faculty with 9-month salaries. This will be effective September 1, 2014 as long as faculty members do not earn salary paid by a grant, or anticipate applying grant funding during the academic year (however, summer grants are acceptable). In order to spread their salary over 12 months, faculty members must fill out a Salary Election Form to confirm their choice (per IRS guidelines). If a Salary Election form is not completed, the default will be 9 months' salary paid over 9 months. Ms. Centeno said that discussions with UTShare are ongoing, in order to push for a PeopleSoft module that can perform the same functions as Define. She said that a module is needed to manage salary spreading and reduce unnecessary errors.

Due to the May 1 pushback date, for individuals on 9 month spread, summer insurance deductions will take place in May for faculty members who are paid 9 months (spread over 9 months). Basically, there will be no change from last year. However, in spring of 2015, health insurance deductions will be double-deducted from the April 1, May 1, and June 1 paychecks for faculty members paid 9 months (spread over 9 months). Faculty members who elect to spread their 9 months' pay over 12 months will have normal deductions each month.

## VI. Open Forum

## VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:38 pm.