

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of September 11, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year was held September 11, 2014, 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, David Akopian, Karan Bhanot, Rajesh Bhargave, Emily Bonner, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Anthony Chronopoulos, Karen Daas, James Dawes, Samer Dessouky, Glenn Dietrich, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Yongli Gao, Edgar Ghossoub, Mark Giles, Robert Hard, Richard Harris, Jill Hernandez, Harry Jarrett, Richard Lewis, Chad Mahood, Randall Manteufel, Marian Martinello, Debbie Menger, Joycelyn Moody, Michael Moyer, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Chris Packham, Antonio Petrov, Clyde Phelix, Anand Ramasubramanian, Libby Rowe, Dan Sass, Howard Smith, Rob Tillyer, Melissa Wallace, Alistair Welchman, Bennie Wilson, John Zhang

Absent: Robert Ambrosino, Armando Arciniega, Vaidya Gundlupet (excused), Suat Gunhan (excused), Turgay Korkmaz (excused), Patricia McGee (excused), Ashok Nedungadi, Branco Ponomariov, Lloyd Potter (excused), Elaine Sanders (excused), Teresa Sellers, Rebekah Smith, Woodie Spivey

Guests: Edwin Barea-Rodriguez, Matthias Hofferberth (for Vaidya Gundlupet), Sarah Leach, Red Madden, Gerry Sanders, Jesse Zapata (for John Frederick)

Total members present: 42

Total members absent: 13

#### II. Approval of the May 1, 2014 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Karen Daas

Dr. Daas welcomed senators and briefly discussed their responsibilities (attending meetings, conveying information back to their department, and participating in committee activities). She gave an explanation of the policy process and stakeholder review. Two policies are currently out for review and will be presented at the October senate meeting: HOP 2.20 Peer Observation of Teaching and HOP

2.38 Academic Program Abandonment. Dr. Daas announced the new committee chairs for the 2014-2015 year. A full list may be found on the senate's webpage. She discussed some topics that were brought up at the most recent department chair council meeting. With regard to disability services, the faculty member involved is responsible for making space and time accommodations when a registered student requires extra time. Also, all departments must have a faculty mentoring program in place by fall 2015 and each department is responsible for developing their own program. Dr. Daas discussed a few GRIP-related topics as well. UTSA students are equivalent to peer institution students, but tend to be more socially engaged. The number of transfer students from the Alamo colleges has decreased 20% in the last five years due to other local colleges increasing their recruiting efforts and offering scholarships early. UTSA enrollment is flat despite a large incoming class. Fortunately, 70% of incoming freshmen are taking at least 15 credit hours each semester.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez announced some upcoming meetings that she would be attending: UT SYSFAC (September 25-26), University Assembly (October 15), and Texas Council of Faculty Senates (October 24-25). She briefly explained the makeup of the University Assembly and said that its goal is to improve communication among diverse groups across campus. She said that President Romo has created a pre-strategic planning vision to achieve Tier One status. The University Assembly executive committee was asked to provide feedback on ideals within and benchmarks for the various divisions noted in the framework. Any additional ideas or questions may be submitted to Dr. Hernandez. A question was asked regarding how to prioritize funding for these items given the recent budget constraints. Dr. Daas said she would follow up on this issue.

C. Provost's Report – Jesse Zapata (for John Frederick)

Dr. Zapata said that he is looking forward to working with the senate on policy issues and is hopeful for continued efforts as effective as last year's. He said that although no merit was awarded this year, this has only happened a few times before. Some contributing factors this year were decreased enrollment and increased hiring. He said that although there is an increase in the new freshmen class (5,000 this year as opposed to 3,600 last year), these student gains didn't raise overall enrollment figures. There is still a lack of tuition and fees coupled with a 10% budget reduction from 2012 that has not been recovered from. Dr. Zapata said that much of the hiring has been replacement positions but that the President is committed to hiring new faculty. He said that the Provost would be visiting departments soon to discuss the hiring process and the importance of following the necessary steps quickly in order to recruit the best faculty.

D. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

Dr. Welchman said that his committee reviewed a request submitted by the Honors College requesting the closure of the BA in Honors Studies. The program was created in 2007 and has only graduated 3 students. No students are currently

enrolled. The reason for dissolving the program is due to low enrollment and the various opportunities students have to add honors onto their specific degrees. The BA was originally created to allow students to design their own degree, but the Multidisciplinary Studies degree has since been developed and implemented. The committee's recommendation is to support the original request and close the program. **A motion was made to support the committee's recommendation and the senate voted in favor unanimously.**

E. NEP Committee – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner discussed a proposed bylaws change that was presented at the May senate meeting. The bylaws change would include adding a representative from the department chair's council to the senate's HOP committee as an ex officio member. The representative would be recommended by the chair's council and approved by the senate. Other elected members of the committee can also be chairs, but this would assure that at least one chair would be present to facilitate communication and input among both groups. **A motion was made to support the committee's recommendation and the senate voted in favor (with 1 opposed).**

F. HOP Committee – Robert Hard

The HOP committee reviewed HOP 2.34 Faculty Grievance Procedure. Two changes (as well as a few editorial changes) were recommended by the committee.

- In section 1.d.i. add “or current standard practices” to read:
  - “d. The burden of proof shall rest with the Grievant to prove, by a preponderance of the credible evidence, that the administrative decision or action he or she is grieving under section IX.B:
    - i. is not in substantial compliance with established university criteria or procedures **or current standard practices;**

**The senate voted against this proposed change (4 in favor and 20 opposed).**

- In section G.2.c. new wording was proposed:
  - **The Grievant has ten (10) work days to file a response to the respondent's statement.**

**The senate voted unanimously in favor of this proposed change.**

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- ETM departmental changes – *Gerry Sanders, Dean, College of Business*  
Dr. Sanders said that the College of Business is looking at dissolving the department of Entrepreneurship & Technology Management. The department was created about 2 ½ years ago and currently houses 2 tenured faculty, 1 tenure-track faculty, and 2 full-time

non-tenure track faculty members. The department has faced many challenges, including high administrative costs, a lack of available faculty to serve on university committees, and teaching constraints among rapidly growing programs. In addition, the ETM department must maintain accreditation by sustaining enough scholarly activity among faculty, which is currently not possible with too few faculty members. Dr. Sanders explained that entrepreneurship can spread across many disciplines, and that a “matrix” model may be more efficient than the current stand-alone model. He said that there would be no elimination of faculty, staff, or programs. ETM faculty would go to their preferred disciplinary homes and the department would be dissolved.

#### VI. Open Forum

- Education Experience Film Festival – Red Madden

Red encouraged everyone to attend the E2F2 Education Experience Film Festival on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Buena Vista theater downtown. The film festival was created to celebrate and acknowledge those using digital film in their teaching, research, and publishing efforts. The deadline for submission of materials is next Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Visit [e2f2.utsa.edu](http://e2f2.utsa.edu) to submit your materials.

#### VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:15 pm.