

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of October 9, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year was held October 9, 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, Emily Bonner, Pepe Chang, Anthony Chronopoulos, Karen Daas, Samer Dessouky, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Yongli Gao, Mark Giles, Jill Hernandez, Harry Jarrett, Richard Lewis, Chad Mahood, Randall Manteufel, Marian Martinello, Patricia McGee, Debbie Menger, Joycelyn Moody, Michael Moyer, Ashok Nedungadi, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Chris Packham, Anand Ramasubramanian, Libby Rowe, Dan Sass, Howard Smith, Rebekah Smith, Rob Tillyer, Melissa Wallace, Alistair Welchman, Bennie Wilson, John Zhang

Absent: Robert Ambrosino, Armando Arciniega, Karan Bhanot, Rajesh Bhargave (excused), Fengxin Chen, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich (excused), Edgar Ghossoub (excused), Vaidya Gundlupet (excused), Suat Gunhan (excused), Robert Hard (excused), Richard Harris (excused), Antonio Petrov (excused), Clyde Phelix (excused), Branco Ponomariov, Lloyd Potter, Elaine Sanders (excused), Teresa Sellers (excused), Woodie Spivey

Guests: Zack Dunn, Cory Hallam, Mary Kay Houston-Vega (for Richard Harris), Jerry Jacka (for Robert Hard), Sarah Leach, Paul LeBlanc (Chairs Council), Sharon Navarro (for Vaidya Gundlupet), Heather Shipley, Jesse Zapata (for John Frederick)

Total members present: 35

Total members absent: 19

II. Approval of the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Karen Daas

Dr. Daas shared a follow-up regarding the budgeting process that was asked about in the last senate meeting. Budgeting is performed on a two-year basis, and the amount available is determined by the UT System. A report of the full process

may be found at: <http://utsa.edu/financialaffairs/budget/>. She said that HOP 5.03 Student Publications is currently out for stakeholder review. A vote will be conducted at the November senate meeting. Dr. Daas said that the department chair's council is planning on restructuring, as discussed at the last chair's council meeting. Also, Barbara Centeno gave a PeopleSoft update and confirmed that NTTs are not able to spread their salary over 12 months (this does not apply however, to Lecturer III faculty). This is due to classes not being guaranteed and salaries changing as a result. Dr. Daas also reported on midterm grade transfers from Learn to ASAP. She said midterm grades are mandatory and that departmental training for transferring from Learn to ASAP is available. In addition, the reasoning for an "F" grade must also be entered. These rules only apply to organized classes (not independent study classes) with 5 or more students. She said that midterm grades are due Oct. 17th and that the FIT lab will be open from 8am to 8pm on Oct. 15-16th. Finally, Dr. Daas expressed a request for faculty participants willing to work to develop a university creed for faculty. She said that this is being requested from the UT System, and it would be prudent to be pro-active in creating a university policy for UTSA.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Jill Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez announced the upcoming University Assembly meeting (Oct. 15) and Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting (Oct. 24-25). She said that the senate's Rowdyspace folder contains the following documents:

- Extensive SGF report from SYSFAC
- Regents' Report on IP
- Current UTSA LAR
- THECB Incentive-based formula funding report

She shared the following highlights from the last SYSFAC meeting: Board of Regents member visited SYSFAC and reported on the Institute for Transformative Learning as a priority; UT System is transitioning under the new Chancellor, hiring a UT Austin president, and opening two medical schools; incentive-based formula funding is being pushed by THECB; and the System task force on IP has forwarded a draft of its recommendations to the Board of Regents. Dr. Hernandez also gave an overview of some budgetary items discussed at the SYSFAC meeting, including a recent increase in funding last legislative term that only brought up Texas funding for higher education to '08-09 levels; budget pressures for FY '16-17; and discussed System higher education funding priorities. She closed by mentioning some upcoming legislative issues (see report).

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

Dr. Zapata discussed the President's 4-year \$40M vision to hire new faculty. \$28-\$30M in start-up funds is expected, along with leftover departmental funding that was returned to the Provost's office at the last year-end period. These steps are being taken in the hopes of ultimately improving retention and graduation rates. He said that the Provost will be visiting departments to further discuss these developments.

Dr. Zapata discussed the steps in the grievance policy, and addressed the senate's request to add a step in the process that would allow the grievant to respond to the chair's response in the formal phase. He said that this request is not likely to be

added since faculty on the review panel can often serve as a support system to the grievant, and the review panel may submit additional questions and requests for clarification to the grievant. There was a concern regarding the possibility of new information being added by the chair in their report, with no way for the grievant to respond. Dr. Zapata said that in this case, language can be added to the policy distinguishing that no new information may be added by the chair in their report. Dr. Zapata said that any further questions or comments regarding the grievance policy may be sent to him.

D. Evaluations, Merit, Rewards & Workload Committee – Dan Sass (for Richard Harris)
Dr. Sass said that the committee reviewed HOP 2.20 Peer Observation of Teaching. The committee recommended the following:

- *Part IX.B.1.b. Modify to read “Assistant professors should be reviewed once prior to the Third Year Review and once prior to a Tenure and Promotion Review, unless the faculty member requests additional observations.”*

The senate added...”unless the faculty member **or department** requests additional observations”.

The senate voted to unanimously approve this change.

- *Part IX.D.3. Modify to delete parts f and g.*

By deleting these parts, there would be an emphasized need for an individual departmental decision regarding the reporting method used. There was discussion regarding whether peer observations act as an evaluative or observatory measure.

An initial vote was taken and failed by 2 votes. The full count was:

- 11 in favor of the recommendation to delete these parts
- 13 NOT in favor of the recommendation to delete these parts
- 6 abstentions

However, given the divided opinion, there was a motion made to “table” this discussion and ask for further time to review the policy and the motion was seconded.

E. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

The Curriculum Committee reviewed HOP 2.38 Academic Program Abandonment. The committee had 9 recommendations to revise/clarify the policy. Each recommendation may be found on the full report on the senate’s webpage: <http://www.utsa.edu/Senate/fsminutes/2014/10-09-2014/UCC%20Report%20on%20HOP%202%2038.pdf>

There was a motion to accept the committee’s report with the recommendation to work with the Provost’s office to clarify the policy as needed. The senate voted as follows:

29 yes

0 no

1 abstention

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Heather Shipley

- NSF Advance

Dr. Shipley discussed a research study on UTSA faculty perceptions/attitudes that is being conducted by herself, Valerie Sponsel, and Gabe Acevedo. She said that a survey would be sent out next month and encouraged everyone to participate. She said the survey is anonymous but prizes will be given out to those chosen that have identified themselves. She said the survey may ultimately help to change/benefit the campus culture.

- Zack Dunn, Student Government Association

- Honor Roll

SGA President Zack Dunn discussed student government's proposal to change the honor roll policy to apply to students who take 12 hours per semester (not only those who take 15 hours per semester). As the policy currently stands, students who take a 12 hour course load per semester (still considered full-time) are not able to be acknowledged on the President or Dean's lists as honor roll students. This also impacts dual credit, transfer, and AP students who take fewer hours. He said that UTSA is the only school in the UT System to have this policy. SGA is concerned that employers will pass over these students who may be as qualified as their peers, but are not distinguished as such. Dr. Daas said that the senate's APR committee will further discuss this request at the next senate meeting.

- Cory Hallam

- Intellectual Property

Dr. Hallam said that the IP policy came out about a week ago, after being revised over the summer months. He emphasized that academic work and students' work is not owned, and that the IP policy has been rewritten to act as a supporting function, not a driving function in innovation. He said that any questions or comments may be sent to him. A copy of the taskforce report is on Rowdyspace and the HOP policy will be voted on next month.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:10 pm.