

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of January 29, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 academic year was held January 29, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB 2.06.04) with Dr. Karen Daas, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

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

Present: Diane Abdo, Pepe Chang, Fengxin Chen, Karen Daas, James Dawes, Samer Dessouky, Glenn Dietrich, Jim Dykes, Martha Fasci, Yongli Gao, Edgar Ghossoub, Mark Giles, Vaidya Gundlupet, Robert Hard, Harry Jarrett, Turgay Korkmaz, Chad Mahood, Randall Manteufel, Marian Martinello, Patricia McGee, Debbie Menger, Joycelyn Moody, Michael Moyer, Wing Chung Ng, John Nix, Chris Packham, Antonio Petrov, Clyde Phelix, Lloyd Potter, Anand Ramasubramanian, Dan Sass, Howard Smith, Rob Tillyer, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, Bennie Wilson, John Zhang

Absent: David Akopian, Armando Arciniega, Karan Bhanot, Rajesh Bhargave (excused), Emily Bonner (excused), Suat Gunhan (excused), Richard Harris (excused), Jill Hernandez (excused), Richard Lewis (excused), Ashok Nedungadi, Derek Plantenga, Branco Ponomariov, Libby Rowe (excused), Elaine Sanders (excused), Teresa Sellers (excused), Rebekah Smith (excused)

Guests: John Frederick, Rosalind Horowitz (for Emily Bonner), Mary Kay Houston Vega (for Richard Harris), Mark McCoin (for Libby Rowe), Elizabeth Ortiz, Sarah Soulek

Total members present: 36

Total members absent: 17

#### II. Approval of the December 11, 2014 meeting minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved, pending one minor change:  
Section D: Grad Council – should read “MA in Educational Psychology”

#### III. Reports

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

Dr. Daas encouraged the senate to bring any concerns to the executive committee for review. She said that a draft version of the university’s Faculty Creed is now posted to Rowdyspace. Since the creed is not a policy, no formal review or vote is needed. However, she encouraged senators to send any feedback to Jill Hernandez

within the next month. A final version of the creed will be posted to the Provost's webpage.

Dr. Daas gave an update on the pilot team results for in-class evaluation response rates. She said they are at 67%, which is an increase from the previous semester. She discussed the idea of restructuring the senate's executive committee to include each of the committee chairs as well as some at-large members to ensure equal college representation. Dr. Daas said that a proposal would be presented at the February meeting.

The VPBA search is underway and the four candidates are holding open forums on both the main and downtown campuses. Two candidates have already held their forums, and the two remaining candidate's forums will be held within the next few weeks.

Dr. Daas notified the senate of two upcoming faculty mixers (one at the main campus and one at the downtown campus):

- Thursday, May 7 from 5-7pm in the Faculty Center (following the senate meeting)
- Wednesday, April 8 from 5-7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor terrace FS 4.452 (following the department chair's meeting)

Dr. Daas also reminded everyone to attend the upcoming Founding Faculty Gallery Unveiling in the Faculty Center on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00-6:30pm. The 78 founding members of the university will have their portraits unveiled and a reception will follow.

B. Provost's Report – John Frederick

Dr. Frederick introduced Liz Ortiz, an ACE fellow from DePaul University in Chicago, who is visiting UTSA.

He gave an update on the VPBA search, being conducted to replace Kerry Kennedy who retired a week ago. Two more candidates are holding open forums, and he encouraged everyone to attend.

He announced that a new Dean of the Graduate School has been hired and will start on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Frederick briefly discussed the university's upcoming strategic plan. He said that the VPs have previewed it and don't anticipate any major goal-planning. The university already has a set vision, so finding ways to achieve that vision will be the main goal now. He said that the new Chancellor is requesting this information by the fall semester.

Dr. Frederick said that a plan is in the works to celebrate students moving from the University College into their major field of study. These events will likely be unique to each college, but will incorporate common elements among the colleges. Plans are underway to implement something by this fall.

He reminded the senate that the fall semester will now be starting (and ending) one week earlier. Because of this, summer school will be pushed up as well. The two weeks in May that had previously been used for a mini-term have been eliminated, but faculty may still petition for a shortened early summer course on a case-by-case basis.

C. EMRW Committee – Dan Sass (for Richard Harris)

The EMRW committee reviewed HOP 2.20 Peer Observation of Teaching. After receiving additional feedback, the committee felt that the policy should remain titled “Peer Observation”, rather than the previously considered “Peer Evaluation”. In addition, the committee recommended a revision to the policy wording that would allow department chairs to determine how often NTT faculty are reviewed. **The senate voted to unanimously approve both recommendations.**

There was also a recommendation from the senate to rewrite the wording in section D. 3.e. to read along the lines of “if any” plans for improvement. Dr. Daas said that she would propose exact wording to the HOP committee for approval.

D. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

The curriculum committee reviewed the proposed 2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog and a proposal to discontinue the minor in Facilities and Property Management.

- The committee recommended accepting the proposed undergraduate catalog pending a few small grammatical revisions. **The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee’s recommendation.**
- The committee recommended that the minor in Facilities and Property Management be discontinued and removed from the 2015-2016 catalog. **The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee’s recommendation.**

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Open Forum

An update regarding UTSA’s current international presence and future plans was requested. Dr. Frederick recommended contacting Dr. Rene Zenteno, Vice Provost for International Initiatives, for more detailed information.

Another question was asked regarding UTSA’s current enrollment. Dr. Frederick said that enrollment among graduate students is down, but applications for undergraduates and graduates are up from last year. He said that a class of around 5,000 freshmen is expected.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:20 pm.