



FACULTY SENATE MEETING May 11, 2016 MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meetings Are Open to All Members of the University Community

- Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting May 11, 2016, Wooten Hall 322
- Present: Brian Ayre; Kathryn Beasley; Glen Biglaiser; Sheri Broyles; V. Barbara Bush; Douglas Campbell; Adam Chamberlain; James Conover; Shelley Cushman; Elliot Dubin; Morgan Gieringer; Kamakshi Gopal; Lee Hughes; Paul Hutchison; John Ishiyama; Jennifer Lane; Smita Mehta; Maria Muñiz; Divesh Ojha; Phil Paolino; Jyoti Shaw; Stephen Slottow; Jeffrey Snider; Srinivasan Srivilliputhur; Jessica Strubel; Beth Thomsett-Scott; Mary Ann Venner; Guido Verbeck; Karen Weiller; Oksana Zavalina; Tao Zhang
- Absent: Kim Baker; Jennifer Callahan; Denise Catalano; Reza Mirshams; Saraju Mohanty; Phil Sweany; Manish Vaidya
- Guests: Neal Smatresk, President; Finley Graves, Provost; Christy Crutsinger, Provost Office; Mike McPherson; Provost Office Kevin Yanowski, Libraries; Sian Brannon UUCC; Pamela Johnston, Libraries; Lilly Ramin, Libraries; Karen Harker, Libraries; Richard Ruderman, PSCI; Erin O'Toole, Libraries; Olaymka Akinmerese, Student.
- I. Welcome and Introductions
Announcement: Chair Guido Verbeck met with Zane Reif about problems with senate room at the Union. They will be responsive to our needs. Wooten room 322 will be taken off the schedule. June meeting will take place in the Union.
- II. Approval of Minutes (April 13, 2016) [Vote]
Motion to approve minutes
Moved by Senator Hutchinson
Seconded by Senator Chamberlain
Discussion: On page 7 can we change the wording of the question that was asked? Do you have a feeling that students want a say in how their money is spent? Answer: Monies should go to the direct support of students. Comment: There has to be some coordination.
Motion passes unanimously.
- III. Faculty Senate Discussion and Faculty Feedback
Discussion on topics from constituents:
- Since we cannot see our grant accounts, we don't know how much we are spending. This hurts us in our reporting.
 - Thanksgiving: What about cancelling classes for the week or possibly cancelling classes on Wednesday. Was there any update on this?
 - Confusion of rollover of indirect funds in the new system. Some have been told that indirect funds do not roll over. Is this true?
Answer: President said to send him the questions and he will follow through on them.

IV. President Neal
Smatresk and
Provost Finley
Graves

President:

Accounting system: There are good implementations and bad implementations. I have been trying to track down the issues. When you go to do an implementation there are codes that are written. The codes for this process were not written well. This is holding up our budgeting process and the decisions involved. We just don't have good information yet. I have raised this issue with UNT System and the Chancellor and it will be discussed at the next board meeting. Bob Brown said it will take 45-60 days to fix. The grant issue has caused so much anguish for faculty. I will keep hammering away until it gets fixed. Some things we can resolve. When there are functional parts of the system where you feel people did not get adequate training, you can send them to me or to Faculty Senate, but I need specifics on the situation so I can help resolve them. I am hoping that things will be better for us in the next year and give us more accurate information. I am sorry and we will make sure we get this fixed.

Graduate stipend: It was the biggest mess I have had to work with. Lots of money spent without a clear effect. We put five million dollars into graduate stipend support with the hope we would get more and better grad students and we could increase the number of our doc students. It did not work that way. Something went wrong with the redistribution of funds. Some units may have received more funds than they previously had and some less. What I said to the deans is please get to the bottom of this problem so we can fix it. What is failing to be translated to the faculty is that we want to increase the number of doc students and give them support. We want them working, not as select research assistants, but in helping undergraduate teaching. When departments have highly qualified students and need additional lines, you need to forward those requests to the Provost and graduate dean. We should be doing what we can to expand doctoral numbers. We should be emphasizing the tuition benefit for master's students.

Question: Why do we have a decline in master's students?

Answer: We have 1500 applicants that are complete from the graduate school and their applications fully completed. What is going on? Why are we not processing? We need to do something different. Victor Prybutok and Finley may put together a town hall to discuss how to improve the process. We may need to expand and take some chances. If we delay, we lose good students. This last year when there was a transitional period there were also some issues.

Comment: Some students have not submitted their GRE scores.

We are getting a CRM (Customer Relationship Management system) for undergrads. Students can see where they are in the process. What is an acceptable clearinghouse before students move forward in the process? We need to make sure students are communicated with well. We need to look at deadlines. There are some programs that require a thesis or dissertation, others a project. There is a huge spread of opinion on mentoring. We need sharp definitions of what mentoring means. Some departments are accepting students and they don't have advisors. We need a workshop on how we can communicate better. It is a local decision regarding number allotments.

Provost:

Librarians and tenure track: When I became Provost they were working on 15.0 and including librarians in the tenure track part. I am happy for librarians to be tenure

track. I was not opposed to that. I asked that it be taken out because there was no implementation plan for that. I asked the Dean of Libraries for a transition plan. I did mandate an implementation plan. I was waiting for that and never received it. One concern was there was a salary floor for faculty. Could we do that for the librarians and what about the compression issue? I didn't receive a transition plan, but I did receive a memorandum from the Dean of the Libraries that the EC of the Libraries decided not to move forward with pursuing tenure track for the Libraries.

(President jumped in with a request: I would love a university P&T committee. I would very much like to see a university level committee. I think it offers protection for everybody. We were in violation of our own bylaws so we revised the UPTC. I had that at Hawaii and UNLV. This committee could also address a group who wanted to be tenure. The committee would be a check between the dean and provost. Could they be deployed? Could we have an adhoc committee to investigate this?)

Question: Who is the EC of the Libraries?

Answer: The EC were the library administrators which had no librarians on the committee. The dean's council made the decision. Librarians learned of this last week. There was no transparency and no shared governance. We should create an ad hoc group.

Comment: There has been an implementation plan.

Question: Was there a meeting with Melinda Lilly about tenure for librarians?

Answer: I am not sure. There may have been but I cannot recall.

Update on Dean Searches: Dr. Bertina Combes will be the interim dean for the College of Education.

Faculty on Administrative Committees: Faculty aren't included on some committees. We can do better.

V. Policy Status Update (Christy Crutsinger) and Policy Review [vote]

There is good news. We have made significant progress on Policy 15.0. We have clarified things with legal and have done a lot of cleanup work. Policy 15.0 was a thirty-five page document. Legal had difficulty getting through it. The policy will be split up into areas: Policy on tenure track, annual merit review, post tenure review and non-tenure track and part time faculty. There was some clarification on what legal sufficiency is. We tried to focus on that. There was a lot of duplication that we got rid of. We wanted to put some teeth in the mentoring piece. We'll get it back to the EC very soon. The deans will give their feedback. What does it mean when we originally passed it? We'll have to re-vote it. We'd have to do a first read in June. If we gave it a period of time-special meeting or a distance vote. Mentoring should start as immediately as possible.

Two policies up for vote:

Motion to vote to accept policy 15.2.14

Moved by Senator Broyles

Seconded by Senator Thomsett-Scott

Motion passes.

Motion to vote to accept policy 16.8

Moved by Senator Srivilliputhur

Seconded by Senator Shah

Discussion: Why are centers and institutes separate?
Motion passes.

First read of proposed amendment to Faculty Senate Bylaws regarding Grievance:

(Article VI should also be read.) Karen Weiller's group and John Ishiyama's group did a great job on putting this together. Please review and we will vote on it in June.

Give specifics if you have suggestions. Don't just say "it stinks".

Provide suggested working. Only red line the proposed amendments.

Question: What happened to librarians in Section II?

Answer: It's not intentionally to remove you but to include you in a group.

- VI. Update Committee on Committees (Conover and Verbeck)
- We have nothing to report. Senator Chamberlain will send that out again this week. We'll have one more week of nominations.

Nominations from the floor:

- Kevin Yanowski for Group II opening for the Faculty Senate Budget Committee.

All in favor for nominating Kevin Yanowski for the at large committee for the Faculty Senate Budget Committee please vote.

Motion passes.

- VII. Faculty Information System (Mike Gutierrez and Hope Wilkinson)

We met with the Executive Committee and they felt it would be advantageous for us to come to the Faculty Senate to talk about the system. At least 85% of faculty have not logged in to the system. How do you get to the system? On your my.unt.edu page click on the faculty tab. Make sure you turn off the pop up blocker or make an exception. Once you are in it stores all of your faculty information system. We want it to be a tool for faculty to use. We have put together a Faculty User Group. One of the things is when you enter the information it takes 24 hours to show up. One of the complaints we have heard is that all of that information was supposed to be there for us. There was no way to systematically place some of the information that was entered in the text box, however, much of the basic information is there. We have hired four employees to clean up the data. With that being said, no one knows faculty information better than the faculty themselves. Please go in and check and make sure the information is correct. Some departments can use it for reporting. The information can be transferred from and to another university if they have the FIS system setup. This system will be helpful for the grant application process. (Presentation was shown).

Comment: We got a lot of emails on this. This is the only thing you need to take care of. Administrators can get the information from the system.

The system is a time saving mechanism for faculty once all the issues get worked out. The system is customizable for the departments. As long as your information is current and up to date the reporting process is pretty quick. The system can be

tailored. The problem is getting the departments and colleges to agree with. We will meet with departments.

Question: When the person is no longer contracted with the university what happens with the FIS record?

Answer: We have to manage it for 2 years so that we are in compliance with state law. Then we can turn the access off.

Question: Could a keyword search be added to the system?

Answer: Yes, it is being created right now. It is a requirement they need to make. There is a keyword field in the system but are blank. We are working on that.

Question: If some information on the old system didn't make it in the new system, do I have to retype it or is it somewhere accessible?

Answer: It still exists in the old database. Send an email to facultyinfo.unt.edu-if there is info that didn't transfer to the new system.

Some department have different citation formats. How is this handled? We are working on setting this up where a choice can be made.

Question: Can we manipulate the order of information?

Answer: We are working on that. We can do that for each college and each department.

The College of Engineering has their own format for manual update.

Question: Can you let the deans know the report access is available to them?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Can we solicit Provost Finley to do this?

VIII. UUCC Update [Vote]

Update from Wendy Watson:

We are looking at continued fallout from the massive denial of Capstone courses.

Motion to vote on the minutes

Seconded by Senator Thomsett-Scott.

Discussion:

Question: Is there a way to find out when what was approved was submitted?

Answer: Everything we approved was in the curriculum.

We were asked by the university in an effort to meet the change in core hours that students need to meet according to the THECB. We would look at creating a discovery course. When the courses got approved through the university and went to the board, the capstone courses were rejected. The THECB were unwilling to have core courses that had prerequisites. All the colleges had to go back to address the component area credit hours in the core that would not be a capstone course. The colleges have come up with an alternative.

Question: Who do I go to to get a course in the core?

Answer: Faculty Co-Chair of the oversight of the curriculum. The faculty decide what is going to be in the core and how to assess.

Question: Are the capstones required?

Answer: It's up to the individual majors. That is not a university requirement, it is a departmental requirement.

Some core courses have prerequisites, but they are common core prerequisites. The state board has been very bad at communicating. We're caught up though. We are in compliance with state law.

All in favor of the minutes, please vote.

Motion carries.

- IX. Committee on the Whole
- 10am ceremony on Friday- an email went out on where to be when, but they don't know where to go so they haven't RSVPed. They would like instruction. Answer: If you want to go please contact Laurea Irving so she can add chairs.
- On Friday is the main graduation. Each one of the colleges have their individual ceremonies.
- Question: Will there be chairs?
- Answer: You need to check.
- The person organizing the CAS ceremony-Wilkinson in the Advising Office can be contacted.
- X. Adjournment
- Motion to adjourn
Moved by Senator Lane
Seconded by Senator Thomsett-Scott
Meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.