

- Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting November 12, 2014, Wooten Hall, room 322.
- Present: Brian Ayre; Glen Biglaiser; Erica Boykin; Sheri Broyles; Jennifer Callahan; Douglas Campbell; Denise Catalano; Adam Chamberlin; James Conover; Shelley Cushman; Elliot Dubin; Jesse Eschbach; Morgan Gieringer; Kamakshi Gopal; Pam Harrell; John Ishiyama; Jennifer Lane; Smita Mehta; Maria Muñoz; Prathiba Natesan; Phil Paolino; Audhesh Paswan; Dan Peak; Elizabeth Prosek; Brian Richardson; Dorian Roehrs; Emile Sahliyah; Jyoti Shah; Stephen Slottow; Jeffrey Snider; Jae Jae Spoon; Srinivasan Srivilliputhur; Jessica Strubel; Phil Sweany; Manish Vaidya; Guido Verbeck; Laura Waugh; Karen Weiller; Oksana Zavalina; Tao Zhang.
- Absent: Kim Baker; Patricia Cukor-Avila; David Kaplan; Beth Thomsett-Scott; Mary Ann Venner.
- Guests: Warren Burggren, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Christy Crutsinger, Vice Provost for Faculty Success; V. Barbara Bush, Policy Review Committee; Sian Brannon, University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee; Jo Monahan, Libraries; Colleen Eddy, Teacher Education and Administration; Jakob Vingren, Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation; Ed Dzialowski, Biological Sciences; Steve Austin, College of Music; Kris Chesky, College of Music; Nancy Ellis, Philosophy and Religion Studies; Jim Kennedy, Biological Sciences; Nicoladie Tam, Biological Sciences; Pamela Padilla, Biological Sciences; Christopher Fuhrman, History; Sophie Morton, World Languages; Matt Zabel, URCM.
- I. Welcome and Introductions The meeting was brought to order at 2:02 PM. Introduction of new senators included: Denise Catalano and Kamakshi Gopal, Philip Sweany, Brian Ayre, Elliot Dubin, and Beth Thompson-Scott.
- II. Approval of Minutes (10/8/14) [vote] *There was a motion made by Senator Peak to accept the October 8, 2014 minutes. Senator Cushman seconded the motion. The motion passed. There were 4 abstentions.*
- III. Faculty Senate Discussion ***Ranking of Departments:***  
One senator indicated that there were questions from librarians about the instrument used to rank the departments.  
  
A discussion about not weighting the criteria used to rank departments was requested.  
  
The status of interdisciplinary majors with regard to the ranking of departments was raised.

How will departments with large numbers of students be evaluated compared to smaller departments? Will the numbers presented be corrected based on size of departments; the characteristics of the department (e.g., graduate only). Some departments have administrators as part of the department, but they do not carry on scholarly activities which might affect ranking.

#### ***Block Scheduling of Freshman Classes***

For the Freshman year of classes, students are given a selection of courses that fit their degree plan. The student can then modify this selection of courses. Placing students in a set group of courses (block scheduling) is not working well. Will this process be continued?

#### ***Possible Changes to CAS***

A group of faculty in the Political Science Department asked about proposed changes for CAS. They asked for more clarity in the direction this will be taken and in the spirit of shared governance and decision making that faculty are involved in this decision. This was also voiced by another senator that they would like more transparency about the discussion to separate departments under CAS.

#### ***UNT Library***

Improve access to the library. Senator Waugh commented to the originator of this question that the libraries are open 24 hours. The History Department is working on a statement regarding the underfunding of the library.

#### ***Benefits for Graduate Students***

There is a report that the university is considering removal of benefits for graduate student employees.

#### ***Uncategorized Questions***

Concerns were raised about the removal of Handicapped parking around the GAB.

Within Blackboard Learn, there are complaints about the rapid pace at which the tools are discontinued and new tools are introduced (about 2-3 tools in one year).

There is a reported difficulty of submitting research proposals. The Engineering faculty would like for the new VP of Research to meet with them.

Colleagues suggested that the technical support for large classrooms (e.g., auditorium) is woefully inadequate.

IV. Provost  
Warren  
Burggren

#### ***Ranking of Departments***

When process for ranking departments began, it was driven by the Regents through the President and finally to the Provost. At this time, we had not ranked departments in over 25 years but rather evaluated departments about every seven years.

If we want to move to R1 status we must do a better job of allocating resources. The type of ranking employed did not address problems that would be hidden by the Provost describes as the *tyranny of the golden*

*mean.* Using quadrant diagrams he demonstrated how department might be evaluated. For example, one might use various quadrant diagrams such as for the relationship between research and grants, student retention and their success, and/or funding and SCH.

What the Provost plans is to further develop a rubric that moves away from a list (which was the initially outcome measure) toward a methodology that identifies movement which can be used as diagnostic and prescriptive approaches as compared to a simple ranking activity. The Provost stated that there are no bad departments on this campus, but rather there are departments that excel in certain areas. There is room for all departments to improve. The Provost made it clear that this is not an exercise to eliminate departments and this evaluation is in the process of beta testing.

There have been some corrections per capita that were done and the Provost indicated that taking administrative faculty out of the data is a good idea. In the future, FTEs will be re-examined (graduate vs undergraduate).

Results of meetings with Deans and Chairs will be used as part of the evaluation process. The timeline for release of new evaluation results is January 2015.

Other tools that might be used to evaluate departments against other departments in the US include Academic Analytics. According to the Provost, Academic Analytics applies to about 2/3 of our departments. The challenge will be how to benchmark our departments against other universities when Academic Analytics has limited use to provide meaningful comparisons.

Some administrators do have a teaching load. For example, Provost Burggren does have a teaching load.

#### ***Block Scheduling of Freshman Classes***

Regarding the blocking of courses for Freshman, Provost Burggren indicated that there is no plan to employ block scheduling per se, but rather to use a system that is *block like*.

#### ***Possible Changes to CAS***

The search for the TAMS and the College of Arts and Science Deans continue. The interim Dean for CAS resigned and David Holdeman has taken the position of interim Dean. A discussion about reconfiguration of CAS was first offered at the Faculty Senate EC meeting and since has included meetings to discuss this idea with Deans and Chairs. The rationale for splitting CAS is that there could be a more cohesive RPT, some of the activities don't map on the liberal arts very well. Some of the science would like a change of culture that is more science oriented and this could work better with smaller units. I would cost 6-8 faculty lines and 2 large faculty classrooms to add another College. They want an accelerated, but thorough discussion.

*Senator Srivilliputhur made a motion to extend the Provosts Discussion five minutes. Senator Vaidya seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

The idea that something might be rolled out by January seems rushed. The social science folks may not have much affinity with the arts or with the sciences. This seems untenable. Perhaps semiautonomous divisions with a College might be a way to address this. The Provost also mentioned the possibility of using a consultant to facilitate the process. Are there other department or College realignments that should occur? What would the timeline be for such a change? How much change can we absorb?

### ***UNT Library***

There are decisions being made about materials that are subscribed to by the library. There will be a trade-off using interlibrary loan in which it may take a little planning ahead (1-2 days) so that materials may be obtained. The Provost described this process as, “*Just in time, not just in case.*”

*Senator Vaidya made a motion to extend the Provosts Discussion five minutes. Senator Chamberlin seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

### ***Benefits for Graduate Students***

Benefits for Graduate Students – We have impoverished students relative to other institutions. We are the only institution in Texas that offers health benefits. UNT subsidizes half of the health insurance for graduate students. In a staged manner, we will withdraw health benefits and move this savings over to tuition scholarships. For spring, there will be no changes to health benefits. However, UNT will begin to pay the tuition for all Business, Science, and perhaps all Engineering PhDs. During fall 2015 there will be some staged form for paying tuition starting with PhDs.

### ***Uncategorized Questions***

There is a plan to place a placard in each room that provides contact information for technology help.

## V. New Research Program (Tom McCoy)

### ***New Research Program***

Information about awards funded by the Research Office can be reviewed at the following website: <http://research.unt.edu/faculty-resources>

Three planning and implementation teams have been formed to improve the Research Office: (1) Achieving Tier 1 status, (2) Improving grants and contracts, space and; (3) Shared facilities). The President’s deadline for action items associated with improving the Research Office is Christmas 2014.

The Research Office is working to identify three research centers of excellence. Later this week, an invitation to faculty will go out to join these centers. Faculty will complete a two-page application if they are interested in joining a center.

Faculty Senate Vice-Chair, Guido Verbeck is the Chair of the Faculty Research Committee. This committee can help answer questions and raise issues to improve the research experience.

- VI. Policy Review Committee (V Barbara Bush) **Policies read at the Senate on October 8 to be voted on:**
- 15.1.25 Evaluation of Administrators  
*A motion was made by Senator Srivilliputhur to accept policy 15.1.25. The motion was seconded by Senator Peak. The motion passed. There was one abstention.*
- 15.1.33 Faculty Misconduct Policy  
*A motion was made by Senator Srivilliputhur to accept policy 15.1.33. The motion was seconded by Senator Cushman. The motion passed.*
- A motion was made by Senator Boyles to amend the motion, specifically the word, “appropriate.” Senator Peak seconded the motion. The motion to amend did not pass.*
- Policy for reading with recommendation for deletion:**  
 5.1.17 Guidelines for Selection of a Faculty Lecturer for Regent’s Faculty Lecture Series
- Policies for reading:**  
 15.1.35 Out-of-State Tuition Waiver  
 15.2.5 Student Attendance Policy  
 15.2.13 Academic Program Review and Discontinuation Policy
- Senator Shah made a motion to continue the discussion for 10 minutes. Senator Ayers seconded the motion. The motion passed. The motion passed.*
- VII. Policy Review Update (Yolanda Flores Niemann) Various questions were clarified about the policies under review and the policy review process.
- VIII. Executive Committee Group VII Representative Brian Ayre from Group VII was elected to serve on the Executive Committee.
- IX. Elections Committee Update (Adam Chamberlin)
- |                 |                     |                                      |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Group III       | Phil Sweany         | Computer Science                     |
| Group VII       | Brian Ayre          | Biological Science                   |
| AT-L Lecturer   | Elliot Dubin        | Hospitality, Tourism, and Management |
| At-L Instructor | Beth Thomsett-Scott | Libraries                            |
- The following individuals were elected to the faculty senate:
- A list of committee vacancies was provided. Elections are ongoing.
- X. Update Committee on Committees (Audhesh Paswan and
- There is a nomination for Daniel Alemneh in Libraries to serve on the Oversight Committee on Core Curriculum. There was a nomination of Mark Vosvick of Group IV to serve on the Faculty Research Committee.

Laura Waugh) *A motion was made by Senator Srivilliputhur to accept the nominations.*  
[vote] *The motion was seconded by Senator Sahliyeh. The motion passed.*

Senator Waugh reported on revisions to the Procedures Manual.

*A motion was made by Senator Peak to accept the revisions to the Procedure Manual. The motion was seconded by Senator Ishiyama. The motion passed.*

XI. UUCG Update Sian Brannon provided the UUCG Update. The minutes were accepted.  
(Sian Brannon)  
[vote]

XII. Committee of Chair Conover discussed the Santa's Helpers Project.  
the Whole

XIII. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM.