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| Meeting: | | Faculty Senate Meeting November 13, 2013, Wooten Hall 322. |
| Present: | | Cindy Batman, Erica Boykin, Sheri Broyles, Jennifer Callahan, Douglas Campbell, William Cherry, Charles Conley, James Conover, Barbara Cox, Shelley Cushman, Jesse Eschbach, Dutch Fayard, Robert Figueroa, Ian Finseth, Francisco Guzman, Pam Harrell, John Ishiyama, David Kaplan, Leon Kappelman, Jennifer Lane, Fang-Ling Lu, Rachel Mitchell, Maria Muñiz, Seifollah Nasrazadani, Audhesh Paswan, Elizabeth Prosek, Jim Quinn, Patricia Reese, Brian Richardson, Dorian Roehrs, Jyoti Shah, Farhad Shahrokhi, Jeffrey Snider, Jae Jae Spoon, Srinivasan Srivilliputhur, Manish Vaidya, Mary Ann Venner, Guido Verbeck, Mark Vosvick, Laura Waugh, Karen Weiller, Oksana Zavalina. |
| Absent: | | Kim Baker, V. Barbara Bush, Jeff Goodwin, Sadaf Munshi, Phil Paolino, Dan Peak, Jae Jae Spoon, Dale Yeatts |
| Guests: | | V. Lane Rawlins, President; Yolanda Flores-Niemann, Senior Vice Provost; Jean Bush; Senior Associate Vice President for Finance; Christy Crutsinger, Vice Provost for Faculty Success; David Reynolds, Associate VP for Facilities; Dough Welch, Director of Response Management Services; Mandy Rausch and Kathy McDaniel, Registrar; Scott Warren, Learning Technologies; Brad Scott, Risk Management Services; Vickie Coffey, Risk Management Services; Julie Glass, Provost Office; Matt Zabel, URCM; Sian Brannon Libraries/UCC; Anna Pechenina, Graduate Student Council; Adam Chamberlin, Elections Committee. |
| I. | Welcome  and Introduction: | The meeting was brought to order at 2:00 PM. New senators were recognized: Sherry Broyles, Laura Waugh, Phil Paolino, Audhesh Paswan, and Rachel Mitchell. |
| II. | Approval of Minutes (10/11/13) | *Senator Quinn made a motion to accept the minutes and Senator Conover seconded the motion. The October 11, 2013 minutes were approved. There was one abstention.* |
| III. | Charter Changes Related to Graduate Students | A change is requested to the charter regarding the requirement for 45 credit hours in order to serve as a student on the Faculty Senate. The change requested is to reduce the number from 45 to 18 credit hours in order to accommodate master’s students whose degree requirements are less than 45 hours. An addition of one graduate student on the faculty senate is also requested. This is the first reading for the requested change. |
| IV. | Faculty Senate Discussion | Most of our contracts allow per diem payments so why are we being asked to collect receipts? Senator Kappelman indicated his department is using per diem again. Another senator expressed that the practice of maintaining receipts was very cumbersome to study abroad students who must keep many receipts over multiple days. The smoke free policy does allow for electronic cigarettes to be used within 25 feet from a door entrance.  There is chain of discussion in music regarding safety at night and the problem with visitors interface with parking.  There are improvements in signage regarding how to get around the campus. Concerns about zebra striping the pedestrian zones on Highland. The space between Kerr Hall and the areas that leads to the library has been reported as dangerous and there has already been an accident in this area.  Education of bike riders is needed as they do not abide by traffic requirements and also are reported to ride bikes in a careless manner around pedestrians. There was a repeated concern about bicycle safety.  There is a concern about the lack of enforcement of the smoking policy. Another senator reported a group of students smoking in front of a smoke free sign. Who has responsibility for enforcement of the smoking policy?  HR seems to have a turnover problem as faculty dealing with problems report dealing with multiple individuals before a problem is resolved.  Around some of the construction areas is a build-up of trash. The temperature regulation of the temporary buildings is reported to be a problem. Also, there are order problems with the bathroom facilities in temporary buildings. |
| V. | President Rawlins and Senior Vice Provost Yolanda Flores-Niemann | It is expected that a replacement for President Rawlins will be announced during November. He should be stepping down at the end of the year.  This should be an easy time for Texas as economics are good in Texas. This is a growing area with growing funding.  President Rawlins shared achievements over the past three years. We hit record enrolment numbers, and the SAT scores rose 7 points. The number of new freshman on campus has risen 18% and the student body is more diverse. We made several key hires during President Rawlins tenure including National Academy members.  The Presidents Council has forced decision makers to talk and take joint responsibility for the decisions they make. Enrolment, retention, capital, community engagement have all improved.  During the last few years, UNT unveiled the five year strategic plan. The Green light to Greatness Campaign accompanied the unveiling of the strategic plan (4 bold goals).  UNT will go to a bowl game. This accomplishment changes the outside image individuals may have about UNT.  We will finish a $200 M campaign and continue to open new facilities. We should be opening two new buildings except that the state decided to fund no new education buildings in Texas. There is a $130 M student union project underway.    UNT formed a division of engagement with Denton and Collin County. We have 1000 mentors who mentor students at risk in North Texas.  Finally, the offices at UNT have undergone reorganization and international student enrolment increased which has kept enrolment high.  During the past year, staff and faculty were significantly reduced in order to meet a budget deficit.  He has worked hard to build a workable system among management, government, board, system, staff and the university.  *Performance-based funding* - Jean Bush spoke about performance-based funding. There ultimately will be performance-based funding in Texas, and UNT is ready for this change. For the biennium we did receive excellence monies based on outcomes. The excellence money was based on total UG degrees; total UG degrees adjusted by a six-year completion rate; total UG per 100 full time student equivalents; total UG expenses weighted; and critical fields degrees including STEM; except agricultural science and biology; at risk; Pell; GED; first generation; retention for 30, 60 and 90 hours. The legislature wants to increase from 10% to 25% the excellence money. This last go round, this bill did not pass. The formula committee will meet for the next biennium.  *Smoking policy on campus -* According to the President, we will implement the smoke free policy for one year as an honor system. The President was able to enforce the policy himself, asking a student to refrain from smoking. At the end of the year, the smoke free policy will be revisited.  *Campus safety* – Doug Welch and Dave Reynolds can provide information about campus safety. The city of Denton owns the streets.  There is a 3-5 year plan to spread the alert system to areas which are not receiving alerts (e.g., basements, Discovery Park).  The number one problem is communication. It will take a while and considerable experience to upgrade the system.  On campus injuries are also handled by this group.  One senator asked about increasing safety with regard to chemicals stored in places where there is no barrier to them being pushed on to the floor.  The university started a series of lighting projects to improve the lighting for pedestrians. There are three more years before these upgrades will be complete.  They are continuing to work on the temporary buildings on Welch. They have a new Smart Energy Project which included the upgrade of chillers and boilers. They suggested that faculty are informed about who the building representatives are. The work control number is (940) 565-2700. |
| VI. | UNT Quality Enhancement Plan (Mike Simmons, Lisa Henry, Manish Vaidya) | This is part of the SACS accreditation project. It is a five-year focus project which is based on learning outcomes. A committee has been established in preparation for the review team that will come to campus in 2015-2016. The SACS teams will review what UNT has done over the past years to meet the SACS standards and also UNT will do in the future.  This is designed to have an institution level discussion about how learning occurs which includes students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends of the university.  QEP must be based on the following five criteria:   * a well demonstrated institutional need derived from data; * focus on learning outcomes; * demonstrate the institution has the resources to complete the QEP; * include road-based involvement of all constituencies; and * have well defined goals and a plan to assess achievement.   The QEP timeline was presented. The initial call for ideas will be conducted on December 9, 2013. Various processes will follow until a topic is chosen as the institutional QEP in early fall 2014.  To submit ideas go to <http://www.unt.edu/que-survey/>  Questions should be directed to:  Dr. Mike Simmons at [mike.simmons@unt.edu](mailto:mike.simmons@unt.edu) or  Dr. Lisa Henry at [Lisa.Henry@unt.edu](mailto:Lisa.Henry@unt.edu)  What is the composition of the committee? There are four faculty members.  The constraints are external by SACS, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends of the university which represent the committee membership. The President’s office selected the members. |
| VII. | Soliciting Members to Serve on the Summer School Taskforce | A call was made for individuals to serve on the summer school taskforce. |
| VIII. | Parking Update – Francisco Guzman | Vice Chair Guzman discussed a recent meeting with the parking department regarding current practices, changes to policy, and procedures. One practice involves a limit of four visitor parking tags per visitor. For example, individuals who are on campus for more than four music performances would be required to buy a parking permit. The anecdotal evidence suggests that this needs to improve. We need three representatives from the faculty senate to work on this. There appears to be a philosophical difference between the faculty (self-governance) and how parking is run (autocratic). Jean Keller is investigating parking concerns from a perspective of community engagement. She has no limits on who may participate in this committee. This group will meet again; it is an open meeting.  According to one senator, the cost of parking tags for visitors increased from $5 to $10 during the fall 2013 semester. Another senator indicated that there are various parking models at large universities which might inform UNT on which model is most effective for UNTs needs. |
| IX. | Election Results (Adam Chamberlin) | He provided a list of vacancies for each group. These positions need to be filled. |
| X. | Jim Conover (Update Committee on Committees) [vote] | The committee on committees needs to fill these vacancies.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Group I | 6 | | Group II | 0 | | Group III | 7 | | Group IV | 5 | | Group 5 | 3 | | Group VI | 0 | | Group VII | 6 | | Group VIII | 5 | | At Large | 10 | |
| XI. | Sian Brannon, UCC [vote] | Senator Quinn made a motion to accept the UCC minutes and Senator Kappelman seconded the motion. The motion passed. |
| XII. | Highlight of a Faculty Senator (Manish Vaidya) | Senator Manish Vaidya was highlighted as the faculty senator. The PowerPoint presentation will be available on the faculty senate website. |
| XIII. | New Business | Martin Halbert provided a report about library funding based on a call from the budget office that he received yesterday. Subscription rates and other expenses continue to rise. This year the library budget will be cut $2 M. The library employee base benefits will not be covered by the university (1.7 M/year) and this is retroactive to the beginning of the year.  This amounts to about 1/3 of the materials budget. They must come up with $150,000 per month to cover the shortfall. This is a permanent reduction. |
| XIV. | Comments for the Good of the Order | The meeting location for the reduction in library budget was requested. The meeting will be held in Willis Library 035. |
| XV. | Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM. |