

- Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting February 13, 2013, Wooten Hall, 322.
- Present: Baker, Kim; Batman, Cindy; Bush, Barbara; Cherry, William; Conley, Charles; Conover, James; Cox, Barbara; Cushman, Shelley; Eschbach, Jesse; Figueroa, Robert; Finseth, Ian; Goodwin, Jeff; Guzman, Francisco; Harrell, Pam; Ishiyama, John; Jennifer Callahan; Kalin, Nadine; Kappelman, Leon; Lane, Jennifer; Lu, Fang-Ling; Molina, David; Nasrazadani, Seifollah, Paswan, Audhesh; Peak, Dan; Quinn, Jim; Reese, Patricia; Richardson, Brian; Roehrs, Dorian; Shahrokhi, Farhad; Spoon, Jae Jae; Srivilliputhur, Srinivasan; Subramaniam, Karthigeyan; Taylor, Kelly; Terry, Carmen; Verbeck, Guido; Vosvick, Mark; Windsor, John; Yeatts, Dale
- Absent: Allen, Jeff ; Du, Yunfei; Enterline, Andrew; Kern, Carolyn; La Point, Tom; Ledgerwood, Donna; Miksa, Shawne; Shah, Jyoti; Vaidya, Manish.
- Guests: Warren Burggren, Provost; Yolanda Flores-Niemann, Senior Vice Provost; Mark Wardell, Toulouse Graduate School Dean; Anna Pechenina, GSC; Tom Scharf, Materials Science and Engineering; Mandy Rausch, Catalog & Curriculum Support; Christy Crutsinger, Vice Provost for Faculty Success; Jessica De Leon, URCM; Geary Robinson, Parking and Transportation; Blake Abbe, Risk Management.
- I. Welcome and Introduction: The meeting was brought to order at 2:00 PM. Introductions included Dr. Jennifer Callahan from group 4 will be replacing Senator Kaminski. Nancy Spears from group 5 will be a new senator for the spring 2013 semester. A replacement for Dr. Emmanuel from Group 8 needs to be selected. Senator Cushman will find a faculty member to serve out the spring 2013 semester. The at-large group also needs a replacement. Senator Reese agreed to find a replacement for the at-large position.
- II. Approval of Minutes (12/12/13) Senator Peak made a motion to accept the minutes and Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. The December 12, 2012 minutes were approved. The minutes were accepted with one abstention.
- III. Faculty Senate Discussion *Changes to Toulouse Graduate School Fellowships –*
During the last faculty senate meeting, a motion carried that the Toulouse Graduate School complete this year's admission round under the old procedures. A senator asked about the result of this motion.

Another senator indicated that there is lack of knowledge about where we stand at the moment. Are the MDF's gone? Also, where is the calendar for the awards cycle?

The English faculty expressed concern that there is a one-size-fits-all model in terms of student applicants because of the restriction to two students per department. What is the rationale for not considering department size with regard to applicants?

A senator from the College of Engineering suggested that departments administer the scholarships instead of having one office make the decision. Most students in the College of Engineering are funded by research grants. If a scholarship is offered for two years, then what happens after that? Why not offer it for four years instead of having the department make this financial commitment?

A senator from the psychology department raised a concern that equality in terms of departments might not be the fairest method of submitting applications. In the psychology department, there are four departments that solicit 500 applicants annually.

An inquiry was made about the nature of the scoring rubric which will be used to determine whether or not candidates are competitive. Also, who will make the selections and how will the top 10% of national candidates be determined?

A number of senators expressed concerns with the process surrounding these changes and how faculty were or were not involved in this process. For example, What is the role of the graduate council? Has the role of the graduate council changed? The graduate school seemed to take this decision on unilaterally. It appeared that faculty input was not important.

A comment was made that the application process seemed to be more beneficial for STEM candidate because of the requirements for previous research experience. The College of Business might want candidates with previous professional experiences instead of research experience. In particular, it seemed that undergraduates needed to be involved in previous research. The arts and music faculty were particularly concerned about this requirement.

- IV. Mark Wardell The TDF is not equivalent to the MDF. The TDFs require rigorous prior experience. Dean Wardell has a concern about the attrition taking place and wanted to offer the 2-year scholarship from the Toulouse Graduate School while the departments take on years 3-5. The graduate school advisor and the department chair sign off on an applicant that they agree to sponsor the TDF scholarships in year 3-5.

According to Dean Wardell, decentralizing the allocation of prestigious scholarships is similar to how NSF or NIH functions. The graduate school wants the very best students and wants students who are resilient. He suggests that these student characteristics will enable the institution, as a whole, to improve.

Recycling the MDF and TDF monies for fall 2013 were fixed in a letter to the 2009 cohort of MDF recipients which indicated the recipient would receive a stipend from the graduate school in year 1 and year 5. Other

letters (2010-2012) had a strong implication that there were some expectations that must be honoured as we go forward.

Presently, there is money to award ten TDF scholarships for 2013-2014 as well as continue the present commitments. The intent is to distribute these scholarships competitively across the university. Over the next four years we will wind down the MDF and TDF programs.

Dean Wardell indicated he met with the English department where he discussed that prior experience might be in the form of a master's degree that required a significant culminating experience.

Selection Committee – Originally, three graduate school administrators would make the selections. However, the selection process has been modified and now a committee of nine people across the university for the selection committee. Dean Wardell indicated that all of the colleges may not be represented on the selection committee.

Admission timetable – The admission timetable was originally to be a rolling admission. However, psychology and music departments have late admissions. There are presently four dates that scholarships are rolled out.

STEM field favouritism perception – Dean Wardell has met with the faculty senate EC, the Graduate School Council, college of music English and chemistry and unnamed others. To date one scholarship from the social science area has been awarded. Music political science, public administration, English and unnamed others (what is this).

Interaction between the Toulouse Graduate School Personnel and faculty – If it is the history and culture of this institution that every-time the graduate school wants to make a change, then he can come to the full faculty senate meetings. He indicates that he wants to have open and transparent processes at the graduate school.

V. Provost
VPAA

Requested Budget Information – The budget book is no longer in the library. Because it is over 1000 pages and our commitment to sustainability, the budget book was made available as an electronic document.

The faculty salaries are not included in the budget book. The Provost indicates the Texas Tribune is the best source for this information. However, the last update was February 2012, and the new faculty salary information is not available. The Provost will soon provide this information as well.

Provost Website – The Provost commented that his website is not an organization chart but rather indicates the “neighbourhood” which services various parts of university. These are the partners with whom the Provost works.

Summer School – The Provost provided new information about summer school as the last two cycles have seen declining enrolments. He indicated we must have a new compensation system that recognizes market value

and places many layers of incentives associated with summer school such as, “The more students you teach, the more you get paid.” He is proposing to hire a director of summer school who will report to the Provost.

Faculty Profile System – Sedona is used by the College of Business as an alternative to the Faculty Profile System. The Provost indicated he is willing to invest funds in an improved system that is interactive and easy to use. It is possible that this will be the database used for processes such as merit and for tenure and promotion.

What value is a UNT degree? What is the future of the public university? It has been predicted that as many as half of public universities will be bankrupt in 10 years as coursework moves online. We charge \$20,000 for a degree, but students may be able to get an equal quality degree for \$10,000 online. What is the value added that we provide? How do we market that and promote UNT? These are important questions to consider as the face of education continues to change.

VI. Yolanda
Flores-
Niemann

Academic Freedom and Educational Responsibility Policy– Faculty senate members received a copy of draft policy, “Academic Freedom and Educational Responsibility” changes via email. The draft document has already been reviewed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee members and reflects changes from those individuals.

The system has charged Dr. Flores-Neimann with separating procedures from policy. For example, the tenure and promotion policy has multiple components including academic freedom, joint appointments, and promotion and tenure topics. These are the type of policies that will be separated. The philosophy employed by Dr. Flores-Neiman as she approached policy and procedure changes was to take a faculty viewpoint that is consistent with legal considerations. She also used the American Association of University Professors policy document as a guide to draft changes to UNT documents. Faculty senators were asked to submit comments about the draft policy and procedure changes to Dr. Flores-Neiman.

VII. Christy
Crutsinger

Faculty Joint Appointment Policy – This is a new policy and has been reviewed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee members. In this policy, MOUs are used to define the responsibilities and expectations of the faculty member in a manner that will make explicit these responsibilities and expectations and ultimately protect the faculty member. Comments about this policy draft should be directed to Christy Crutsinger.

VIII. Francisco
Guzman

Reapportionment – Senators have received the reapportionment document via email. The composition of the new groupings will affect the elections which begin in April 2013.

Vice Chair Guzman indicated there are a couple of odd groupings. For example, Chemistry ended up with Group 4 (Departments of Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, and Applied Economics). There was a suggestion to place chemistry with anthropology

and biology and geography and to keep the rest of PACS together. The committee will investigate these changes.

- IX. Blake Abbe *Active Shooter Preparedness* – UNT is developing a response to an increase in shootings at schools. A PowerPoint handout was provided. He described a 3-step response (i.e., get out, hide out, take out). Email Blake Abbe for additional information email: Emergency.unt.edu.
- X. Jim Conover *Update Committee on Committees [vote]* – A number of nominations were presented. Senator Yeatts moved to accept the slate of nominees and Senator Windsor seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Senator Conover provided an update that chairs for each committee have been selected.
- XI. William Cherry *UCC [vote]* – He reminded the senators that the core curriculum realignment plans are due to the university during mid-April.
- The UCC minutes were provided in advance of the meeting. Senator Cherry noted that the undergraduate studies department is offering an alternative to MATH 1010 and there is a new communication studies capstone course that is available to majors who do not have a capstone. Senator Lane made a motion to accept the UCC report and Senator Peak seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- XII. Mark Vosvick *Attendance Policy* – A discussion about faculty senate attendance was led by Chair Vosvick. He provided information about attendance expectations for faculty senators. Chair Vosvick indicated that the attendance policy has not changed, but we will simply begin enforcing the existing policy.
- XIII. Guido Verbeck *Highlight of a Faculty Senator* – Senator Guido Verbeck was highlighted. Among his accomplishment are 35 peer-reviewed publications, 9 patents, 50 presentations, and working with many students in an academic capacity. He has created miniaturized devices that detect drugs such as in explosives, mercury poisoning, and ink. He is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He worked with the Texas Governor School for High School students.
- XIV. Committee on the Whole The Provost's Office has volunteered to fund a social mixer for faculty.
- XV. Adjournment A motion was made by Senator Peak to adjourn the meeting. Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM.