

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**University Union 332**

Minutes – May 11, 2022

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| **Anderson-Lain, Karen** | COMM  CLASS | P | **Hutchison, Paul** | ACCT RCOB | P | **O’Toole, Erin** | LIBR | P | **Williams, Lawrence** | WLLC  CLASS | A |
| **Aviles-Diz, Jorge** | SPAN  CLASS | P | **Joyner, William** | MUVS  COM | P | **Peak, Dan** | ITDS  RCOB | P | **Yeatts, Dale** | SOC  CLASS | A |
| **Baker, Rose** | LTEC  COI | P | **Ketron, Seth** | NCF | P | **Perez, Jose** | PHYS COS | P | **Zhang, Tao** | KHPR  COE | P |
| **Bednarz, Jim** | BIOL  COS | P | **Lam, Chris** | TECM CLASS | A | **Petros, Amy** | CHEM  COS | P |  |  |  |
| **Belshaw, Scott** | CJUS CHPS | P | **Lane, Jennifer** | MUVS  COM | P | **Philbrick, Jodi** | IS COI | P |  |  |  |
| **Boesch, Miriam** | EPSY  COE | P | **Long, Chris** | TEA COE | P | **Sankofa, Nicole** | EPSY  COE | P |  |  |  |
| **Britain, Jeff** | HTM CMHT | P | **Mann, Paho** | ASTU  CVAD | P | **Sexton, Michael** | MGMT RCOB | P |  |  |  |
| **Campbell, Doug** | LIBR | P | **May, Andrew** | MUCS  COM | P | **Siller Carillo,**  **Hector** | MEEN  CENG | P |  |  |  |
| **Chamberlin, Adam** | DANC  CLASS | A | **McKay, Melissa** | NCF | P | **Tixier, Scott** | COMM | A |  |  |  |
| **Cherry, William** | MATH COS | P | **Moreland, Kimberly** | ENGL CLASS | P | **Trudeau, Justin** | COMM  CLASS | A |  |  |  |
| **Christian, Jack** | ENGL  CLASS | A | **Morton, Sophie** | WLLC  CLASS | P | **Walker, Jacqueline** | ENGL CLASS | P | **TEMPORARY SENATORS** | | |
| **Cook,**  **Daniel** | C&E  COM | P | **Mukherjee, Sundeep** | MSE  CENG | P | **Wang, Xuexia** | CSE CENG | P |  |  |  |
| **Ginther, Jeannette** | TE&A  COE | P | **Ojha, Divesh** | MKTG RCOB | P | **Warren, Scott** | LTEC  COI | P |  |  |  |
| **Hargis, Carol** | LIBR | P | **Olness, Gloria** | ASPL  CHPS | P | **Watson, Wendy** | PSCI  CLASS | A |  |  |  |
| **Hensel, Paul** | PSCI  CLASS | P |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **NON-VOTING SENATORS** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Andrea Ortiz | GSC |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Devon Skinner | SGA |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **NON-VOTING SUBSTITUTES** | | |
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Guests: Meredith Wright (UBSC), Elizabeth Oldmixon (VPAA), Brenda Kihl (VPAA), Holly Hutchins (VPAA), John Bellon (Staff Senate)

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions | * Senator Belshaw began by welcoming everyone to the last in-person Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year. He thanked all the Senators for a great year and said serving as Senate Chair was one of the great privileges of his life. He said that he hoped that he has done a good job. He gave special thanks to Senator Lane, the Immediate Past Senate Chair, and to Senator Walker, the Senate Vice Chair. * Senator Belshaw announced the creation of an ad-hoc arts preservation committee to be chaired by April Prince. * Senator Belshaw thanked President Smatresk and Vice Provost Holly Hutchins for help with the creation of the Faculty Lounge.   + Senator Peak inquired about a Faculty Wine Cellar. * Senator Belshaw welcomed Senator Daniel Cook, a new Senator representing Group VIII. * Recognize Senators who are leaving   + Senator Belshaw recognized the Senators at the ends of their terms: Senator O’Toole, Senator Lam, Senator Sexton, Senator Mann, Senator Boesch, Senator Warren, Senator Hutchison, Senator Britain, Senator Zhang, and Senator Morton. |
| II. | Approval of Minutes  (March 9 and April 13, 2022) | **[vote]**   * Senator Aviles-Diz moved approval of the March 9 minutes, and Senator Moreland seconded. The March 9 minutes were unanimously approved. * Senator Morton moved approval of the April 13 minutes, and Senator Joyner seconded. The April 13 minutes were unanimously approved. |
| III. | Faculty Policy Oversight Committee  (Adam Chamberlin / Elizabeth Oldmixon) | **Second Read [vote]:**   * 06.042 Continuous Enrollment   + Professor Oldmixon explained that this policy was being reviewed as part of the regular six-year review. She discussed two competing concerns: adequate recognition of faculty time spent mentoring and advising graduate students and potential financial hardship that the continuous enrollment policy can sometimes create for graduate students. She explained that some members of the Faculty Policy Oversight Committee wanted to lower the number of hours required for continuous enrollment from three to one, while other members wanted the required number of hours to remain at three. As a compromise, the Faculty Policy Oversight Committee recommended lowering the number of required hours to two. The committee also added some language to the policy draft to describe existing practices that help graduate students that get a little bit behind in their defenses. Professor Oldmixon then reported that the Senate Executive Committee voted to keep the three-hour enrollment requirement unchanged, and so that’s what appears in the draft up for second read at today’s meeting:     - Senator Bednarz, who is also a member of the Faculty Policy Oversight Committee, explained in detail his advocacy for lowering the number of required hours. He said that 5-6 times over the course of his career, both at UNT and elsewhere, he has worked with students negatively impacted by policies like this, and he said it has never ended well. He read out a letter from a former masters student describing in detail the difficulties she faced from this policy while trying to complete her degree.     - Another Senator, who was a former UNT graduate student, said that she was caught by surprise by this policy when she was a student and had a similar experience as described by the student in the letter to Senator Bednarz.     - Senator Peak said something similar had happened to him.     - Senator Walker discussed our fiduciary responsibility and the practices of our peer and aspirational institutions.     - One Senator reported that Penn State only requires enrollment for one hour, and he talked about how graduate programs compete in various ways, and that cost to students was one factor.     - Another Senator commented that the reduction of one hour in the continuous enrollment policy would not make a significant difference in how competitive we are in terms of graduate stipends and costs.     - Senator Belshaw commented that perhaps the problem should be addressed by the creation of an emergency fund to help graduate students who need help, rather than by a blanket change to the policy.   + Senator Hutchins moved to table approval of the policy draft to the September meeting. Senator Anderson-Lain seconded. The motion to table passed unanimously.   **First Read:**   * 06.001 Evaluating, Awarding and Accepting Credit   + Professor Oldmixon explained that the proposed revisions to this policy came at the request of Vice Provost Kihl. The concern is to ensure faculty oversight and consistent evaluation, especially with the greater variety of non-traditional credits we now see. |
| IV. | Committee on Committees (Chris Lam) | * Standing Committee Vacancies **[vote]**   + Two nominations were made for the at-large vacancy on the Faculty Mentor Committee.     - Senator Anderson-Lain provided background on the nomination of Brian Richardson from Communications Studies.     - Senator Sexton provided background on the nomination of Mariya Gavrilova Aguilar from Management.     - Professor Mariya Gavrilova Aguilar was selected to fill the at-large vacancy of the Faculty Mentor Committee by majority vote.   + Senator Sexton moved approval of the other nominees to fill standing committee vacancies. Senator Lane seconded, and the remainder of the nominees were approved by unanimous vote. * Administrative Committee Vacancies **[vote]**   + Senator Morton moved approval of the nominees for administrative committee vacancies, Senator Lane seconded, and the nominees were approved by unanimous vote. |
| V. | Confirmation of Executive Committee Actions / Report (Jackie Walker) | * Remaining executive committee meetings   + Senator Walker reported that the Senate EC would take up any emergency items for the remainder of the academic year, if anything comes up, via virtual meetings. * Recommendations for two of three at-large graduate council positions **[vote]**   + Jennifer Lane and Dale Yeatts   + The Senate unanimously approved Jennifer Lane and Dale Yeatts as at-large representatives on Graduate Council. * Confirmation of EC appointments **[vote]**   + Chair of the Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum (April Prince)   + Chair of the Faculty Policy Oversight Committee (William Cherry)   + Chair of the Faculty Research Committee (Catherine Ragland)   + One at-large member of the Faculty Research Committee (Sundeep Mukherjee)     - Senator Lane moved to approve the above EC appointments as a group, and Senator Joyner seconded. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the above EC appointments. |
| VI. | University Elections Committee (Adam Chamberlin) | * Spring elections results   + The results of the spring Senate elections were presented to the Senate. * Faculty Senate Officer elections **[vote]**   + Senator Aviles-Diz moved to elect Adam Chamberlin as Senate Chair, Karen Anderson-Lain as Senate Vice Chair, and Jodi Philbrick as Senate Secretary. Senator Peak seconded. The slate of officer candidates was elected with all but one vote in favor and with one abstention. |
| VII. | Old business | * Procedures Manual amendment to add administrative titles (William Cherry) **[vote]**   + Senator Anderson-Lain moved to un-table the proposed amendment to the Procedures manual on faculty administrative titles. Senator Petros seconded, and the proposal was un-tabled by unanimous vote.   + Senator Anderson-Lain moved the adoption of the proposed amendment to the Senate Procedures manual on faculty administrative titles. Senator Hensel seconded. The faculty administrative titles amendment to the Senate Procedures Manual was unanimously approved. |
| VIII. | New Business | * Resolution concerning Thanksgiving week (Paul Hutchison) **[vote]**   + Senator Hutchison described childcare problems and attendance issues that students and faculty experience during Thanksgiving week.   + Senator Hutchison moved approval of the draft resolution requesting Thanksgiving week be a no-class week in exchange for an earlier start to the fall term. Senator Morton seconded.   + Senator Cook commented that the earlier start to the fall term could impact music students and summer music festivals.   + Senator Anderson-Lain commented that the fall term need not start on a Monday.   + The motion was approved with all but one vote in favor, with one abstention. |
| IX. | Bertina Combes scholarship and faculty lounge fundraiser (Matt Bethea) | * Faculty Senate Fund   + Matt Bethea reported on discussions with Senator Belshaw on a fundraiser that would enable naming the new Faculty Lounge in honor of Bertina Combes.   + Matt Bethea reminded the Senate of the existing scholarship fund in honor of Bertina Combes.   + Matt Bethea said that for a new fund, he recommended the creation of Faculty Senate endowment fund, which would need $25,000 in donations before it could begin making distributions.   + Senator Belshaw said that President Smatresk could lower the fundraising threshold, so that naming the Lounge could possibly take place with less funding. The important thing is for us to show support.   + Senator Peak asked what the assumed return on investment is for endowment funds.     - Matt Bethea said that endowment funds provide 3.75% annual distributions. |
| X. | Break to view Zoom faculty forum for provost candidate | The Senate meeting took a break to allow the Senators to view the video feed from the Provost candidate forum. |
| XI. | Acceptance of standing committee end-of-year reports **[vote]** | * Faculty Participation in Governance * Committee on the Status of Faculty with Disabilities * Committee on Committees * University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee * Committee on the Status of Women Faculty * Faculty Awards Committee * Faculty Mentor Committee * Faculty Salary Study Committee * Faculty Development Leave Committee * Academic Affairs Committee * Committee on the Status of Faculty of Color   Senator Anderson-Lain moved to consider and accept the above committee reports as a group. Senator Aviles-Diz seconded. The committee reports were accepted by unanimous vote. |
| XII. | Special presentation (Jackie Walker) | Senator Walker presented Senator Belshaw with a plaque in recognition of his service. |
| XIII. | Comments for the Good of the Order | * The June Faculty Senate meeting will have a limited agenda with business being conducted by a vote in Qualtrics on June 8. Please watch for email from the Faculty Senate which may come out between now and June 8 with items of business or which may seek your input. * The next in-person Faculty Senate meeting will be September 14, the first meeting of the 2022-23 Senate year. * The next executive committee meeting is August 31 (current EC members remain in position through the end of the 2021-22 Senate year in September). * Interim Provost McPherson announced that mask language will no longer be required in syllabi beginning summer term. * Senator Sexton informed the Senators of a focus group on parking lots being led by Bill Donovan. Senator Sexton said that anyone interested should contact Bill Donovan directly. |
| XIV. | Adjournment | The meeting adjourned at 3:52. |