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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**University Union 332**

Minutes December 11, 2024, 2:00 pm.

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| **Acree, William** | CHEM  COS | P | **Kim, Jungkwun** | EENG  CENG | P | **Rubio, Brenda** | TEA  CENG | A |  |  |  |
| **Armintor Marshall** | ENGL  CLASS | P | **Knight, Laetitia** | WLLC  CLASS | P | **Sankofa, Nicole** | EPSY  COE | P |  |  |  |
| **Bednarz, Jim** | BIOL  COS | P | **Lemberger-Truelove, Matthew** | CHE  COE | P | **Savoie, Michael** | SCM  RCOB | P | **TEMPORARY SENATORS**  **(Voting)** | |  |
| **Ben Othmane, Lotfi** | CSE  CENG | P | **Lund, Brady** | IS  COI | P | **Scott Bracey, Pamela** | MDI  CACS | P | Rick Cazier | ACCR | A |
| **Briggle, Adam** | PHIL  CLASS | P | **Manzo, Maurizio** | MEEN  CENG | P | **Schalkwyk, Willem van** | MUVS  COM | P |  |  |  |
| **Britain, Jeffrey** | HTM  CMHT | P | **Martin, Eugene** | MRTS  CLASS | L | **Schoolfield, Anne** | ENGL  CLASS | P |  |  |  |
| **Campbell, Doug** | LIBR | P | **Martinez-Ebers, Valerie** | PSCI CLASS | P | **Sexton, Mike** | MGMT  RCOBB | P |  |  |  |
| **Chamberlin, Adam** | DANC  CLASS | L | **May, Andrew** | MUCS  COM | A | **Sheppard, Steven** | SPAN  CLASS | P |  |  |  |
| **Chaing, Jason** | EPSY  COE | P | **McKay, Melissa** | DMI CACS | A | **Shiner, David** | PHYS  COS | P |  |  |  |
| **Condrey, Coby** | LIBR | P | **Morton, Sophie** | WLLC  CLASS | P | **Subramaniam, Karthigeyan** | TEA  COE | P |  |  |  |
| **Evans, Sarah** | IS  COI | P | **Mukherjee, Sundeep** | MSE  CENG | P | **Thurman, Emily** | SPAN  CLASS | P |  |  |  |
| **Frenzel, Ervin** | CSE  CENG | P | **Najour, Caroline** | WLLC  CLASS | A | **Trippeer, Barbara** | ADES  CVAD | P | **STUDENT SENATORS**  **(Non-voting)** | |  |
| **Ginther, Jeannette** | TEA  COE | A | **Nasco, Dennis** | MGMT  RCOB | A | **Trudeau, Justin** | COMM  CLASS | L | Alfred Dozier IV | SGA | A |
| **Hutchison, Paul** | ACCT  RCOB | P | **Ojha, Divesh** | SCM  RCOB | L | **Welch, Lisa** | BIOL  COS | P | Satya Vara Prasad Namala | GSC | A |
| **Iaia, Joseph** | MATH  COS | P | **Peters, John** | ENGL  CLASS | P | **Wilson, Carol** | MUVS  COM | P |  |  |  |
| **Joyner, William** | MUVS  MUSIC | P | **Prybutok, Gayle** | RHS CHPS | P | **Wolski, Kristin** | LIBR | P |  |  |  |

Guests: Harrison Keller (President), Mike McPherson (Provost), Holly Hutchins (OFS), Angie Cartwright (OFS), Courtney Glazer (Accreditation), Amanda Fuller (UBSC),

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions | * Welcome to our new Senators (Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Gayle Prybutok) * Thank you to Temporary Senators completing their terms (Rick Cazier, Orhan Erdem) |
| II. | Approval of Minutes (November 20, 2024) **[vote]** | * Hutchinson moves to approve, Savoie seconds * Hutchinson points out an organizational abbreviation that is incorrect * Modified minutes pass unanimously |
| III. | University Update (President Harrison Keller / Provost Mike McPherson) | Construction update   * Avenue C will be opening soon. Some other projects are now wrapping up. But we have some other projects coming up quickly that will continue to cause disruption. * Between May and August 2025, portions of Avenue D and Chestnut will be closed entirely. Also, Union Circle is scheduled to be completely closed for construction from May 14, 2025, through November. * A senator asked how we would handle shipments and delivery to the Union during this time. President says they are trying to figure it out now. It is also important to know that they will reverse the traffic flow when Union Circle re-opens. So instead of one way going clockwise, traffic will instead be going one way counterclockwise.   Research Strategic Initiative   * As part of the research and budget initiatives, they are considering how we plan to focus the net new TUF dollars. This fiscal year is about $16 million, and the amount will increase slightly each year due to the structure of TUF, resulting in $60 million over the course of three years that can be invested strategically. * Dr. Pam Padilla is working in consultation with the college deans to identify areas where we could make investments, such as startup packages, equipment, and, in some cases, renovation, that can help accelerate what we're doing in certain areas. * The first three areas of research focus are around cancer, semiconductors, and space and aerospace technologies. These were selected because the State has established major research funds. Therefore, we may be able to get matching funds from the State. For example, if we could buy a piece of equipment that helps us secure additional support, then we could amplify the impact of that budget from the State. * One of the two other identified areas for a research focus is around data science, data analytics, and AI. We have strengths in this across the campus. The idea is not to restructure what we're doing in business analytics or move what we're doing in information science. But to create an interdisciplinary institute to facilitate more collaboration across these different units. And provide more support for other areas of research within the university. These are nascent discussions. * On the drawing board, we are thinking about how we might move in the direction of establishing an interdisciplinary institute for learning sciences. Think about the work being done in the intersection of spaces like neuroscience, behavioral psychology, development psychology, and even some of the work in AI, around the AI tutors. It’s advancing and applying what we're learning about memory, motivation, and student development. We have some pockets of this work happening across campus. How do we better position UNT to be able to work on that frontier and contribute to the research? Also, there's an intersection with our discussions with the faculty about how we might provide better support to the faculty innovations in teaching and learning. We're interested in this and have started to have conversations around campus, but we don't have it distilled yet. Student Success has made some initial observations based on feedback from Canvas. * The strategic budget steering committee has released some reports. We will pull together some new plans for the first TUF investments in the new year. It is important to have those reports and plans out there for campus transparency as we're making a case for policymakers to continue investing in our research mission.   Questions for the President   * Senator asks about the possibilities of matching not only from our government agencies but if we can also do some matching with international colleagues from other countries, like Japan or South Korea. Not just with NSF but also with countries like Japan and South Korea. * President responds that we always want to strengthen opportunities for international collaboration, not only the money but the fostering of further collaborations. * Senator asks if there are stipulations on what the TUF funds can be spent towards, such as equipment. * President responds that there are some prohibited uses, such as you are not allowed to spend it on general operating costs. The way the enabling legislation is put together, you're supposed to spend on your research mission, though you could spend it on facilities that would be part of your core research facilities. You can also specifically spend it on things related to bolstering graduate education. For example, we can look at what we need to do to strengthen our doctoral programs and spend TUF funds on that as well. As long as we spend it on the research and innovation mission, we should be generally within the bounds. * Senator comments that those strategic initiatives look great as a way of generating more revenue. There is a counting issue, too, that while people may be part of some big funding operations, you also want to make sure that you support individual researchers who may not fit into those categories and that we somehow strike a balance. * President agrees that this is an important point. These thematic priorities are not the only things we are going to focus our resources on. We are looking to make targeted investments with this opportunity. There may be opportunities for faculty mentoring or other specific needs. Just as long as we focus on advancing our research.   Corporate Engagement Initiative   * We are updating this section of the university website. One of the things he put a marker down is that it is important to foster closer relationships with industry on a couple of fronts. One purpose for, that he’s brought up around the region, is around more experiential learning opportunities for our students. Students being able to work on projects in industry or having meaningful internships is one of the most effective ways for us to help bolster the value of our student programs. We have some of our degree programs now that include mandatory internships. But that's just a few of them here and there. We'll have to have many more and expanding partnerships to be able to facilitate that. * The other purpose for corporate engagement is the way that we think about growing our research mission. From the State's perspective, the priority is on both federal and private research. There are some areas where we already have corporate partnerships. Some faculty members have come directly from the industry and are still very closely connected to different corporate partners. Over time, it's going to be more and more essential for us to have those kinds of partnerships so that we'll be able to draw more private capital into supporting our research mission and also be able to accelerate the use of the insights that come out of our research mission. * A senator asks two questions about the development of the strategic talent pipeline. First, how will that be evaluated for faculty on the tenure track? Currently, there's more emphasis on developing research relationships. And grant writing is evaluated positively. However, these kinds of corporate partnership building are not included in those parameters. The second question is specifically about when corporate partners are interested in UNT because of our MSI/HSI designation. Now, that becomes tricky with some of the State legislation. How should we couch that when corporate partners come to us because of this designation? * President answers that he and the Provost have been discussing how faculty are evaluated and there will need to be more conversations with the faculty and the deans. On all these initiatives, like in the case of student success, the faculty that lean in on helping to advance those initiatives, benefit our students. We want to make sure that whether it's building relationships with private partners or, for that matter, creating startups to help take insights from UNT to market - these are all things we should value. We have to make sure that the incentives and the expectations, for that matter, the support for the faculty, all need to cohere with where we're trying to go as an institution. * We're just organizing a strategic planning process for the university over the next 10 to 11 months – the next State of the University address will be the target for roll out. Along with that, we're going to need to make sure that we think about the ways that we hold folks accountable and the ways that we support people. The ways that we reward and promote people are aligned with our vision for where we are going as a university. * In terms of the HSI/MSI-related partnerships, the President says right now, one of the potential partnerships we could be in that would help accelerate our work on student success is because a foundation has put some money up specifically for Hispanic serving institutions to be able to accelerate their work on improving their advising and data analytics work. There is nothing in SB 17 that restricts us from being able to take advantage of those kinds of opportunities. Of course, it depends on the scenario and how we are being approached. We are very proud of the rich diversity of our students. This year, 42% of our students are 1st generation college students, and we likely have 47% of our students eligible for Pell. We want to make sure that all students have every opportunity to be able to take their potential as far as they want to take it.   Additional questions for the President   * Senator asks, with the research strategic initiative, and also getting to the next level of TUF, what role do the arts and humanities have in us reaching those goals? Or is it focused more on other kinds of research? * President answers that there are two criteria for the next tier of TUF. One is the number of research doctorates across campus, for which we are well above the threshold. The second criterion is based on federal and private research dollars. The amount we have to bring in goes up each year with inflation. We have about $49.5 million this fiscal year, which is good, and we have to hit this two years in a row. Also, the legislature needs to buy us into that next tier, so they would need to appropriate and endow additional funding to buy us into that next tier. And that would be more than $600 million to endow us. But once you are in the tier, you don't drop out. We estimate we make it by the second year of the biennium. The upcoming HERD report will likely come in at about $124 million, whereas last year, we were about $94 million. With a firm trajectory, we see tremendous growth in our research and research productivity here at UNT. * A s * enator asks, since that money is to support research and innovation, what role does our library possibly have in maintaining its R1 status? * President states that we want to invest in our institution to support the research mission successfully. There are many things we will need to do to bolster the research mission.   Governor’s executive order re adversary nations and the effect on travel   * Two to three weeks ago, Governor Abbot released an executive order regarding relationships that state agencies have with certain countries that the U.S. Department of Commerce calls adversarial or adversary. The order impacts both business and personal travel of any employee. Any money offered by the listed countries for you to travel and present is a prohibited activity. What's less clear is if it prohibits any business travel. We have contacted the Governor's office for clarification, which we will forward to you. If you need to buy airline tickets soon to any of these countries, make sure they are refundable. * As for personal travel, the executive order requires agencies like UNT to come up with a system to track these trips. There will be a short online form you have to fill out to say you are going to one of these countries, perhaps to visit family. You will also need to tell your supervisor. Then, within 4 weeks of your return, there will be another basic form to fill out, indicating where you went, when you were there, the purpose of your trip, etc. * A senator explains that a few months ago, they attended an NSF meeting, during which one of the program officers said they do not want to support Iranian students in the U.S. They have also heard that Florida is prohibiting the hiring of Iranian students. Is this related to our situation? * The Provost is not sure, so he can’t comment. To his knowledge, nothing like that is coming down the pike from Texas. * Another senator observed that they were invited to give a series of lectures in China, for which the hosts paid for the whole trip and everything. If such an offer is made again, we would have to decline, yes? * The Provost confirms that such an offer would have to be declined. * On behalf of a constituent, a senator asks if the information in this new travel form we fill out for UNT will be sent to the Governor’s office. * Provost explains that the executive order has a clause stating that we need to be ready to report if asked. So, there is no reporting mechanism at the moment, but the Governor's office could request the information at some time. * A senator asks if this executive order affects the graduate students from these countries who work for us as graduate assistants and fellows. * The Provost says the order does not impact the graduate students coming to us. However, if that graduate student is an employee, it would affect them if they were to visit home or one of these other countries. * A senator says he has a couple of students from Iran. Should I let them know that they must fill out the forms if they plan to visit home? The Provost agrees we should let our students know.   Status of SACS accreditation process, especially relative to the Academic Readiness theme   * A requirement of the reaccreditation process is a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). We need to have a detailed plan, including a timeline and financing. In spring 2024, President Smatresk was interested in focusing on TSI incomplete students. We are thinking now we could do more good if we broaden our focus there, so our QEP will be based on student success. President Keller has charged Vice Provost McIntyre with leading a strategic effort on student success. We do a lot of good work, but we aren’t as well coordinated and as efficiently resourced to do that work as we ought. To start, we will be scanning some of the best practices across the country. We can submit a pre-plan by August 15, 2025, from which we get the benefit of easy feedback. Then we need a full proposal for January 2026, that will be implemented in the fall of 2026.   State of the University   * A senator asked about the State of the University as we enter the spring semester. The Provost said that from his perspective, we are indeed healthy. We are going in great directions. It's easy to get disappointed and depressed about parts of our work life. But it's awesome if you think about where we've come and how fast we’ve gotten to today. Our enrollment has increased, and so has the level of our research ranking. * The President agreed that the State of our University is strong, but he wanted to highlight some things. As we make these transitions and move to a strategic budget process, it will show how sensitive we are to enrollment. It will make the available revenues transparent and what that means for different units across the campus. Right now, for this year, even in spring, our enrollment is softer than hoped. That has budget implications that could be on the order of $10 million for the institution. Take all that with a grain of salt. We have to see where we land in actual enrollments in spring and summer. But the other big thing, of course, is that the Texas legislature convenes in January. He’s optimistic about it. We had a historic legislative session last year in terms of appropriations, and we have a good case to make with core investments in UNT. We are already engaging with some of the key policymakers and some of the leadership offices to help them understand, “Here's where we're going. Here's what our vision is going forward.” That will be really important because, for UNT, the bulk of our budget is direct support from the legislature and receiving tuition fees. * A senator comments that lots of colleagues are concerned about the possibility of the University of Texas System offering free tuition. What are we going to do? * The President states that the idea of free tuition is not feasible or great policy-wise. We have a degree of tremendous value for students. Also, if you read the fine print of the UT guarantee, there are a lot of conditions. It is only based on need up to a certain limit. We met earlier to see how we will move forward with our financial aid strategy. We will continue to provide merit aid for high-achieving students, but we're primarily going to continue to focus on the financial barriers for qualified students. |
| IV. | Faculty development proposal (Holly Hutchins) | * A few months ago, professional development monies for faculty were allocated to the Office of Faulty Success. They have queried many stakeholders and campus leadership and even looked at nationwide practices. * The new model will be called Faculty Learning Communities (FLC). Many thanks to the President and the Provost for supporting this pilot. It’s organized around the idea of career stage communities. Not every faculty member at specific career stages has the same developmental needs, but there are similarities. We have already established a new/early career group. Now, we will add professional, mid-career, and late-career groups. It's open to all full-time faculty, and faculty can join more than one community. * The names of these communities may change as we evolve and observe how this works, and we get feedback from those active in these communities. They may shift these names to identify more of a focal area, for instance, a research area or tying to mentoring. * Funding is available for up to $3,000 per community for what the group can reasonably accomplish between late February and August 13. There are lots of potential activities, such as “lunch and learn,” book reading groups, or watch parties for webinars from groups like the National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development (NCFDD). Money could be used for food or materials or a speaker who then talks about a topic, unpacks it a little bit more, or iterative follow-up sessions to unpack and test out and apply the strategies we're discussing. * As a reminder, we have an institutional membership to NCFDD, which has a wonderful core curriculum for faculty and grad students. It just takes a few clicks on their site to form an account. * If you are interested in forming an FLC, please fill out the online interest form to say what topics you are interested in and if you would like to be a participant or a lead. We are going to see how it works and collect data from this pilot. * A senator asks if it is limited to UNT faculty only. Or can we connect with another group in the area? Dr. Hutchins says the money is only for UNT faculty, but we would like to support the incubation of more extensive networks and partnerships. * Another senator asks if grad students can be involved. Dr. Hutchins said it is not how it's designed now, but it may be something to discuss with the grad school in the future. |
| V. | Faculty Policy Oversight Committee (Lawrence Williams / Angie Cartwright) **Second Read [vote]** | 06.002 Academic Appointments and Titles   * This policy came up for its six-year review. No suggested changes at this time. * This is a motion for adoption. It comes from the committee. So, no second is needed. * Discussion   + One college has an executive dean, but that specific title is not listed. Does that make a difference?     - No, our academic resources team has reviewed it and checked this policy in comparison to our various contracts and said they thought it was fine.   + There have also been changes to the administrative titles in the libraries.     - Keep in mind that this is a policy. We also have a procedure document where every single title is detailed.   + Senator Campbell makes a motion that the title university librarian be added. Motion seconded by Senator Philpot.   + FS Chair suggests Senator Campbell meet with Dr. Cartwright outside this process to review the needed details. Campbell agrees to withdraw the motion. Cartwright recommends the senator contact their FPOC representative.   + Dr. Cartwright states her preference would be not to delay and move the policy forward now. There is a new directive that policies under review this academic year need to be moved forward by the first of the calendar year. It is critical as we move through these processes that work like this can happen outside the Senate to have an accurate draft when the Senate meets.   + Campbell again makes the motion to add the new title and definition to the current policy. Philpot again seconds.   + Motion passes with 6 abstentions so the policy will be postponed. FS Chair requests that Senator Campbell reach out to FPOC co-chairs to resolve the issue.   06.033 Study Abroad   * There are two small changes, adding more information for clarity. One is the addition of zero credit hours, and the other is some clarification related to insurance for study abroad and students engaging in the study abroad experiences. * This is a motion for approval from the committee. There is no second needed. * Discussion   + A senator asks if the Governor's list of off-limits countries needs to be addressed here.   + Dr. Cartwright explains that this is not the standard policy. The recent list of travel limitations from the Governor is more of a procedure. The reason is that that order will likely be changed or lifted at some point, and then we would have to revise the policy for every change. It is also understood that any order from the Governor overrides any policy that we have.   + A senator points out that there is a standing list of countries given at the federal level to which travel is prohibited. Therefore, they make a motion for an amendment adding language to this policy highlighted that travel is prohibited to any nation listed by the federal State Department.   + After discussing the appropriate location and wording for such a statement, it is recommended that new language be added to Section I C1. The statement reads, “The University would be responsible for ensuring that the locations for study abroad are not deemed to be off limits by the U.S. Department of State or the State of Texas.”   + Motion for amendment passes with 7 opposed and 7 abstentions. * Motion to approve the amended policy passes with 5 abstentions.   06.004 Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, Promotion, and Reduced Appointments   * Changes to this policy were given a first read at the November meeting. * No discussion. * Motion to approve the policy passes with 1 abstention.   06.051 Faculty Grievance   * Changes to this policy were given a first read at the November meeting. * Discussion   + A senator asks if they have considered recording the meeting in Zoom and using AI for the transcript.   + Dr. Cartwright stated this would not be considered a best practice. These are cases related to promotion and tenure. A stenographer can provide a certified copy of their transcript, which reflects what happened in the meeting.   + Another senator asks if the UFGC has some leeway about what they listen to; in other words, can they decide not to hear frivolous grievances?   + Dr. Cartwright explains that with the UFGC, anything related to reappointment, promotion, and tenure is automatically accepted. If there is another grievance, they will review the packet and all the information before them, and they get to decide whether to accept that grievance. But if it's a midterm or revocation of tenure or anything related to reappointment, promotion, and tenure for the tenure track, the UFGC automatically accepts it. * FS votes and the policy is approved unanimously. |
| VI. | Committee on Committees (Brady Lund) **[vote]** | Call for nominations for standing committee vacancies  Call for nominations for administrative committee vacancies  Call for nominations for ad hoc committee vacancies   * We still do have vacancies, but no nominations have been brought forward previously or today. * Senator Lund will send a reminder message to the members of the Committee on Committees to have those nominations in place for our upcoming meeting in February. As a reminder, if you go to the Faculty Senate website, you can see all of the current committee rosters and the vacancies there. Please look at the vacancies relevant to your voting group. |
| VII. | Executive Committee Update (William Joyner) | * Approved retirement of the Faculty Mentor Committee [vote] * There was a proposal to delete the Faculty Mentor Committee because most of the activities they were involved in have since been subsumed by the Office of Faculty Success. The Committee on Committees deliberated and approved the deletion of the committee, which was forwarded to the Executive Committee, which approved it last week. * Discussion   + A senator noticed in the midyear report of the University Library Committee that they are waiting for their charges, the same as last year. The report implies they are not meeting at all.   + Chair explains that this committee has had unclear charges for several years. He has been working on more immediate senate business. He is open to suggestions about what the committee charges should be. However, there has been a lot of change in the libraries over the last 10 years in terms of communication models and funding models, so it is unclear what the committee can or should be doing. Currently, no one is willing to serve as this committee's chair and lead the creation of the charges.   + Another senator observed that when he was on the library committee, there was a strong interaction between the committee and the then Dean of the Libraries. Given that there will be a search for a new University Librarian in the spring, there may be a change in the dynamic for the future.   + Another senator asked when and how we sunset committees. Also, do we have a procedure for regularly assessing our committees for purpose and functionality?   + Chair says that is a fundamental question we should discuss in a future meeting. Currently, no sunset procedure is in place, but the FS could pass such a rule. In the case of the University Library Committee, there needs to be a conversation about how much input and oversight they believe faculty should have with the libraries.   + FS Administrative Coordinator points out there is something in the FS procedures or bylaws that every two years, the Committee on Committees is supposed to review the charges of every committee. But to our knowledge, this hasn't been done recently. The FS Officers and Executive Committee will follow up on this. * Senator Joyner motions to retire the Faculty Mentor Committee   + A senator asks when this will take place. The committee will be retired immediately at the end of the fall semester. * The vote to retire the Faculty Menor Committee is unanimous. * Accepted resignation of Lawrence Williams as faculty co-chair of the Faculty Policy Oversight Committee and appointed Adam Chamberlin, Associate Professor (THEA), as the new FPOC chair * Approved change in charges for Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum * Accepted mid-term reports for the following committees:   + Committee on Committees   + Faculty Policy Oversight Committee   + Faculty Research Committee   + University Library Committee   + University Faculty Grievance Committee   + University Writing Committee |
| VIII. | Other Standing Committees Updates **[vote]** | * UUCC Report/Minutes [December] (Natalie Ellis / Courtney Glazer)   + Dr. Ellis invites us to discuss the report/minutes.   + A senator observes that we just see a list of courses, so they want to know if the committee gets more information.   + Dr. Ellis says yes, any changes brought forward must be explained to the committee.   + Chair calls the vote to approve the minutes and it’s unanimous. * Graduate Council Minutes [October] (Jennifer Lane) * Dr. Lane presents the minutes and explains that their October meeting has the largest agenda and the November has the next largest. This is because of the deadlines required to institute changes to the graduate school catalog. * The vote is called, and the minutes are accepted with 1 abstention. |
| IX. | New Business | Students bringing children to class   * On behalf of 2 constituents, a senator asks if there are any websites with relevant information and language for syllabi with statements on students bringing children to class. Some students have brought disruptive children to a class, and one threatened to sue the faculty member under Title IX. * Dr. Cartwright said this has come up recently in her other role as interim department chair. Our Dean of Students, Laura Smith, has a statement we can use. It emphasizes that only individuals fully eligible to enroll in the university may attend a class as an auditor, with written permission from the department chair and the Dean of the college or the school in which the course is taught. This addresses both children, who are not eligible for enrollment, as well as parents or partners who have requested to attend class with a student as well. * Also, the section of Title IX related to pregnancy and parenting is in relationship to physically having the child. It's not necessarily related to childcare. It's related to the parenting aspects after pregnancy. So allowing our students the opportunity to miss class if there's a recent birth of a child, for example. Dr. Cartwright will send the information to the FS Administrative Coordinator. * Another senator pointed out that he had used the policy on classroom disruptions for a wide variety of situations.   Use of electric scooters on campus   * A senator reports that he had been nearly knocked down about five times this semester by people on electric scooters or skateboards. They request the Chief of Police visit the FS to explain campus rules. For example, are they supposed to be in the bike lane, or is that not allowed? Recently, there has been an increased risk of accidents. * Chair recognized guest (Staff Senate Chair) who is a part of the Division of Student Affairs and sits on the Risk Management Committee. They are now in the process of submitting a proposal to leadership requesting a policy on electric scooters. There has been a noticeable increase in near accidents, as well as questions about safe storage and the charging of lithium batteries. * FS Chair observes that the City of Denton does not currently have rules about these motorized scooters, but it is a developing issue. * Another Senator who has explored this area says that according to the State of Texas, these are “motorized vehicles.” Whether the vehicle or the driver needs to be licensed depends on the size/power of the engine. Also, it is important to know that the City of Denton owns streets on campus while UNT owns the sidewalks. There has to be coordination between these two entities when it comes to the laws and policies around bike lanes and laws. * Other senators described confused scenes on campus related to the traffic directions of bike lanes. * Given it was nearly 4:00 pm, Senator Hutchinson moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Senator Savoie seconded. Motion to extend the time passes with 2 opposed and 1 abstention. * FS Chair will contact the Chief of Police and representatives from the Student Government to continue the discussion of the electric scooters and skateboards. |
| X. | Old Business | |  | | --- | |  | | None | |
| XI. | Comments for the Good of the Order | * **There will not be a January Faculty Senate meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for **2:00 pm. Wednesday, February 12, in Union 332.** * **The Executive Committee will not meet again in December**. The next Executive Committee meeting is at **2:00 pm. Wednesday, January 29, in Hurley 204.** * President’s Cabinet asks that we ask students if they have enrolled for spring and say something to encourage them. * Senator Peters had a really good week. * ***Have a safe and enjoyable winter break!*** |
| XII. | Adjournment | 4:10 pm |