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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Zoom Meeting**

Minutes – April 14, 2021

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| **Anderson-Lain, Karen** | COMM  CLASS | P | **Hayes, Marjorie** | THEA  CLASS | L | **O’Toole, Erin** | LIBR | P | **Watson, Cindy** | TNTX COS | P |
| **Aviles-Diz, Jorge** | SPAN  CLASS | P | **Hensel, Paul** | PSCI  CLASS | P | **Peak, Dan** | ITDS  COB | A | **Wickstrom, Carol** | TEA COE | P |
| **Baker, Rose** | LTEC  COI | P | **Hughes, Lee** | BIOL  COS | P | **Perez, Jose** | PHYS COS | P | **Yeatts, Dale** | SOC  CLASS | P |
| **Bednarz, Jim** | BIOL  COS | P | **Hutchison, Paul** | ACCT COB | P | **Philbrick, Jodi** | IS COI | P | **Zhang, Tao** | KHPR  COE | P |
| **Belshaw, Scott** | CJUS CHPS | P | **Lam, Chris** | TECM CLASS | P | **Roy, Meranda** | LIBR | A |  |  |  |
| **Biglaiser, Glen** | PSCI CLASS | P | **Lane, Jennifer** | MUVS  MUSIC | P | **Ruggero, Camilo** | PSYC  CLASS | A |  |  |  |
| **Boesch, Miriam** | EPSY  COE | P | **Long, Chris** | TEA COE | P | **Sexton, Michael** | MGMT COB | P |  |  |  |
| **Britain, Jeff** | HTM CMHT | P | **Mann, Paho** | ASTU  CVAD | P | **Shahrokhi, Farhad** | CSE  CENG | P |  |  |  |
| **Broberg, Kirsten** | MUCS MUSIC | P | **Martin, James** | MRTS  CLASS | P | **Stockdale, Nancy** | HIST CLASS | P |  |  |  |
| **Campbell, Doug** | LIBR | P | **McAfee, Jason** | CHEM COS | P | **Stromberg, Linda** | TEA  COE | P |  |  |  |
| **Cherry, William** | MATH COS | P | **Moreland, Kimberly** | ENGL CLASS | P | **Tooch, Mario** | DANC  CLASS | P | **TEMPORARY SENATORS** | | |
| **Fu, Song** | CSE CENG | P | **Morton, Sophie** | WLLC  CLASS | P | **Trudeau, Justin** | COMM  CLASS | P | **Lawrence Williams** | WLLC  CLASS | P |
| **Gerling, Daphne** | MUIS  MUSIC | P | **Mukherjee, Dhrubodhi** | SOWK  CHPS | A | **Walker, Jacqueline** | ENGL CLASS | P | **Adam Chamberlin** | THEA  CLASS | P |
| **Hagan, Briton** | KHPR COE | A | **Ojha, Divesh** | MKTG COB | P | **Wang, Xuexia** | CSE CENG | P |  |  |  |
| **Hargis, Carol** | LIBR | P | **Olness, Gloria** | ASPL  CHPS | P | **Warren, Scott** | LTEC  COI | P |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **NON-VOTING SENATORS** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Bailey Sterling** | GSC | P |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Cameron Combs | SGA | P |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **NON-VOTING SUBSTITUTES** | | |
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Guests: Neal Smatresk (President), Jennifer Cowley (VPAA), Brenda Kihl (AA), Mike McPherson (AA & OFS), William Donovan (Parking), Mark McLellan, Elizabeth Oldmixon & Adam Chamberlin (FPOC). Additional Guests: Coby Condrey, Cathy Sassen, Tracy Everbach, Brea Henson, Yvonne Dooley, Ann Bartts (Staff Senate Rep), Laurel Crawford, Marcia McIntosh, Mary Ann Venner, Jill Dawson, Jen Rowe, Tiffany Miller.

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions | Called to Order by Sen. Lane. |
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| II. | Approval of Minutes  (March 10, 2021) | Motion to approve Faculty Senate minutes from March 10, 2021  Motion by: Sen. Hutchison  Seconded by: Sen. Belshaw  Discussion  Vote: Majority  Minutes approved |
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| III. | Faculty Discussion (President Neal Smatresk / Provost Jennifer Cowley) | **President Smatresk**   * COVID and Budget-related matters   COVID Update  Plateau of cases.  No evidence of “community spread” on campus and/or our facilities.  Johnson & Johnson concerns—UNT has suspended use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine; UNT will use Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, only.  Presently, we do not know how many of UNT staff and faculty have been vaccinated at this point—suspects “anecdotally,” that 50% have been vaccinated. Encourage those who have not been vaccinated to get on the UNT list.  Administration is confident.  Questions:  Require students to vaccinate—President Smatresk: no we cannot require. UNT will “strongly” recommend.  Budget  Flat budget and hopeful—not much better or much worse from “2020” budget.  Enrollment: Flat on freshmen and transfers; higher on graduate students.  Good/Mixed News: HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds) significant and examining ways that we can assist our students and the institution—technical upgrades, classroom upgrades—with significant funds remaining.  Legislators are concerning two ways to fund: 1) one time to “formula”; 2) “one-year” state support for Hazelwood (Veteran and Veteran dependents)—One time possible “$14-24 million” with “limitations” on how these “one time” funds can be used.  CFO: will be announced officially, soon.  Questions:  None.   * SmartDollar program   Selection:  Best financial advising platform.  Provide popular product for our institution.  Recommendations from Health Sciences Center (HSC) and HSC’s success.  Negative press is from “Plaintiffs lawyers.”  Requested meeting with SmartDollar to discuss faculty concerns.  Believe it is in best interest of institution—it is not mandatory; no employee is required to use the product.  Questions:  What was process and what was considered?  Smatresk: Based on success of HSC’s success. We were able to get at great discount because of HSC’s relationship with SmartDollar.  **Questions:**  What evidence of efficacy of product—research, etc.?  Smatresk: We received huge amounts of data and the cumulative impact of service. HSC had seen to date over $1 million.  Share evidence?  Smatresk: Yes.  Concern about the heavy promotion and incentives—no promotion of EAP services?  Smatresk: This product is more full product that what we have presently. With “rollout,” generally, we offer incentives. Cost of this product is $55,000 per year. Largest incentive was a “blanket”—we want people to sign-up for it as a result of some of the difficulties of COVID. “State of University” included “affordability” for students; in addition, raise to minimum wage to some of institution’s lowest paid—this product (SmartDollar) is offered as a benefit for employees.  Aware that some of the advice is counter to common financial practices in terms of debt and credit ratings?  Smatresk: No.  Lawsuit against company by female employee—“fired for pre-marital sex” in terms of their “righteous living” policy; approached by women constituents who were concerned about the SmartDollar’s policies and UNT having a relationship with such a company with these kinds of policies? Form—personal information—what will company do with the data?  Smatresk: “First, I don’t approve of what their standards are as a company. . . . If I had known about their policies, I might have had second thoughts.”   1. Assumption that product has been shown effective 2. Assured by contract that company does not share information 3. We do not vet the ethics of every company that we use   Staff Senate Questions and promotions?  Smatresk: We are promoting product so that our employees can use it. Not promoting company but trying to provide a service to assist our employees.  Number of years of contract?  Smatresk: Three years.  Plan to “roll out” to students, eventually (ethical concerns, does organization agree with our “caring,” inclusive messaging? What percentage of employees to participate?  Smatresk: No percentage requirements. If I had known, I would have had second thoughts. I still have second thoughts. Offering to grad students might be helpful, but we would not want to offend our students.   * Status of upper-level administrators hiring processes   Questions:  None.  **Provost Cowley**   * Vice Provost for Faculty Success Search Update   Public Forums (dates)  Excellent candidates   * Faculty residency (distance expectations)—“return to work”   Work agreements end at end of April 2021.  Intentions that by August 1, 2021 everyone will be back to support Fall 2021.  Summer 2021 operations.  Health Crisis Team to provide guidance (shared office space, etc.).  “More” typical operations for Fall 2021.  All work “remote”—continue through Summer 2021.  Fall 2021—faculty to participate “in-person” normal operations with life “on campus.”  Major review in June 2021—travel, conference attendance, etc.  Another review in August 2021— “ “ “.  Work load assignments—Chairs responsible based on department needs; perhaps explore HR options.  Goal—to be as close to “normal” as possible.  Residency—within 50 miles during COVID—expectation for Fall 2021 is that faculty will be involved in “on campus” life (student meetings, faculty meetings, etc.). Participate in the “life of the campus.”  Spring 2022—should follow the “regular” calendar with “Spring Break.”  May 13, 2021—Board of Regents Meeting with further decisions.  Encourage vaccinations to allow for greater return to normalcy and typical activities.  We are not allowed to “require” or “ask” about vaccinations.  **Questions:**  Testing on campus?  Cowley: Those testing sites are funding by the state of Texas. They will continue until state decides to close; if any are closed, we will alert.  Essential Research Travel?  Cowley: Send request to Brenda Kihl—Brenda.Kihl@unt.edu.  Conference travel?  Cowley: Non-essential conference participation at this time—most have virtual participation at this time. Stay tuned for further guidance.  Work being pushed over into summer as result of no “spring break” despite 9 month contract?  Cowley: Nine-month contract usually last until middle of May. Unusual circumstances, but activity should not be beyond middle of May.  Information shared with chairs—9 month contract?  Cowley: Yes. |
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| IV. | Parking changes (William Donovan) | Donovan Presentation:  Changes align with President’s Affordability Initiatives   * No increase in permit prices for this coming year 2021-2022. * Reduction in fees—"no reserve” citation reduction from $125 to $50. * Towing fee—reduction from $125 to $100 * New “Lost Cost Annual Remote” Permit—Remote Parking Permit $195 (lowered by $80 of previous permit)—available to students, faculty, and staff. * Introduction of “single semester” permits—Eagle Permit (Annual $275; Single Semester $150). * Extend times of “Evening Permit”—3:30pm-7:00pm ($140)   April 21, 2021—Permits available to faculty and staff.  Questions:  Single semester for faculty?  Donovan: “De facto”—start payroll deduction and stop can pay for one semester.  Permit ADA credentials?  Part in any ADA available spot.  Lot permit reserved—ADA?  Donovan: Reserved lots are for permit holders—“A Reserve”—presently, individual would need “A Reserve” and ADA credentials to park in an “A Reserve” lot. Will review to make sure that this is correct.  E-mail: William Donovan—William.Donovan@unt.edu |
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| V. | Online courses, stop-the-clock, and academic freedom (Mike McPherson) | McPherson Presentation:   * Online Courses and Academic Freedom   Role of CLEAR—CLEAR does “not decide” what classes are taught online. CLEAR’s role is compliance.  Senate Faculty Policy Oversight Committee (FPOC) will be discussion CLEAR’s role in context of policy—Policy 06.030—so discussion is ongoing.   * Stop-the-Clock   COVID stop-the-clock requests have all been approved.  Faculty may “rescind” their stop-the-clock requests at any time within bounds of deadlines. The “rescind” would not be a “going up early” for tenure; merely, faculty “going up” at their regular time before the “stop-the-clock” request. |
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| VI. | Research Roadmap (Mark McLellan) | McLellan explanation on “research roadmap”   * Initiated by President Smatresk * Survey of 10 questions to distinguish “strengths” and “weaknesses” within faculty’s research and research agenda in individual “disciplines” and “specialization” of research. * President Smatresk will make resources available. * President Smatresk is interested in faculty exploring outside resources as well. * Facilitating the strengths of the disciplines.   Questions:  Interdisciplinary vs. silo dynamic—combined strengths of intramural and extra-mural?  McLellan: Must have strength of the discipline for strength of the “multi” discipline strengths. Speak at individual level, program level, and beyond.  Federal funding—IDC federal funding and foundation funding for long term opportunities?  McLellan: Any place to get initial dollars helps to make a difference for more resources. Initial dollars assist in getting preliminary data to get you started to be more competitive for larger funds.  E-mail: Mark McLellan—Mark.McLellan@unt.edu |
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| VII. | Faculty Policy Oversight Committee (Adam Chamberlin / Elizabeth Oldmixon) | **Second Read**   * 06.025 Faculty Misconduct and Discipline   Policy presented by Chamberlin. Coming from committee.  Discussion:  Coming from committee. No need for motion. All in favor, please vote by raise of hand.  Vote: Majority  Policy is approved.  **First Read**   * 06.035 Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility   Policy presented by Chamberlin. Policy comes as request of the Black Faculty Network by way of Dr. Chandra Carey. Committee reviewed the entire policy—added language to strengthen policy and clarify policy.  Sen. Lane: Double check “responsible parties.”  Sen. Shahrokhi: Clarification.  Sen. Lane: Clarification of “first read” with discussion to follow in “second read.”  Policy moves forward to “second read.”   * 06.054 Faculty Retirement with Modified Service   Policy presented by Chamberlin. EC requests that policy “go back” to FPOC; Senate to vote to send back to FPOC.  Motion to return to FPOC by: Sen. Cherry  Second by: Sen. O’Toole  Discussion:  Vote: Majority  [Initial error stating this policy was returned to FPOC; corrected in item XII. Student grade appeal policy returns to FPOC for possible amendment]. |
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| VIII. | Executive Committee (Scott Belshaw) | * Resolution to suspend/amend officer elections procedures for 2021 (William Cherry / Adam Chamberlin / Jennifer Lane)   Sen. Cherry: Charter is that voting is to occur at the May 2021 meeting, but there does not seem to be way via Zoom to allow for “secret” (as stipulated in Bylaws) ballot and that only “senators” vote “live” by Zoom and process is cumbersome. Zoom has restrictions on “yes”/”no” vote. Propose suspension of rules:   * To be able to vote electronically before May 2021 meeting * To be able to use usual conventions:   + To be able to assure that more than half senators vote   + Whoever receives plurality of vote on any particular ballot will win that office; conduct one office at a time—Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary (first, vote on Chair, then winner announced; next Vice Chair, then announced, etc.)   Sen. Chamberlin (Elections Chair): If this is passed, preliminary timeline will be provided so that we can announce. Requires that senators really watch for announcements and ballots.  Sen. Olness: Timeline?  Sen. Chamberlin: Yes, timeline. (Shown)  Stover: Timeline presentation and candidate statements form. (Shown)  Sen. Chamberlin: This has not been sent. Will be sent if the “suspended” elections procedures is passed.  Sen. Chamberlin is the impartial elections official.  Sen. Lane: Clarification—comes from EC and goes straight to vote.  Sen. Cherry: Clarification: we need two-thirds on this vote to suspend elections procedures.  Vote: Two-Thirds Majority  Resolution to suspend/amend officer elections procedures for 2021 PASSES (Two-thirds majority) |
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| IX. | Committee on Committees (William Cherry) | * Standing committee vacancies   + Update regarding at-large positions on Committee on the Status of Faculty with Disabilities   Sen. Cherry: Committee on Committee Recommends to confirm Paula Garland (Three Year At Large) and Dalia Chowdhury (Two Year At large Position).  Vote: Majority  Nominations approved  Sen. Cherry: For third position (for a few months—will be up for election again in Fall 2021)—raise hands. Sen. Martin “withdraws” from consideration. Voting between Valerie Bell and Dennis Nassco. Bell: 21 Votes; Nassco: 14 Votes.  Confirmation of Bell.  Any nominations from floor.  Committee on Committee Recommends Wang  Vote: Majority  Confirmation of Wang   * Administrative committee vacancies (none) |
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| X. | Other standing committee updates | * University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (March) (April Prince/Kim Faris)   Faris presents.  Coming from committee—vote to accept.  Vote: Majority  Minutes accepted.   * Graduate Council minutes (January) (Dale Yeatts / Dan Peak)   Yeatts presents—discussion of interdisciplinary activity.  Coming from committee—vote to accept.  Sen. Cherry: Senate committees do not have “vote by proxy.”  Sen. Lane: Clarification on Senate committees and make sure that Chair knows that there is no “vote by proxy.”  Sen. Cherry: They can do business electronically.  Yeatts: You can let someone, Chair, vote for you.  Vote: Majority  Minutes accepted. |
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| XI. | New Business | * Student government reports   + Graduate Student Council (Bailey Sterling)   Elections underway  College Transparency Act activity  Mental Health Act activity  Sen. Lane: Voting/Upcoming Election Dates (website)?   * + Student Government Association (Cameron Combs)   No report |
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| XII. | Old Business | Status of “student grade appeal” policy.  Chamberlin: Grades Appeal is in “limbo”—where this policy will go next. Gone to legal for determination as to where it should go next (perhaps back to FPOC). |
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| XIII. | Comments for the Good of the Order | * Shristi’s last day with the Faculty Senate will be April 29; she is graduating April 30 with a Master’s Degree in Data Science * Next Executive Committee meeting: April 28 * Next Faculty Senate meeting: May 1 * The full Senate schedule is posted on the [Senate website](https://facultysenate.unt.edu/) * World Voice Day April 16 - contact [hilarygracetaylor@gmail.com](mailto:hilarygracetaylor@gmail.com) * We Care We Count—remember new Bertina Combes scholarship. |
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| XIV. | Adjournment | Adjourned |