



FACULTY SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

University Union 332
Minutes – May 08, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Baker, Rose	LTEC COI	A	Lemberger- Truelove, Matthew	CHE COE	P	Quevedo- Torrero, Jesus Ubaldo	CSE CENG	P			
Bednarz, Jim	BIOL COS	P	Long, Chris	TEA COE	P	Sankofa, Nicole	EPSY COE	P			
Ben Othmane, Lotfi	CSE CENG	A	Lund, Brady	IS COI	A	Schoolfield, Anne	ENGL CLASS	P			
Briggle, Adam	PHIL CLASS	P	Manzo, Maurizio	MEEN CENG	P	Scott Bracey, Pamela	CACS	P			
Britain, Jeff	HTM CMHT	P	Martin, Eugene	MRTS CLASS	A	Sexton, Mike	MGMT RCOB	P			
Campbell, Doug	LIBR	P	May, Andrew	MUCS COM	P	Sheppard, Steven	SPAN CLASS	P			
Chamberlin, Adam	THEA CLASS	P	McKay, Melissa	(ACS) CACS	P	Shiner, David	PHYS COS	P			
Chiang, Jason	EPSY COE	P	Moreland, Kimberly	ENGL CLASS	P	Siller Carrillo, Hector	MEEN CENG	P	Temporary Senators (voting)		
Christian, Jack	ENGL CLASS	A	Mukherjee, Sundeeep	MSE CENG	P	Thurman, Emily	SPAN CLASS	P			
Condrey, Coby	LIBR	P	Najour, Caroline	WLLC CLASS	P	Tixier, Scott	MUJS COM	A			
Evans, Sarah	IS COI	P	Narayanan Arunachalam	ITDS RCOB	P	Trudeau, Justin	COMM CLASS	P			
Frenzel, Ervin	CSE CENG	P	Nasco, Dennis	MGMT RCOB	P	Welch, Lisa	BIOL COS	P			
Ginther, Jeannette	TE&A COE	A	Nodeland, Brooke	DCJ CHPS	A	Williams, Lawrence	WLLC CLASS	P			
Hutchison, Paul	ACCT RCOB	P	Ojha, Divesh	MLOM RCOB	P	Wilson, Carol	MUJS COM	P	STUDENT SENATORS (non-voting)		
laia, Joseph	MATH COS	P	Peters, John	ENGL CLASS	P				Dorcas Bisi	SGA	A
Joyner, William	MUJS COM	P	Petros, Amy	CHEM COS	P				Sri Lakshmi Thanuja Beeram	GSC	A
			Philpot, Denise	ADA TOUL	P						

Guests: John Bellon, Staff Senate; Angie Cartwright, Faculty Policy Oversight Committee (FPOC)/Vice Provost of Academic Affairs; William Cherry, FPOC; Natalie Ellis, University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee; Christiana Flores, University Brand Strategy & Communications; Courtney Glazer, University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee; Holly Hunter, Faculty Success/ Vice Provost of Academic Affairs; Brenda Kihl, Enrollment; Lisa Maxwell, Student Success; Deb Rohwer, Planning; Michael Savoie, Ryan College of Business.

I.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>2 pm. Faculty Senate (FS) Chair Adam Chamberlin called the meeting to order and presented certificates of appreciation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To President Neal Smatresk, special recognition upon his departure from the office; and, • To senators whose terms are expiring. <p>Executive Committee (EC) Chair Amy Petros presented a plaque and medal of appreciation to FS Chair Chamberlin upon his completing a second term as chair.</p>
II.	Approval of Minutes (April 10, 2024) [vote]	<p>2:05 pm. Chair Chamberlin made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no corrections noted. The FS passed the motion.</p>
III.	University Update (President Neal Smatresk / Provost Mike McPherson)	<p>2:05 pm. President Smatresk announced a new resource for faculty to use if a student in crisis reached out: Mantra Health. Deb Rohwer, Vice President of Planning provided additional details; Mantra Health acts as an emergency phone contact to guide faculty in managing someone experiencing a mental health crisis. The service will be available 24/7, with immediate response or very short callback time. This is different from Togetherall, the peer mental health platform available to students. Mantra Health is another tool for faculty to use; other tools include Mental Health First Aid training and the CARE Team for situations where there is possible harm, and 911 if there is an imminent threat of harm. The president and vice president seek feedback from the senators regarding how to ensure all faculty are aware of the new resource.</p> <p>2:15 pm. Provost Michael McPherson provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 06.035 Academic Freedom Office of General Counsel (OGC) amendment. Some of the language of this policy was found legally insufficient, so the OGC changed the policy without going through the Faculty Policy Oversight Committee. The language struck from the policy mentioned the words diversity, equity, and inclusion; the change removes the expectation on faculty to promote these. Q: Is this related to recent reviews of diversity, equity, and inclusion statements on course syllabi? A: No, those should be fine, and promoting respectful discourse is good practice. • Antisemitism and protests on campus. The recent protests on campus have been respectful thus far. We believe in free speech on this campus, within appropriate guidelines; we draw the line where protests become disruptive to our mission of educating people. There can be no threats of specific harm to individuals. Regarding disruptive behavior at commencement ceremonies, there has been no indication that any protests are planned; however, if someone engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave by the UNT Police Department officers. • Faculty Salary Study progress. The first draft of the study has been produced for committee review. After their review it will go to the provost. • Dean search timelines. The UNT Chancellor has disallowed dean searches until a new president of UNT is in place. This delays the searches for the College of Education dean and the dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism. • Uncompensated teaching assignments as service. This practice should not happen; the provost needs faculty to report specific instances so he can take action towards a solution. If necessary, reports could go through our Compliance Office. • Accountability for faculty who cancel scheduled classes. This is not a good thing to do routinely, although occasional instances are expected. Frequent

		<p>occurrences could be considered faculty misconduct. The provost does not wish to issue a blanket prohibition. He needs to know specific cases to address individually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistency in office hour requirements. There is no policy on how many office hours are required; we have a precedent of being reasonable on setting office hours. Department chairs or deans can set parameters, but faculty should be self-regulating generally on this. <p>Q: What is the rule for virtual classes or hybrid classes? A: the provost is unsure and needs to investigate further.</p> <p>The provost wants deans and chairs to set guidelines rather than trying to find a one-size-fits-all solution from upper administration.</p> <p>Q: What about holding office hours off campus in a café? A: This could be difficult for the student to be in a social situation like this, but he prefers that departments and colleges set guidelines to conform to the unit's</p> <p>Q: What was your personal guideline when teaching? A: This was probably overzealous, but he offered one office hour for each hour in the classroom. He was also flexible on meeting at other times if a student could not meet during regular office hours.</p>
IV.	Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS accreditation (Lisa McIntyre / Chelsea Bradshaw)	<p>2:38 pm. Lisa McIntyre, Vice Provost for Student Success, and Chelsea Bradshaw, Director of Student Success, reported on the kickoff of the QEP process. The timeline is to form committees and define the topic over the summer and fall of 2024, present the topic to the Board of Regents in the fall, develop the plan further with specifics in spring and summer 2025, get SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) review in September 2025, finalize the plan in December 2025, and implement it in spring of 2026. UNT's topic: College Academic Readiness, to address learning loss related to the pandemic in 2021 and to provide appropriate support to incoming students. Strategies include "how to college", addressing resource constraints like lack of space or financial hardship, and creating a sense of belonging. The presenters solicited feedback from the senators, and points for consideration included supporting international students, looking at more recent data about learning gaps, and seeking student input on this issue as well. The presenters will reach out to faculty again to ask faculty their thoughts on the QEP and for volunteers for related committees.</p>
V.	University Elections Committee (Adam Chamberlin)	<p>2:55 pm. FS Chair Chamberlin conducted nominations and elections of officers for 2024-2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FS elected the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Coby Condrey Vice Chair, William Joyner Secretary, Sarah Evans Senator and standing committee elections are ongoing. Once completed and validated an announcement of the winners will come from the Faculty Senate office.
VI.	Faculty Policy Oversight Committee (William Cherry / Angie Cartwright)	<p>3:01 pm. William Cherry and Angie Cartwright presented the following policies:</p> <p>First Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 06.034 Awarding Posthumous Degrees. The proposal is to repeal this policy, convert it to policy, and move it to the Dean of Students Office. <p>Second Read [vote]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 06.027 Academic Workload. Senator Bill Joyner made a motion to untable the policy; Senator Jim Bednarz seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. Senator John Peters made a motion to substitute a revised version

		<p>drafted by Dr. Cherry; Senator Arunachalam Narayanan seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. The new language uses wording consistent with other policies (preferring scholarship instead of research), and provides specific references to librarianship within teaching. Senator John Peters made a motion to approve Dr. Cherry's version of the policy; Senator Mike Sexton seconded. Discussion ensued without further amendment. The FS passed the motion to approve the substitute version of 06.027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 06.020 Recruitment and Selection of Teaching Fellows. FPOC had no changes but the Executive Committee made some minor modifications. As the policy arrived for approval from committee and FS had no further modifications, the FS approved the policy as received. 06.047 Shared Governance and the Role of Advisory Committees. This policy was under FPOC review in its regular 6-year cycle. FPOC made no changes. Executive Committee referred it to the FS Committee of Faculty Participation in Governance for review, who had no changes. Executive Committee amended it to change an occurrence of should to shall. As the policy arrived for approval from committee and FS had no further modifications, the FS approved the policy as received. 06.052 Review of Tenured Faculty. This policy was supposed to be reviewed a few years ago but was delayed due to expected changes related to state legislation. The OGC modified it to comply with new law. FPOC examined it carefully and made some changes to clarify language. Executive Committee reviewed and approved it as received. The major changes needed to meet legislative requirements were (1) to trigger a professional development plan for receiving an unsatisfactory rating in any one area of review and (2) to give final decision-making authority for revoking tenure due to misconduct to the president of the university, removing the option to appeal to the Board of Regents. As the policy arrived for approval from committee and FS had no further modifications, the FS approved the policy as received.
VII.	Committee on Committees (Melissa McKay)	<p>3:22 pm. Senator McKay noted the current nominees listed in red in the committee vacancies workbook distributed prior to the meeting. She thanked the senators for working to find people to fill committee openings. There was a short break for caucuses among the voting groups in cases where there were multiple nominees for the same position. The caucus results were recorded in the vacancies workbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing, Administrative and Ad hoc committee nominations [vote]. The FS approved appointment of the nominees to all positions by unanimous consent.
VIII.	Executive Committee Update (Amy Petros)	<p>3:40 pm. Vice Chair Petros reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution regarding academic freedom [vote]. Vice Chair Petros moved adoption of a resolution in support of Librarian Faculty regarding their academic freedom. The motion came from committee, so no second was needed. Discussion ensued. Senator Peters made a motion to amend the last resolved phrase to end it after the word freedom; Senator Bednarz seconded. There was no discussion. The FS passed the motion to amend. There being no further discussion on the original motion, the FS adopted the resolution in support of Librarian Faculty. Recommended Graduate Council nominee – Ana Cleveland (IS) [vote]. The nominee came from EC, so Vice Chair Petros called the vote. The FS approved appointment of Ana Cleveland to the Graduate Council.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair Petros noted the following appointments to standing committees as information items regarding the recent work of the EC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty co-chair of the FPOC – Lawrence Williams (WLLC) ○ Faculty Policy Oversight Committee group appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grp II – Jacqueline Foertsch (ENGL) ▪ Grp IV – Melissa McKay (MDI) ▪ Grp VII - Jim Bednarz (BIOL) ○ Faculty co-chair of the Faculty Research Committee – Sundeep Mukherjee (MEEN) ○ At-large representatives on Faculty Research Committee – Jim Meernik (PSCI), Priyali Rajagopal (MKTG) ○ Faculty co-chair of the Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum – April Prince (MHTE). • Vice Chair Petros noted the following end-of-year reports accepted from standing committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academic Affairs ○ Faculty Awards Committee ○ Faculty Development Leave Committee ○ Teaching Fellows/Teaching Assistants Committee ○ University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee ○ Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum ○ Faculty Participation in Governance Committee ○ Faculty Salary Study Committee ○ Faculty Research Committee ○ Faculty Senate Budget Committee ○ Committee on Committees
IX.	Other Standing Committees Updates [vote]	<p>3:46 pm. The FS passed motions to accept the following standing committee minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UUCC Report/Minutes [May] (Natalie Ellis / Courtney Glazer) • Graduate Council Minutes [March] (Maurizio Manzo)
X.	New Business	<p>3:48 pm. FS Chair Chamberlin called for new business. Secretary Condrey made a motion to amend something previously adopted, namely the minute of the March 2024 FS full session, to indicate the Senator Adam Briggie was present in the meeting. Senator Joyner seconded. There was no discussion. The FS approved the motion to amend the minutes of March 2024. There was no other new business.</p>
XI.	Old Business	<p>3:49 pm. FS Chair Chamberlin provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The president search is moving forward on schedule; confidentiality rules prohibit providing specifics, but the search committee is in agreement about the candidate needed. The timeline is going quickly. • Encourage faculty to complete evaluations of university administrators. The lack of transparency about results last year was not the fault of the administration; instead the problem was with FS being unable to find a way to disseminate the information appropriately. The problem should be resolved for this round of evaluations.
XII.	Comments for the Good of the Order	<p>3:50 pm. In lieu of an in-person meeting for June, June business will be conducted by Zoom, email and/or Qualtrics following the final executive committee meeting of the term in May. All Senators are expected to watch for communications from the Senate through at least June 12 in the event a meeting or voting is required on any matters.</p>

		<p>PLEASE NOTE: There are no regularly scheduled Faculty Senate general session meetings in the months of July and August. The new Senate year begins at the first full Faculty Senate meeting in September (September 11).</p> <p>Tomorrow there is a reception in honor of President Smatresk; please attend.</p> <p>Thank you all for making the chair's job relatively easy this last two years.</p>
XIII.	Adjournment	3:51 pm. FS Chair Chamberlin adjourned the meeting.