

- Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting October 8, 2014 Wooten Hall 322.
- Present: Kim Baker; Glen Biglaiser; Sheri Broyles; Jennifer Callahan; Douglas Campbell; Adam Chamberlin; James Conover; Shelley Cushman; Jesse Eschbach; Morgan Gieringer; Pam Harrell; John Ishiyama; Jennifer Lane; Smita Mehta; Maria Muñoz; Prathiba Natesan; Phil Paolino; Audhesh Paswan; Dan Peak; Elizabeth Prosek; Brian Richardson; Dorian Roehrs; Emile Sahliyah; Jyoti Shah; Stephen Slottow; Jeffrey Snider; Jae Jae Spoon; Srinivasan Srivilliputhur; Jessica Strubel; Mary Ann Venner; Laura Waugh; Karen Weiller; Oksana Zavalina; Tao Zhang.
- Absent: Erica Boykin, Patricia Cukor-Avila; David Kaplan; Manish Vaidya, Guido Verbeck.
- Guests: Neil Smatresk, President; Warren Burggren, Provost and VPAA; Yolanda Flores Niemann, Senior Vice Provost; Christy Cruetsinger, Vice Provost for Faculty Success; Jerry Thomas, Dean, College of Education; V. Barbara Bush, Policy Review Committee; Sian Brannon, UUCC; Matt Zabel, URCM; Mandy Rausch, UUCC/Registrar.
- I. Welcome and Introductions The meeting was brought to order at 2:00 PM.
- II. Approval of Minutes (9/10/14) [vote] *Senator Weiller made a motion to accept the minutes and Senator Sahliyah seconded the motion. The September 10, 2014 minutes were approved unanimously.*
- III. Faculty Senate Discussion **Emergency Management/Public Health Preparedness (including Ebola)**  
One senator shared a concern that students should be aware of health risks that they may be exposed to. He asked, “How can we know as early as possible about how to act?”
- Honorary Doctoral Degrees - faculty shared governance role**  
Faculty from COBA are supportive of the honorary doctoral degrees.
- Other topics**  
What is the next step for enforcing the smoking policy? What is the current policy regarding smoking on campus. A statement was made that both students and faculty are violating the policy.
- Why is a surcharge collected on credit cards used to pay for tuition?
- Another senator asked about the distribution of class fees. He said that

faculty are not able to spend class fees and do not have an accurate idea about when the fees will be released to the program and how much money the fees will generate because fees are not determined until after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day.

The lab space to accommodate increasing numbers of students in the College of Engineering is a problem.

IV. President Neal  
Smatresk and  
Provost  
Warren  
Burggren

The President shared that the Health Crises team has met and a protocol is already in place to handle health risks. He indicated that we take our lead from county and state health officials as that is what UNT is legally required to do. There is already a plan in place to creating awareness with regard to various emergencies. The President will soon provide information about action plans and triggers.

The Eagle Express, which is tied to a four-year graduation plan, has been a success with regard to student enrolment in the program. The New York Times picked up the Tribune article about UNTs attempts to help students graduate in four years using the Eagle Express Tuition Plan.

Regarding the release of fee money, the President suggested that a department could also track fee money based on enrolment in order to purchase resources that are needed.

UNT does not control the surcharge on credit cards. Any vendor that takes credit cards is charged a surcharge. About 77% of UNT students receive financial aid which is credit card debt.

By the beginning of next year, there is a plan to eliminate individual fees and replace them with program course fees. The rationale for program course fees is to make the cost of taking courses more transparent to students. State law allows UNT to combine fees. The College of Engineering is currently using this process and this provides them the ability to address financial needs that exceed the funding available in an individual fee account.

How is the department evaluation process requested by the Board of Regents progressing? Although this was a desirable step, program evaluation takes time. Since the regent's deadline is in October, then an internal comparison of data collected will represent a Phase 1 step. A second phase will be more thorough and will include agreement about the process including external benchmarking within the department and nationally, a method of data collection that will be employed, and a plan for what is done with the outcome of the data collection.

One senator asked if faculty could still receive 100% summer salary from their grants. The Provost indicated that this is still possible, but not in combination with a teaching load.

There is a committee working on the possibility implementing block scheduling at UNT. This involves telling students the exact courses they will enroll in when they begin their degree. For example, block scheduling would specify which five classes a student needs based on their degree. So far there are no final recommendations, and this is an ongoing discussion.

V. Policy Review Committee (V. Barbara Bush)

**Policies for reading as information items:**

15.1.31.1 Assistance Faculty Primary Language not English (pre-dated PRC-returned by legal)

15.2.20 Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility (previously approved by full Senate-non-substantive changes-returned by legal)

18.1.20 Continuous Enrollment (non-substantive change-report to Senate)

*A motion was made by Senator Cushman to treat policies 15.1.31.1, 15.2.20, and 18.1.20 for reading as information items as a block. The motion was seconded by Senator Peak. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Policies for reading to be voted on at the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>:**

15.1.25 Evaluation of Administrators

15.1.33 Faculty Misconduct Policy

**Policies read by the Senate on Sept. 10 to be voted on:**

1.3.15 Retirement and Modified Service

15.1.5 Graduate Faculty Status

15.1.18 Emeritus Status

*A motion was made by Senator Peak to treat the policies 1.3.15, 15.1.5, and 15.1.18 for reading as a block. The motion was seconded by Senator Cushman. The motion carried unanimously.*

*A friendly amendment that the existing text for policy 1.3.15 “combined years of service and age equals 80” be checked check for consistency with TRS definitions or HR policies whichever applies. Senator Chamberlain seconded the motion. The amendment carried unanimously.*

A senator asked about policy 1.3.15 being extended to lectures or if there might be a separate policy for lecturers.

**Policies recommended for deletion at the Senate on Sept. 10 to be voted on:**

15.1.15 Faculty Attendance at Commencement

15.1.25.1 Administrative Effectiveness Survey

15.2.2 Off-campus Instruction

*A motion was made by Senator Venner to treat the policies 15.1.15, 15.1.25.1, and 15.2.2, which are recommended for deletion, as a block. The motion was seconded by Senator Sahliyah. The motion carried. There were three abstentions.*

A senator asked why policy 15.1.15 is scheduled for deletion. Dr. Flores Niemann indicated that the attendance policy is not enforced at the university level. Also departments and college have discretion to add procedures that require attendance.

VI. Policy Review Update (Yolanda Flores Niemann) We started with 82 policies and hope to end up with 45 policies. It is important for these policies to be in compliance and that the faculty play a significant role in this process.

VII. Faculty Grievance Committee Approval Faculty Grievance Bylaws Writing Committee. This committee consists of two members from administration (Yolanda Flores Niemann and Christy Crutsinger) and five members from the faculty.

The five faculty members include: one member from URC (Nicoladie Tam), one member from UTPC (Peter Johnstone), one member from the Policy Review Committee (Mary Ann Venner), and two at large members (Rick Reidy and Bertina Combes).

*Senator Peak made a motion to approve the seven-member, Faculty Grievance Committee and the process described. The motion was seconded by Senator Paswan. The motion passed unanimously.*

The chair recommended a charter and by-laws so that this process will be protected by UNT legal.

VIII. Support of Honorary Doctorate Degree [vote] Policy 15.1.16 covers Honorary Doctorate Degrees, however only one has been given in the recent past. Dean Thomas described a candidate for an Honorary Doctorate Degree who has a significant and impressive history of service, work, and philanthropy. He indicated this is a good practice to honor those who have supported UNT or are deserving of such an award.

The policy states that “a committee shall consist of four faculty members, two of whom will be selected by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, one by the Vice President for Research, and one by the President; one graduate student selected by the Dean of the Graduate School; one undergraduate selected by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies; one staff member selected by the Staff Council; and one member selected by the Vice President for Advancement.”

*Senator Srivillputhur made a motion to award the Honorary Doctorate Degree to the candidate based on his extraordinary service to the university and society and his honorary letters. The motion was seconded by Senator Broyles. The motion carried. There was one abstention.*

*Senator Peak made a motion for the senate to initiate the reconstitution of this committee. Senator Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

- IX. Honorary Doctoral Degrees Policy Writing Committee The writing committee will be established at a future time.
- X. Adoption of Faculty Senate Procedures Manual [vote] The Faculty Senate Procedures Manual was presented in two parts.  
*A motion was made by Senator Zavalina to adopt the first part of the Faculty Senate Procedures Manual. The motion was seconded by Senator Prosek. The motion carried unanimously.*
- A senator indicated that there has been a change in the College of Information Science, moving the department of Linguistics to this College. This change will not affect the current Faculty Senate groups and will be addressed the next time we reapportion the faculty senate groups. One senator indicated that there has been a renaming of a department. The Chair indicated that once the procedures manual is adopted, then the department name can be updated.
- The second part of the Faculty Senate Procedures Manual relates to the committee structure of the UNT Faculty Senate. It was suggested that there are committees that are not meeting and for this reason should be designated as inactive.
- Senator Lane made a motion to adopt the second part of the Faculty Senate Procedures Manual. The motion was seconded by Senator Slottow. The motion carried unanimously.*
- XI. Elections Committee Update (Adam Chamberlin) Nominations for senators and elected committees closed on October 7. The second round of election ballots will go out next week.
- XII. Update Committee on Committees (Audhesh Paswan and Laura Waugh) [vote] A list of nominations was displayed electronically to senators.  
*A motion was made by Senator Sahliyah to accept the nominees where there was a single nominee. The motion was seconded by Senator Spoon. The motion passed unanimously.*
- There are two nominees for the Faculty Mentor Committee for Group 1. Dr. Jongsoo Lee was elected by Group 1 members. A motion was made by Dr. Muniz to accept the selection of Jongsoo Lee for the Faculty Mentor Committee. The motion was seconded by Senator Boyles. The motion passed unanimously.*
- There are two nominees for the University Library Committee. Dr. Young was elected by Group VI members. Senator Prosek made a motion to accept Jamaal Young as the Group 6 University Library Committee member. Dr. Natesan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

- XIII. UUCC Update (Sian Brannon) [vote] There are seven vacancies on the UUCC. A motion was made by Senator Ishiyama to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Senator Sahliyah. The motion carried unanimously.
- XIV. Highlight of a Faculty Senator (John Ishiyama) The highlight for Senator John Ishiyama was tabled until the next meeting.
- XV. Committee of the Whole **Student Membership on Senate Committees**  
The Faculty Senate Participation in Governance Committee will consider this request for student membership on Faculty Senate Committees.
- XVI. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.