

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Zoom Meeting**

Minutes – February 9, 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 | P |
| **Aviles-Diz, Jorge** | SPAN  CLASS | P | **Joyner, William** | MUVS  COM | A | **Peak, Dan** | ITDS  RCOB | P | **Yeatts, Dale** | SOC  CLASS | P |
| **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 | P | **Petros, Amy** | CHEM  COS | A |  |  |  |
| **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 | P | **McKay, Melissa** | NCF | P | **Tixier, Scott** | COMM | P |  |  |  |
| **Cherry, William** | MATH COS | P | **Moreland, Kimberly** | ENGL CLASS | P | **Trudeau, Justin** | COMM  CLASS | P |  |  |  |
| **Christian, Jack** | ENGL  CLASS | P | **Morton, Sophie** | WLLC  CLASS | P | **Walker, Jacqueline** | ENGL CLASS | P | **TEMPORARY SENATORS** | | |
| **Ginther, Jeannette** | TE&A  COE | A | **Mukherjee, Sundeep** | MSE  CENG | P | **Wang, Xuexia** | CSE CENG | P |  |  |  |
| **Hargis, Carol** | LIBR | P | **Ojha, Divesh** | MKTG RCOB | P | **Warren, Scott** | LTEC  COI | A |  |  |  |
| **Hensel, Paul** | PSCI  CLASS | P | **Olness, Gloria** | ASPL  CHPS | P | **Watson, Wendy** | PSCI  CLASS | P |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **NON-VOTING SENATORS** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Andrea Ortiz | GSC | P |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Devon Skinner | SGA | P |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **NON-VOTING SUBSTITUTES** | | |
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Guests: Neal Smatresk (President), Jennifer Cowley (VPAA), Mike McPherson (VPAA), Ed Reynolds (UNT Police), David Causey (UNT Police), Wesley Randall (New College), Jacqueline Foertsch (FPOC), Elizabeth Oldmixon (VPAA), Holly Hutchins (VPAA), Amanda Fuller (UBSC), John Bellon (staff Senate)

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions | * Senator Belshaw began the meeting explaining that we were meeting remote this month because some Senators expressed concerns about an in-person meeting. He also explained that our COVID numbers were all going down and that the March meeting would be back in-person. * Senator Belshaw then previewed the agenda. * Senator Belshaw introduced Senator Nicole Sankofa, a new Senator, from Teacher Education and Administration * Senator Belshaw asked that any Senators interested in participating in a mental health first aid training to e-mail [facultysenate@unt.edu](mailto:facultysenate@unt.edu) to let Jill know of your interest. * Senator Belshaw reported that he created an IT committee and appointed Senator Dan Peak as its chair. The committee will look particularly at some privacy issues. * Senator Belshaw gave an update on the new Faculty Club that will be opening up soon in the Union next to Avesta. He suggested that Senators pass by and take a look. |
| II. | Approval of Minutes  (December 8, 2022) | **[vote]**   * Senator Lane moved approval, Senator Aviles-Diz seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously. |
| III. | Faculty Discussion (President Neal Smatresk / Provost Jennifer Cowley) | * Senator Belshaw expressed gratitude and appreciation for Provost Cowley for her great leadership, and Provost Cowley said that her work with Faculty Senate had been a very satisfying partnership. * COVID update   + President Smatresk said that we had about 280-300 cases on return to campus and then a steady decline. To the best of his knowledge, omicron has not sent anyone to the hospital. Most of the campus community is fully boosted and masked. COVID is moving from a pandemic to an endemic stage. COVID is becoming more and more like the flu. We protect ourselves from the flu, but we don't close school or dramatically change behaviors. President Smatresk said that he knew there were COVID concerns as we opened up.   + President Smatresk asked if there were any questions about COVID.     - Senators Watson and McKay shared faculty concerns that the way faculty COVID illness was handled was different and less private than other faculty illnesses. With most illness, department chairs and deans are not informed of the details of the illness. With COVID, faculty report the details to deans and chairs which are then sometimes forwarded by e-mail.       * President Smatresk said that COVID information is supposed to be kept private and handled by HR with a great deal of confidentiality.       * Provost Cowley and President Smatresk said that they would discuss this concern with Katy McDaniel in HR.       * President Smatresk thanked Senators Watson and McKay for sharing this concern. He said that as we move from an extraordinary time to an ordinary time this is a good time to review these policies and start treating COVID more like any other illness. * Enrollment   + President Smatresk reported that our headcount was up 5% and SCH were up 3.65%. This is in contrast to the to the rest of state where enrollments are on average down 2%. President Smatresk did not yet have retention numbers to report. He said though that at the national level, retention was down about 7.9% whereas UNT was up about 5% over the same time period. He characterized this as great news and we said we should all be proud * Mental HeHHealth   + President Smatresk said that he hopes that as we get closer to normal, some our mental health challenges will also start to resolve.   + There is a committee working to to make mental health recommendations.   + President Smatresk has a real concern about the number of students self-reporting with mental health challenges: 25% of our students are experiencing serious mental health challenges.   + President Smatresk hopes that with luck, this will reverse, but he is not sure.   + President Smatresk asked ask all Senators to bring home the message to our constituents that as a caring community, mental health is important. * IT   + President Smatresk said there were some organizational changes related to IT in-progress and that our new Chancellor was hot on the topic.   + President Smatresk said that Adam Fein is our de-facto CIO, but that IT is no longer its own. He requested that Senator Belshaw coordinate with Adam Fein regarding IT issues and concerns. * Status of provost search   + President Smatresk said that hopefully the Provost search will finish by early summer.   + President Smatresk has asked Provost Cowley to address 3-4 major issues in transition including Frisco and graduate enrollment sustainability. He thanked Provost Cowley for taking on such a hectic schedule. * Provost transitional matters   + Provost Cowley thanked her great team in the Provost's office.   + Professor Mike McPherson, who will be Interim Provost, explained that he has a long history with Faculty Senate. He said that he is looking forward to working with the Faculty Senate.     - President Smatresk said that he has a lot of confidence that Professor McPherson will keep things moving forward. * Carnegie rankings (R1 our way)   + Provost Cowley reported on the new Carnegie rankings and the work of the R1 our way task force. She explained how the Carnegie reviews are done every three years,   + Provost Cowley gave “a huge shout out” to Ralf Schmidt, Yan Huang, and Jeffrey Rous. She explained that they have been our data analytics team.   + Provost Cowley said that UNT moved to the third quartile and in fact pretty darn close to the middle. She said that we should feel really proud and that we are moving at a rate that is much faster than our peers.   + President Smatresk said that not only did we move up to 86, but that we leapfrogged over UT Arlington and UT Dallas.   + Provost Cowley said that now we just need to catch up to Texas Tech and UH.   + Provost Cowley also said that UTSA made R1; they did a spectacular job.   + Provost Cowley said that thanks to our analytics team, we even helped Carnegie with their analysis; our analytics team shared our analytics, and Carnegie realized they had made a mistake in their analysis.   + President Smatresk said that as we move to the middle of the pack, we ought to feel pretty good. * Promotion & Tenure   + Provost Cowley reported that we have confirmed promotion and tenure results. Letters will be out by end of next week. Her goal was to make this a Valentines present, and we might even be able to make it an early Valentine’s Day present. * Senator Belshaw thanked Provost Cowley once again and expressed how much we will miss her. |
| IV. | Senator input for faculty programming (Ed Reynolds / David Causey) | * Corporal David Causey gave a brief overview of a couple of trainings that the UNT Police offer or coordinate:   + emergency readiness training, a high-level overview of campus safety, including fire, weather safety, and active shooter preparedness.   + mental health first-aid (taught by Denton County MHR), a day-long course including things like assessment, listening non-judgmentally, and body language.     - Senator Belshaw said that Faculty Senate will work with the Vice Provost for faculty success to organize some mental health training opportunities. * Corporal Causey also outlined the various mental health trainings that UNT police officers go through. An officer is on the CARE team. He said that they are working to get as much training as they can so as to be sure that they are prepared to help as much as possible. * Senator Belshaw relayed a question about what kind of training the police receive about diabetic students and low blood sugar.   + Corporal Causey said that low blood sugar can look like intoxication, and he explained how the police train for that. * Senator Belshaw told the Senators to feel free to e-mail Corporal Causey if they had any further comments or questions. |
| V | New College Update (Wesley Randall) | * Dean Randall shared a slide presentation about New College, including progress on the Frisco campus construction, enrollment growth, and the project-based learning approach used throughout New College. * Senator McKay talked a little bit about the North Texas Now dual credit program which starts in the junior year of high school and allows students to complete a project-based curriculum that has them graduate high school core complete. * Senator Ketron further elaborated on problem-based learning and described how the students were creating a student-run retail store. * In the presentation, Dean Randall talked about students moving into the new buildings. Senator Yeatts asked for clarification on where they would be moving from.   + Dean Randall said that the undergrads would be moving from Hall Park to the new building and that they were still working through what would happen with the graduate students. * Senator Yeatts asked for clarification on the current number of students.   + Dean Randall said that currently they interact with about 2700 students, about 1200 of whom attend class exclusively in Frisco. * Dean Randall said that UNT Frisco is now listed on ApplyTexas and that about 1/2 that apply to Frisco and end up at UNT went to Frisco and about 1/2 to the main campus. * Collin College used to be UNT’s 4th largest feeder school; now it is number 1. * UNT Frisco has a lot of adult learners and has had good success at the graduate level. * Senator Walker asked Dean Randall to clarify how everything fits together.   + Dean Randall replied that UNT at Frisco is a UNT enterprise that is in Frisco to support students that want to go to UNT. New College is a college with a single department. Within our college, we have our BAAAS, project design, North Texas NOW, and a couple new degrees coming online in Fall 2022. Additionally, we are your representatives at the branch campus. We work with your departments to build the Frisco schedule. If you hire an adjunct to teach at Frisco, we reimburse your college for the cost of that adjunct. We have an awareness of where there are adjuncts who would like to adjunct at Frisco. Also, as we see growth, we advocate with our new CFO for new resources to go to your colleges, We have gotten much better at that this the last go round. Our new CFO is very understanding. Our near-term goal is to get Frisco revenue positive.   + Senator Walker thanked Dean Randall for the clarification. * Senator Belshaw shared that both of his boys graduated from New College. His youngest son just got a management job at American Airlines. He concluded by saying how much he appreciated the work of the New College faculty. * Senator Yeatts explained that he is in sociology. He wanted to know who teaches Sociology in Frisco and whether only adjuncts were being used.   + Senator McKay said that in the past they have used anthropology affiliated faculty.   + Dean Randall said that they welcome our partnerships. They are looking to build some more applied majors, bringing in things like sociology, journalism, and economics in an applied fashion. * Dean Randall summarized that all metrics indicate growth in Frisco and positive impacts on the Denton campus. * Senator Olness asked about distributional and course content outside the major.   + Dean Randall replied that they know what electives are popular with the Frisco students.   + Dean Randall clarified the difference between a New College degree and classes offered in Frisco as part of a partnership with the departments on the Denton campus. * Senator Belshaw thanked Dean Randall again. |
| VI. | Faculty Policy Oversight Committee  (Jacqueline Foertsch/ Elizabeth Oldmixon) | **[vote]**  **Second Read:**   * 06.012 Payment of Nine-Month Contracts   + Professor Oldmixon explained that this policy was being reviewed as a regular review in the 6-year policy rotation. The Provost's anti-racist review committee requested a change explicitly allowing a mid-year change in the election under extraordinary circumstances.   + The policy revisions were approved by a vote of 31 in favor. * 6.021 Orientation, Supervision and Evaluation of Academic Assistants [w. deletion 06.022]   + Professor Oldmixon explained that the existing policies 06.021 & 022 were being combined into a single policy. Much of the redline shown is copying and pasting, but there were two substantive changes: the threshold of when a class should have an assistant was being lowered from 75 to 60, and more detail was added about the annual evaluation of teaching fellows and assistants, the latter being a suggestion from the Provost’s anti-racist policy review committee.   + Senator Cherry passed along some feedback from his department’s administration that although they were supportive in principle, they were concerned about whether they would consistently be able to provide assistants to all classes with enrollments exceeding 60, and they were concerned about possibly overworking course coordinators if the annual review procedures for teaching fellows and teaching assistants became too detailed.   + Professor Oldmixon said that she would keep that in mind in the implementation phase.   + Senator Peak commented that he was teaching 250 students and wondered about how this policy would be implemented.   + Professor Oldmixon said that implementation will be done by colleges and departments and that this policy was outlining best practice depending on the availability of resources.   + Professor Foertsch said that this policy is perhaps an aspirational best practice.   + The policy revisions were approved by a vote of 26 in favor.   **Combined First Read and Second Read:**   * 06.003 Student Academic Integrity (non-substantive amendment)   + Professor Oldmixon explained that SACS provided instructions at start of pandemic that included an explicit directive that academic integrity policies explicitly mention online classes. She apologized for bringing this to us in this expedited fashion but did not consider the required changes as substantive.   + Senator Walker said that she understands that this change is required for accreditation. She asked whether we would need more expedited changes like this.   + Professor Oldmixon said that she did not forsee needing any more.   + The policy revisions were approved by a vote of 28 in favor. |
| VII. | Committee on Evaluation of University Administrators (Rose Baker) | * Senator Baker summarized the work of the Committee on the Evaluation of University Administrators. She explained how the outcomes of the survey are being used in the Provost's performance reviews of vice provosts and deans. * Senator Baker also explained that Benjamin Brand (Chairs council) contributed questions for the department chair evaluations as part of this spring's evaluations. * Senator Baker said that the survey instrument for senior administrators will go out before spring break and that the dean/department chair/associate dean surveys will go out after spring break. * Professor Cherry asked the Senators to remind their constituents to please respond constructively. * Senator Baker explained how the evaluation of the Chancellor has been removed from the survey and that a reduction in the number of comment boxes has helped cut down on name calling. |
| VIII. | Committee on Committees (Chris Lam) | **~~[vote]~~**   * Standing Committee Vacancies * Administrative Committee Vacancies * There were no nominees for any of the vacancies, but Senator Lam discussed the vacancies that need to be filled. |
| IX. | Confirmation of Executive Committee Actions / Report (Jackie Walker) | * Acceptance of mid-year status reports **[vote]**   + Academic Affairs Committee   + Committee on Committees   + Committee on the Evaluation of University Administrators   + Committee on the Status of Faculty of Color   + Committee on the Status of Faculty with Disabilities   + Committee on the Status of Women   + Faculty Awards Committee   + Faculty Development Leave Committee   + Faculty Mentor Committee   + Faculty Participation in Governance Committee   + Faculty Salary Study Committee * Senator Lane moved that we consider all the reports together as a group. Senator Ketron seconded. The motion to consider as a group passed with 25 votes in favor. Senator Lane moved acceptance of all the reports, and Senator Ketron seconded. The motion to accept the reports passed with 27 votes in favor. |
| X. | Other Standing Committees Updates | **[vote]**   * UUCC Report/Minutes [February] (April Prince / Brenda Kihl)   + The UUCC Report/Minutes were tabled until the next meeting. * Graduate Council Minutes [November] (Lawrence Williams / Dale Yeatts)   + The Graduate Council Minutes were approved by a vote of 28 in favor. |
| XI. | Proposal on the format for the June meeting (Scott Belshaw / William Cherry | **[vote]**   * Senator Cherry presented a resolution that the Senate express a preference that the June meeting henceforth be held in an asynchronous online format and with an agenda limited to the approval of the UUCC and graduate council minutes. Senator Yeatts seconded. The motion passed with 32 votes in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention. |
| XII. | New Business | none |
| XIII. | Old Business | none |
| XIV. | Comments for the Good of the Order | * Senator Belshaw reported that Senator O'Toole would be retiring in June.   + Many Senators thanked and congratulated Senator O’Toole.   + Senator O'Toole thanked the Senators for their warm regards and described her service on Faculty Senate as a very pleasurable experience. * Senate elections are beginning soon – encourage eligible faculty to participate/run for office or elected committee positions * Submit nominations for TF/TA awards by Friday, Feb. 11 5:00 p.m. * Encourage students to submit good writing pieces for University Writing Awards by Friday, Feb. 25 at 5:00 p.m. (a faculty member must sign off on the student’s submission form) * Next executive committee meeting is Wednesday, February 23 – IN-PERSON in Hurley 204 * Next Faculty Senate meeting is Wednesday, March 9 – IN-PERSON in Union 332 |
| XV. | Adjournment | The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m. |