

Faculty Senate update: October 2009

The Faculty Senate web site <http://www.unt.edu/facsenate/> provides access to committee reports, audio and video files from Senate meetings, minutes from Executive Committee meetings, and more.

Announcements:

The Senate welcomes 2 Student Government Association members: Adam Rosenfield and Folajimi Alamundum (Jimi). They will serve as representative on the student body.

The Senate officers meet with the senate officers of TWU and discussed common issues and concerns.

We have begun implementing the Executive Committee liaisons with the Senate committees. You should have received letters this past week telling you who your liaison will be. We hope this new process will help keep our committees working and successful.

We are developing a committee to work on the mission and vision statement of the senate. If you would like to volunteer for the committee, please let Karen know.

Phi Kappa Phi needs a new faculty advisor. The current advisor has served for 10 years would like to pass on this opportunity to another faculty member.

Provost Wilkins and Michael Monticino

Provost Wilkins started a discussion on graduate students pay and how their lines are funded. She was joined by Graduate School Dean, Michael Monticino, who explained how the new plan will work in the upcoming semester. Deans will be reviewing budgets this semester and students should start seeing changes in their pay in January. The idea is to be consistent across the university in pay rates and work assignments with graduation as the goal. The hope is that UNT will become more attractive to Graduate Students. Click here to see the full presentation <http://vpaa.unt.edu/monticino-asher-gs-comp-plan-ppt.pdf>.

Committee Reports

Celia Williamson and James Conover, Chairs of the University Curriculum Committee and Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum, respectively, reported that the joint meeting of their two committees resulting in the following motion: To extend the existing Core process for one year to work towards a more complete core by Fall 2011 instead of Fall 2010. Those courses that have already received a 1-yr conditional admission or who were denied admission to the core will have the next year to re-submit their application following suggestions given by the Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum. Any future applications will be accepted or denied. The committee will discontinue recommending a course for 1 year.

A friendly amendment suggested that new courses already approved by the Oversight Committee and the UCC be allowed to be included in the 2010 catalog, excluding capstone and discovery courses. The motion and amendment carried.

UCC: Minutes from the Called September 23, 2009 meeting and the October 7, 2009 meeting were approved. These minutes can be found on the VPAA website as well as the faculty senate webpage.

http://www.unt.edu/facsenate/com_reports/Committee%20Reports%20AY%202009-10/Reports.date.AY09-10.html

Academic Integrity Policy: Bill McKee presented the policy and walked through the flowchart using 2 specific examples. Chair Weiller-Abels shared that we will be continuing the work of the ad hoc committee for Academic Integrity as this policy continues to evolve. If you would be interested in serving on that committee, please let her know. The policy, flowchart, and other materials are available from <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

Teaching Effectiveness and Excellence: Frances Van Tassell addressed the issue of teaching effectiveness. She presented her report from the ad hoc committee formed in December 2008. They are making great strides in getting several forms of evaluation methods available by December 2009. The committee has developed a spreadsheet evaluation form and an assessment form. Most of the fields will self-populate but there will be some that will need to be filled in. They are also working on an observation form to be finished by December. All comments are to be directed to Frances Van Tassell at frances.vantassell@unt.edu.

SECC presentation: Foster Roden shared about the upcoming events for the SECC annual campaign. Every Thursday this month at the Avesta restaurant in the Union, there will be celebrity wait staff collecting tips for the SECC campaign. The 10th Annual golf tournament scheduled for Oct. 19th and will benefit the United Way of Denton and additional partner agencies in Denton County. The campaign ends October 31, 2009. Please consider participating.

Undergraduate Research Experience – Gloria Cox shared with the senate her work over the last year with undergraduate research. She is very excited about what was accomplished last year and is looking forward to another successful year. Their priorities are to award NEW research projects and to increase the number of proposals that receive funding. They are creating an Undergraduate research inventory that will be compatible with the Faculty Profile System. Additional information on the program can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/honors/research.shtml>

Online Courses: Patrick Pluscht will be invited to speak to the EC and Senate concerning barriers and motivations to teaching online courses and to discuss the APLU National Online Learning Report.

New Football Stadium impact discussion: The EC spoke with President Bataille about the impact the new stadium will have on the surrounding neighborhood. She shared with us that they are making every effort to answer any concerns brought up by the residents in the

neighborhood concerning, lights, noise, traffic and the duck pond. She and her team have been resolving these issues as they arise. She also has a committee looking into how other stadiums in residential areas handle the traffic to help resolve that issue.

Proposition 4 (Election Day November 3rd, 2009): A positive vote for Proposition 4 would provide UNT and the other Emerging Research Universities in Texas an additional pot of money to apply for to help them attain National Research University Status. For more information: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/editorials/stories/DN-tierone_1008edi.State.Edition1.2090331.html

H1N1 Update: Faculty members are encouraged to be flexible with students during this unusual flu season. Although there have been suspected cases of the H1N1 virus classes are still running smoothly. Celia Williamson is working on a contingency plan for faculty to use in the event that the University has to close. For more information check out these websites: <http://clear.unt.edu/index2.cfm?M=1000&SM=1010&PF=flu> and <http://www.unt.edu/flu/faculty.htm>

SETE Update: The new Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Instrument will be used this December in all undergraduate courses. The evaluation will be available for a longer period of time to facilitate students who want to wait until their grade is posted to evaluate the instructor. There will be 4 scores given as a result of the surveys. One for each of the component areas and one total score. Look for more information soon.

*** There are still several vacancies on senate committees. If you would like to serve UNT on a committee, please contact the faculty senate office facultysenate@unt.edu or knichols@unt.edu.