

Faculty Senate Update: September 2009

The Executive Committee of Faculty Senate hopes that providing monthly updates will assist in improving communication between the Administration, Faculty Senate, and the Faculty. The Faculty Senate web site contains complete minutes of the Executive Committee and Senate meetings, reports presented at Faculty Senate meetings, web casts of Senate meetings, and audio files of the meetings. Check out <http://www.unt.edu/facsenate/>

Important Deadlines.

October 12th : Research and Creativity Enhancement Awards

October 23rd : Research Initiation Grants

November 2nd : Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship

Information on the above awards is found at <http://research.unt.edu/intramural/intramural.htm>

Faculty Senate Branded Shirts: The Executive Committee of Faculty Senate agreed to offer Faculty Senate branded shirts. Past Senators, future Senators, and all other faculty are welcome to participate. Paid orders must be received in the Faculty Senate office by September 24th. Please contact the Faculty Senate office at 2035 for further information and to have order forms sent to you. Order forms will be available in an envelope outside the Faculty Senate Office in Wooten Hall . You may also use the order form located at <http://printingservices.unt.edu/images/09%20UNT%20SHIRT%20FORM%20-%20Department.pdf> and send the completed form to the Faculty Senate Office. Remember the deadline is September 24th.

Academic Integrity Policy.

There is a new policy located at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm> It is important that faculty review this policy and know the process should they need it. Dr. Bill McKee presented a brief overview of the policy. He will be attending the October Senate meeting to discuss the policy in more detail.

President Bataille.

President Bataille joined the Faculty Senate and provided an update on activities on and around UNT. The full PowerPoint slide show is available at

<http://www.unt.edu/president/events/0909.FacultySenate20090909.ppt>

Highlights of her presentation include:

1. **Research Awards:** UNT experienced an increase in Total External Awards of 60.6% from fiscal year 2007 and a 39.4% increase over fiscal year 2008! Fiscal 09 results = \$37.7 million.
2. **TRIP Funding:** UNT is eligible for TRIP funding. TRIP is the Texas Research Initiative Incentive Program set up through HB 51. Seven Emerging Research Universities are eligible (UNT, UTD, UTA, UTSA, UTEP, U of Houston, Texas Tech). Provides \$25 million each year in matching funds. The Universities must provide gifts as their part of matching funds. Gifts must support endowed faculty positions, graduate stipends, equipment, facilities or research programs
3. **ARRA Awards:** 5 recent ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Stimulus funds have been received to date across a variety of disciplines
4. A number of faculty members have received honors recently. For more information on research news and faculty honors please to go <http://research.unt.edu/news/announcementsevents.htm>
5. **Undergraduate Research:** UNT is the only Texas university taking part this year in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science Education Alliance, which involves college freshmen in complex research early to spur their interest in science. UNT is the lead sponsor for a conference this October organized

by SACNAS to raise awareness about the lack of minorities in science at the graduate level. SACNAS is an organization dedicated to getting more Native Americans and Hispanics into advanced degrees in the STEM disciplines.

6. **Academic Achievements of UNT Athletes:** 158 Athletes (over 50% of total group) named members of the Sun Belt Conference Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or above), UNT well represented in Academic All American Honors, highest semester GPA for UNT Athletics department for the sixth (6th) semester in a row, Soccer Team in the top 10% of the NCAA's Academic Performance Rate (APR), 12 UNT teams finished above the 950 APR mark, with 6 teams over 975, and won Sun Belt Academic Achievement Award for the 7th consecutive year
7. **New Faculty Hirings and Administrative Changes:**
 - a. UNT is hiring more than 100 new faculty this year (one of the few nationwide who is hiring)
 - b. Several cluster faculty have been hired
 - c. New dean of libraries, Dr. Martin Halbert, will join UNT in October.
 - d. Maurice Leatherbury is now acting vice president for Information Technology. A national search for this position will be conducted.
 - e. Andrew Harris, vice president of finance and administration is deploying in January. UNT will clearly divide the administration and finance functions of the university under two senior associate vice presidents who will report to the vice president. Jean Bush will serve as acting senior associate vice president for finance effective September 1. She will oversee the financial components of the university, including general budgeting, funds management, accounting, financial reporting, payroll, purchasing/payments, and investments operations. A national search for a senior associate vice president for administration is underway. This person will oversee the university's Human Resources, Facilities, Risk Management and Police, Parking and Transportation areas to help develop and strengthen administrative programs that support the university's academic and administrative goals.
 - f. UNT is in the process of seeking a new leader for the Advancement division.
8. **Graduate Student Support:** This year starts a fundamental shift in how UNT funds graduate education, an effort that is being led by Dr. Michael Monticino, new graduate school dean. \$2.5 million being invested in paying more competitive stipends, offering more attractive fellowships and restructuring the funding model for graduate students. A vast majority of our graduate students will see their pay increase and through compensation incentives, they will be rewarded for completing their degrees in a timely manner.
9. **Legislative Update:** UNT expects to see a \$3.16 million increase in state funding for each of the next two years. UNT also will be getting incentive funds, which we hope will be at least \$4.9 million for the biennium, the same amount allocated to UNT and to the Dallas campus in the past. A large portion of funds are going to need- and merit-based student aid for scholarships. Unfortunately, UNT didn't get the bond authority from the Legislature to build a much-needed new home for our College of Visual Arts and Design
10. **New Initiatives:** Created the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism as the 12th school or college. Exploring a school of pharmacy. New aviation program. New Emeritus College to open aimed at those 50 and older who want to take noncredit courses
11. **New/Improved Infrastructure:** New \$2.2 million high-performance computing facility. New clean room, which is a major part of UNT's developing Nanofabrication and Analysis Research Facility. Investing \$1.7 million to construct and upgrade laboratories and other scholarly facilities. Upgraded sleep studies laboratory. Visual art and animation "render farm" now has more powerful computers and the latest sophisticated software. New state-of-the-art computer visualization capabilities in the Computational Epidemiology Research Laboratory. Opening a new disability and well-being lab in Chilton Hall. Renovation of the music concert hall

12. **Building Update:** The Life Sciences Complex which will contain the first LEED-certified building is expected to open in June. Business Leadership Building, a second LEED-Gold building, will break ground in the winter. New stadium could become the first LEED-Gold certified collegiate stadium. Expected to open in time for the 2011 season.
13. **Marketing UNT:** Targeted advertising, including the Chronicle of Higher Education, New York Times, Wall Street journal; revised the North Texan and UNT Web Site; created a Web Development Center; and newly developed recruitment and fundraising materials with some uniformity to provide UNT brand recognition awareness.
14. **UNT's Reputation:** The University of North Texas tied 15th among the 256 eligible universities and is in the top 10 among public universities for "up and coming" schools offered in the U.S. News
15. **Q&A:**
 - a. General discussion about sports and the emphasis on men's football. President Bataille noted that we are in Texas and the focus is on football – that's what donors see and what many people first notice about UNT.
 - b. UNT/Mean Green sportswear needs to be more visible in stores. There are stores in Denton and area carrying these but people need to buy in order to convince additional stores to stock.
 - c. Question about how changes in the Board of Regents will affect UNT. The President replied that Gayle Strange will be missed. Two of the new Regents are UNT alums and all three are quite supportive and well versed in academia.
 - d. Concern over library facilities. The new Dean of Libraries will join UNT on October 1 and will likely have suggestions for improvements.
 - e. The President noted that UNT has been receiving compliments on the overall appearance of the campus.

Provost Wilkins.

COACHE Survey: The Provost presented a slideshow on the results of the COACHE survey. The slideshow can be found at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/wilkinscoache-ppt.pdf> COACHE is a national survey that looks at the work life quality of junior faculty. UNT had a 77% response rate – one of the best.

- a. Strengths included: Tenure Practices (Clarity of tenure standards, tenure decisions based on performance, periodic, formal performance reviews and written summary of performance reviews); Nature of the Work: Teaching (Degree of influence over which courses faculty teach) Work and Home (support of colleagues while having and raising children); Climate, Culture, Collegiality (strong formal mentoring, peer reviews of teaching or research, fairness of immediate supervisor's evaluations, intellectual vitality of tenured colleagues *this was a weakness noted in many of the other schools; Global Satisfaction (department as a place to work; Chief Academic Officer cares about quality of life for pre-tenure faculty
- b. Areas of Concern included: Nature of the Work: Research (lack of paid/unpaid research leave); Nature of the Work: Teaching (Number of students taught; graduate students quality; teaching services; professional assistance for improving teaching); Work and Home (Paid/unpaid personal leave; concern about lack of institutional support for having and raising children while on the tenure-track**note that the survey was administered prior to the implementation of the "stop the clock" policy); Climate, Culture, Collegiality (amount of professional and personal interaction with pre-tenure colleagues)
- c. Actions based on results: Disseminate results, Provide workshops for pre-tenure Faculty, look for ways to increase interaction among and support for pre-tenure faculty, foster supportive culture for excellence in teaching & research, provide monetary support, be transparent and build a culture of support

Q&A with the Provost:

- a. Questions about the new system of graduate student support. The Provost clarified that Colleges were funded on the same number of students they had last year. The major difference is that instead of a lump sum of funding, colleges are receiving a certain number of “lines”, much like faculty. This ensures that all graduate students will be supported based on half-time equivalent (HTE) positions, and payment rates will be determined based on national norms (OSU survey). Support will be provided at three different levels, depending on the student’s academic progress toward receipt of the degree. It is anticipated that the new system will be implemented in January. The system will be evaluated to ensure that it does not have adverse affects on strong graduate programs. During the summer, Michael Monticino and Donna Asher had been visiting with departments to explain the new system.
- b. Several Senators noted that it was indeed hard to meet other faculty outside of their department. The Provost noted that she is seeking alternatives to the First Tuesdays option as attendance has become stable and she would like to find another way that would attract more faculty. She will also seek ways to bring faculty together. The suggestion of free football tickets was offered and many Senators responded that they would attend the games with free tickets.
- c. Dr. Wilkins noted that there is some interest in having a full third semester during the summer, although the current summer options would also remain. She will keep us informed. The goal of the third semester is to allow students to graduate in a timely manner. The Provost noted that she’ll be focusing on revising 3 policies this year: the “nepotism” policy, faculty discipline policy, and the intellectual property policy.
- d. A Senator noted that there had been some misunderstanding about intellectual property among new faculty. The Senate Officers will invite Renaldo Stowers, Senior Associate General Counsel to a Senate meeting to clarify textbook, online class design, patent, and other intellectual property issues.

University Curriculum Committee. The minutes of the UCC for June and September were passed which included new and revised courses. The UCC addenda from May, June, and September included course that had been reviewed by the Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum and contained their recommendations. Courses where the UCC and the Oversight Committee had positive recommendations were approved. The UCC and Oversight Committee will have a joint meeting to discuss courses where there was disagreement. The 2009-2010 Faculty Senate standing committee charges were approved with minor revisions.

University Promotion and Tenure Committee policy revisions. The UPTC brought forward revisions to include reviews for faculty between the 3 and 6 years of tenure-track, as well as some minor wording to clarify the policy. The policy was accepted and will be available on the web shortly.

Luis Tapia, Health Crisis Team (Risk Management). Mr. Tapia provided updated information on the H1N1 flu virus. There is a helpful web site located at <http://www.unt.edu/flu/index.htm> with general information and one specifically for faculty at <http://www.unt.edu/flu/faculty.htm> Based on current Center for Disease Control guidelines, faculty are requested not to ask for a doctor’s certificate from students with suspected H1N1 as this could place undue stress on doctors’ offices. Faculty has the right to request that students exhibiting H1N1 symptoms stay home, and are encouraged to be flexible with grading assignments and participation. Dr. Williamson will soon be sending an e-mail update to all UNT faculty and staff.

Senate Goals for the 2009-2010:

- 1) Three goals: a) Faculty Senate will work with relevant groups across campus to ensure all faculty members are fairly and effectively represented and have a voice in shared issues. (e.g. communication with SGA and Graduate Student Association, Chairs' Council, Staff Council, Senators who attend meetings, opportunities to contact your Senator should issues arise). The Senate Officers had lunch with the officers of the Student Government Association, the Graduate Council, and the Staff Council and will continue to remain in contact over shared issues. b) Develop a Faculty Senate Brochure identifying the mission and vision of the Faculty Senate. c) Ensure all Faculty Senate Standing committees are functioning effectively and efficiently.
- 2) Issues that will be addressed by the Senate this year include, but are not limited to: Core Curriculum, Workload Policy, Faculty Development and Mentorship, and Administrator Evaluations
- 3) The Senate Officers have attended or will attend all Fall College meetings sharing the goals and objectives for the year.
- 4) The Executive Committee will be working on a vision and mission for Faculty Senate
- 5) The Executive Committee welcomes suggestions for discussion topics. Please contact Beth Thomsett-Scott or your group representative with topics to include.

UNT Budget and Faculty Salaries.

There was concern that last year's budget did not itemize individual salaries for faculty. After raising the issue with Dr. Bataille, she noted that the 2010 budget will include individual faculty salary data and copies of the print budget will soon be available in the Willis Library reserves.

UNT Dallas Transition.

UNT is reserved for the Denton campus. The proposed course offerings have been developed but will not be official until approved by the Board of Regents at their October meeting

Textbook Rentals.

The UNT Bookstore will be offering textbook rentals for a few large enrollment classes this semester. The program will be evaluated and, if successful, expanded.

UNT Request for Planning Authority.

Reminder to use the UNT Request for Planning Authority form for new degree programs. Form is available from <http://vpaa.unt.edu/forms-templates.htm> - currently the last item under the Faculty section

Committees.

***Please assist the Committee on Committees with finding volunteers for vacancies by encouraging colleagues to serve. The Executive Committee has implemented a few changes to help the functioning of committees. Executive Committee members will serve as liaisons to standing and elected committees to provide each committee with a specific contact point. Liaisons will be expected to remain in contact throughout the course of the work of the committee. Liaisons will be provided with the committee membership, including e-mails, and charges, and send these to the committee. The committee interest survey will be sent out shortly. Please respond with your interests. These forms help us populate the committees.

Please contact your local Senator <http://www.unt.edu/facsenate/Senate%20Roster.htm> or an officer of the Senate <http://www.unt.edu/facsenate/Officer%20Page.htm> if you have questions or comments about the above information.