



FACULTY SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

- Meeting:** Faculty Senate Meeting, 8 February 2006, Wooten Hall Room 322
- Present:** Atkinson, Barton, Booth, Lillie, Cole, Cooke, Coy, Doherty, Elleven, Figa, Glover, Goggin, Heidelberger, Hill, Johnston, Little, McPherson, Mikler, Miles, Mueller, Murphy, Nagaoka, Parks, Pavur, Pelton, Peters, Pirtle, Plummer, Reban, Reidy, Sahliyah, Seligmann, Staff, Swan, Thomsett-Scott, Turner, van Tassell, Weiller, Woods, Zimmerman
- Absent:** Chandler, Gopal, Grable, Holt, Levin, Perez, Smith, Yeatts
- Guests:** John Quintanilla, Michael Stodnick, Gene Wright, Brian Stephens, Robert Milnes, Roddy Wolper, Kay Selby
- Opening:** Frances van Tassell, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM

Welcome to Spring 2006: Senator van Tassell welcomed senators and visitors to the first senate meeting of 2006.

Introduction of new Deans: Senator van Tassell introduced Robert Milnes, Dean of the School of Visual Arts.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 14 December 2005 meeting were presented. Upon motion by Senator Booth, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Unfinished business: Senator Booth, of the Charter and Bylaws Committee provided the 2nd reading of proposed Charter and Bylaws amendments.

- I. The first action involved an amendment to the Charter that revises the procedure for the election of senate officers. A friendly amendment was offered by Senator Miles to insert the word “in” in the last sentence of the proposed change to Article IV, Section 2 such that it would read: “Election of the vice chair and other Senate officers shall follow the procedures stipulated in Section 1 of this Article.” The friendly amendment was accepted by the Charter and Bylaws Committee. Discussions as to options available and/or considered followed.

Call for Previous Question by Senator Zimmerman:

Motion failed, 22 ayes, 13 nays, 1 abstention.

(Motions to amend Charter require two-thirds approval of senators present. Roll call resulted in 38 senators present – 26 ayes would be required for passage.)

- II. The second action involved an amendment to the Charter to provide for the removal and replacement of senate officers. A friendly amendment was offered by Senator Sahliyah to require at least 20% of the senators bring forth a motion for removal of an officer and the motion must include a list of charges against the officer. The friendly amendment was not accepted by the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Motion to Amend by Senator Sahliyah:

“A motion to remove an officer may be introduced by any Senator, and must be seconded by at least seven other Senators, and must be accompanied by a list of the charges.”

Motion defeated by majority nays.

A friendly amendment by Senator Miles to insert the phrase “called for that purpose no less than 2 weeks after the first reading” in the last sentence of the proposed change to Article VI, Section 1 such that it would read: “The vote of Senators on a resolution to remove an officer shall be conducted at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting or at a special session called for that purpose no less than 2 weeks after the first reading.” Friendly amendment accepted by the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Call for Previous Question by Senator Weiller:

Motion passed by 26 ayes, 11 nays (70.3%)

Motion by Senator Plummer:

“Consideration of each additional Charter and Bylaws amendment shall be limited to 10 minutes of discussion.”

Motion passed unanimously.

- III. The third action involved an amendment to the Bylaws to provide for the option of secret ballots in the election and/or removal of officers. A friendly amendment was offered by Senator Glover to change the word “secret” to “paper” such that it would read “c. In the election or removal of Senate officers, a paper ballot shall be conducted upon the request of any Senator.” The friendly amendment was accepted by the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Motion passed, majority ayes, 1 abstention.

- IV. The fourth action involved an amendment to the Bylaws to provide for a new mechanism to select a Chair of the Committee on Committees and to provide for 2 year terms for members of the Committee on Committees. A friendly amendment was offered by Senator Atkinson to insert the word “elected” in the first sentence of Section 3, subsection c, such that it reads “c. Terms. The term of each elected member of the Committee on Committees shall be two years from their election to the committee in September and shall continue until the beginning of the September meeting two years later. The friendly amendment was accepted by the Charter and Bylaws Committee. Senator Booth indicated a typographic error in the second sentence of Section 3, subsection c, and changed the word “give” to “given”, such that the sentence should read “The members’ terms should be staggered so that no more than half the members rotate off at a given time.” The friendly amendment was accepted by the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Motion passed, majority ayes, 1 abstention.

- V. The final action involved an amendment to the Bylaws to revise the makeup of and addition of a co-chair to the Fine Arts Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

A. *Committee on Evaluation of University Administrators:* Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services distributed a report (Online System for the Administrative Effectiveness Survey

Overview) and described the newly implemented on-line administrator evaluation survey, including the advantages and limitations of the system. The system should be ready for the upcoming evaluations and Senator van Tassell indicated that an announcement concerning confidentiality and open records laws from UNT General Counsel will accompany the email announcing this year's survey.

B. Committee on Committees: Senator Thomsett-Scott distributed a handout that listed committee nominations for February 2006, informed the Senate that Dr. Sue Bratton is a write-in candidate for the University Elections Committee, and moved that the list of nominations be approved.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Committee on Benefits: Ellen Truax distributed a report (Report for Faculty Senate Committee From Committee on Benefits), and described the current charges to the committee and activities the committee is currently pursuing.

Report of the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs: no report from the Provost's Office.

Vice Chair's Update: Senator Miles' presented a Power Point presentation that summarized the discussions between the President and the Executive Committee concerning UNT's status as an emerging research university, shared governance, complaints concerning Purchasing and Payment Services and the tenure system. Additionally, discussions between the Provost and the Executive Committee concerning excellence and market salary adjustments, response time on matters requiring decisions from the Provost, the search for a new dean for the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, how results of external reviews of departments and programs are used, and activities in the Office of Sponsored Research were summarized by Senator Miles.

Chair's Update: Senator van Tassell indicated that due to the lateness of the meeting, she will make her Power Point Presentation available on the Faculty Senate web site rather than presenting it directly to the Senate, but did inform the Senate about Kay Selby's report concerning the On-Line Catalog and that the On-Line Catalog could be seen at www.unt.edu/CATSCHED. Senator van Tassell also stated that plans for renovations of the Student Union are being developed, and that this year's Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for 26 April, 2006.

New Business: A resolution concerning time period of service for eligibility of faculty development leave was postponed until the next Senate meeting and will be discussed under "Unfinished Business".

Committee of the Whole: Dr. Dan Peak's address to the Senate concerning his appeal to the University Review Committee concerning officers of the Faculty Senate was postponed until the next Senate meeting and will be discussed under "Unfinished Business".

Senate adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Respectively submitted by Sam Atkinson