



## FACULTY SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

**Meeting:**

Faculty Senate Meeting, 13 September 2006, Wooten Hall Room 322

**Present:**

Atkinson, Benet, Booth, Bratton, C. Chandler, Y. Chandler, Cole, Cooke, Doherty, Donahue-Wallace, Elleven, Gopal, Heidelberger, Hill, Holt, Jagadeeswaran, Johnston, McPherson, Mikler, Miles, Mueller, Packard, Pelton, Peters, Plummer, Pohlen, Reban, Reidy, Sahliyah, Seligmann, Smith, Staff, Swan, Turner, Wallace, Wells

**Absent:**

Figa, Goggin, Gopal, Harrell, Little, Murphy, Nagaoka, Pavur, Perez, Thomsett-Scott, Weiller

**Guests:**

Mandi Wallis, Bonita Jacobs, Gene Wright, Haley Shurtleff, Michelle Hale, Meghan Vittrup, Linda Holloway, Frances van Tassell, Kay Selby, Margaret Vestal, Celia Williamson, Donna Asher, Howard Johnson, Tobby Rae Nelson

**Opening:**

Marcia Staff, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM

Senator Staff began the meeting by thanking Senator Turner for his service as Senate Parliamentarian last year, and introduced the senate to this year's parliamentarian, Senator Chandler. Senator Staff then introduced all new senators, and the student representatives of the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Association who now has permanent visitor status for the senate.

**Remarks by President Gretchen Bataille:** Dr. Bataille offered senators copies of the pamphlet summarizing UNT's Strategic Plan, and indicated that the plan would be viewed as a "living document", requiring continual examination and assessment. She informed the senate that she has retained Dr. Steven Portch, former president of the University of Georgia to review our strategic plan and UNT's abilities to attain our strategic goals. He will be asked to review 5 key areas: academic affairs; student affairs; technology; research; and advancement. Dr. Bataille also indicated the importance of making decisions at appropriate levels, giving the example of departmental chairs approving professional societies that departments join, rather than requiring presidential approval. Dr. Bataille then opened the floor to questions. Five categories of questions were asked:

- How will the assessment to be conducted by Dr. Portch be different than the recently completed SACs assessment? Dr. Bataille indicated that SACs simply asks whether or not an institution has various policies/ procedures/ plans/ programs in place, where as Dr. Porth will guide a group of 3 experts in each of the 5 key areas, and ask them to report on how we do (or don't do) things in each area, and then make recommendations on changes that may need to be made to achieve our strategic goals.
- Did any of the money for the 5% pool of raises come from non-academic programs? Dr. Bataille said that 0.5% of each non-academic Vice President's budget was captured, as well as cuts in various service providers such as classroom support and microcomputer maintenance. Dr. Bataille also indicated that each VP will have a budget hearing where they will be asked what they would cut if confronted with a certain percentage reduction, what they would add after that cut if given back the same funding as the original base budget, and finally what they would add after any cuts if their base budget were actually increased.
- Does she have an opinion on individual administrators having responsibilities at both the system and the campus level? Dr. Bataille said she is concerned about this, and gave an illustration: currently, as President, she can make decisions about UNT-Denton, but as Vice Provost for the System, she can make decisions for UNT-Denton, UNT-HSC and UNT-Dallas ... probably not what the Board of Regents really intended when she was hired.

- Does she perceive the library budget has the appropriate priority for a university attempting to become a major research university? Dr. Bataille said she has never been at an institution where students fund the library. She indicated that she is just now learning about this “Texas” approach, but believes that there should probably be at least some base funding to support the library.
- Does she have any ideas on assuring that recommendations coming from the faculty senate are acted upon? Dr. Bataille said that this is an issue of shared faculty governance, and that it is important that policies and procedures that require faculty input are followed, but that likewise there are things that don’t require any faculty input (she gave the example of determining an administrator’s salary).

A **motion** to take a 10 minute break to allow group caucusing to be completed was made by Senator Pelton. Motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Senator Miles moved approval of the minutes of the 10 May 2006 Faculty Senate meeting.

Motion approved unanimously

Senator Cole moved approval of the minutes of the 14 June 2006 Faculty Senate meeting.

Motion approved unanimously

**Committee Reports:**

A. *Committee on Committees:* Senator McPherson, in Senator Thomsett-Scott’s absence, distributed a [handout](#) that listed committee nominations for September 2006 as a motion for senate approval. Senator Pelton indicated that Dr. Kuo had withdrawn from the Scholarship Committee election, and thus there would not need to be a senate vote between Dr. Kuo and Dr. Poe. Also, Senator Cooke indicated that she had agreed to serve on the Faculty Salary Study Committee, but that her name was not in the list of nominations. Senator McPherson indicated that he would ask Senator Thomsett-Scott to add Senator Cooke’s name to the list of nominations next month. With those modifications,

**Motion** passed unanimously.

B. *Ad Hoc Tenure Process Study Committee:* Senator Staff distributed a [report](#) on the activities of the Faculty Salary Studies Committee, including recommended changes to the time-line and recommended materials that should be in each applicant’s packet. Senator Reidy asked that the report identify his affiliation in the Department of Materials Science in the College of Engineering; with that amendment, the

**Motion to accept the report** was approved unanimously.

**Motion #1** by Chair of the Ad Hoc Tenure Process Study Committee, Senator Staff:

That the Proposed Timeline for Promotion and Tenure Decisions at the University of North Texas found at Attachment A be reforwarded to the University Tenure Committee for inclusion in the University’s Promotion and Tenure Policy.

Motion to extend time for discussion failed: 13 ayes, 16 nays.

Motion to approved passed by majority ayes, 1 nay.

**Motion #2** by Chair of the Ad Hoc Tenure Process Study Committee, Senator Staff:

The Senate resolves that all schools and colleges review their policies, procedures and practices and ensure that included in the polices, procedures and practices is material related to the topics listed in Attachment B and that copy of such reports be submitted to the Provost and the University Tenure Committee by the end of the Spring 2007 semester.

Motion to approved passed by majority ayes, 1 abstention.

**Report of the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs:** Provost Johnson presented a [Power Point presentation](#) that covered several items: Fall 2006 enrollment and semester credit hour data; data on number of degrees awarded and graduate rates; student enrollment support services; an update on the SACS review; examples of where some new faculty earned their doctorates; status of academic affairs searches; and recent changes in academic affairs personnel.

**Vice Chair's Update:** Senator McPherson presented a [Power Point presentation](#) summarizing recent Executive Committee meetings, including President Bataille's comments to the EC, Provost Johnson's comments to the EC, and the pending 5-hour reduction in undergraduate hours needed to meet the state's mandated 120 hour limit.

**Discussion of the State Employee Charitable Campaign:** Dr. Linda Holloway distributed a handout that summarized the 2006 SECC and indicated that the goal was increase the number of UNT faculty, staff and administrators who participate in the program. As an activity to spark interest, the Staff Council challenged the Faculty Senate to a "pocket change war". Senators were asked to place coins in a large jar, and Dr. Holloway would count the amount donated by staff council members and the amount faculty senate members and announce a "winner" later in the month.

**Discussion of the Partners in Success Program:** Dr. Bonita Jacobs distributed a brochure that summarized the activities and programs available to faculty to help promote student engagement and active learning, and encouraged senators to use the services available, such as the opportunity to have someone from the Division of Student Development meet with students when the faculty member must be out of town.

**Chair's Update:** Senator Staff presented a [Power Point presentation](#) indicating that the senate officers have meet with all Deans, the VP for Learning Technology, Council of Department Chairs and the faculty of several colleges and schools, informed the senate that there are two actions items the senate must address (student honor code and the role of department chairs on the senate and senate committees), a summary of the September 2006 Board of Regents meeting, and announced that President Bataille has convened an ad hoc committee to study a potential reconfiguration of the December 2006 commencement ceremonies.

**Unfinished Business:** no items

**New Business:** no items

**Committee of the Whole:**

Senator Booth asked the Executive Committee to ask President Bataille to attend a Called Meeting of the Senate where the only agenda item would be senate/president discussions allowing senators to have an opportunity to express concerns or discuss events at UNT.

Senator Booth asked the Executive Committee to include on next month's "Topics for Administrators" an explanation of the status of the investigation of former Vice President for Research Lloyd Chestnut, and of the funds expended by UNT on two law firms, one of which specializes in white collar criminal defense (McColl and McColloch of Dallas).

The senate adjourned at 4:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Sam Atkinson*