

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate

April 2, 2008, 2:00 PM, Conference Room, Hurley Administration Bldg

Executive Committee Members:

Name	Group	Dept.	Term	Present
Dornith Doherty	I	COVAD	2008*	
Elizabeth Figa	II	SLIS	2008*	X
Dennis Mueller	III	PHYS	2008*	X
Emile Sahliyeh	IV	PSCI	2010*	X
Steve Cole	V	FIRL	2008	X
Cynthia Chandler	VI	CHE	2010*	X
Jim Swan	VII	AGER	2008	X
John Holt	VIII	MUSIC	2008*	X
Michael McPherson	Chair	ECON	2008*	X
Richard Wells	Vice-Chair	JOUR	2008	X
Beth Thomsett-Scott	Secretary	LIBR	2008	X
Marcia Staff	Immediate Past Chair	FIREL	2008*	

- I. Welcome. Senator Wells called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm and welcomed attendees.
- II. Discussion of topics with President Bataille and Provost Wilkins.
  - a. President Bataille
    - i. Budget. Nothing new per se. Final preparations for the May Board meeting are being performed. The projected enrollment is not yet available. The Library and Research Equipment Pool will likely be a holding pot at this point. President Bataille did note that the 7.9% increase is one of the lowest in the state. Dr. Wilkins brought up an issue around communications with faculty, staff and students. The announce.unt.edu would be helpful if all items could be viewed as a list rather than exploding each section. The weekly reminders are helpful. There was discussion about how to keep faculty informed perhaps through a newsletter or e-mails containing highlights of Senate activities.
    - ii. Sustainability Council. The Council has been appointed with Sam Atkinson as Chair. A related issue concerns the Coca Cola contract which is in place until 2014 but there are concerns about their business practices which were raised during a meeting with students.
  - b. President Bataille and Provost Wilkins.
    - i. There were some questions about who was being evaluated and who wasn't on the Evaluation of Administrators survey. Dr. Wilkins noted that it is a best practice to allow people being evaluated to provide feedback on the

evaluation instrument. She added that the Chairs received a copy of the initial draft, provided feedback, and sent it to the Provost for her comments but the revised survey was not sent back to the Chairs. Another concern was that it has been recommended for several years that administrators provide a short summary of their efforts over the year to allow faculty a better understanding of their work and help improve the accuracy of the evaluations. The Provost noted that she had requested this but it had not been done. She added that next year she wants to work with the committee earlier and be more aware of and involved in their activities. There may have been too much emphasis on the survey process rather than the data being collected and how it could be used.

- ii. The issue of the Radisson lease was raised. The President noted that the University owns the land and leased to the hotel. Due to concerns over the operation of the hotel, the University has bought out the lease and will be running the hotel. The idea of the lease was to provide dollars for scholarships and provide investment for the future. The hotel is open and events that have been booked will be honored.
- iii. A Senator requested information on the staff reclassification project. The President noted that they have been having meetings and everything seems to be on track.

c. Provost Wilkins

- i. Dr. Wilkins reported that the Promotion and Tenure and Workload policies will be available for the May Senate meeting, and then be put out for wider comment. At the EC meeting prior to the Senate meeting, the Provost would like to spend time creating a list of items that need to be changed quickly in order to streamline the process. She added that the Workload Policy requires Chairs and faculty to work together and the changes are tied to evaluation. Dr. Wilkins reported that she is meeting with the Deans to discuss faculty development needs – who is coming up from promotion and tenure and what might be their needs, as well as senior faculty who may be candidates for awards or other activities. She is considering doing this for annual evaluations also but not likely at this point. There were some questions about how objective this process would be and whether Deans were familiar enough with their faculty to do this. Dr. Wilkins noted this would be a good opportunity for Deans to learn more and to bring the Chairs into their “professional” roles. It was also noted that this process may help improve accountability for both Chairs and Deans.
- ii. Chairs need tools for carrying out their duties especially in terms of workload for faculty. For the next year, the PACs should work with departmental chairs to provide clear criteria and have these expressed well for merit to determine “satisfactory” performance since satisfactory is the bare minimum for merit raises. These need to be in place and will require chairs to work with their departmental PAC. The criteria will have to be approved by the Chair, Dean, and Provost. The Provost would like to see this work begin in September and emphasized that departments will not receive their merit monies if the evaluation criteria are not in place.
- iii. Next policies. There are several in the works. The Development Leave is pretty close to being complete. Honorary Degree Policy is being revised. Once the Promotion and Tenure policies are in place, the Stop the Clock policy will be added. The Partner Accommodation is nearly completed. The Regents Professors Selection and Criteria Committee is being reworked to provide for other awards, merit-based designations, and merit-based titles. The Provost suggested that Regents Professors should be the top award, with a Senior Faculty award designation such as Highly Meritorious and then several merit-based designations for junior faculty. The post-tenure policy is an extension of the Promotion and Tenure Policy and relates to the Workload

- policy so these two need to be in place first. A Director of Faculty Development is being recruited. The Research Misconduct Policy is being worked on as is a Conflict of Commitment Policy which is separate from the Dual Employment Policy.
- iv. Delaware Study. The analysis will be completed in May and may serve as an adjunct or replacing of annual reports. UNT is participating in the Profile System which is a database management system to assist in CV creation and population of common forms. It is an open source product from the University of Arlington, and is hoped to be in place for the fall. There is potential for this system to be used State-wide.
  - v. Graduate Education Review. There is a report from the external evaluation team which will be posted to the web. An internal 5 member committee will provide comments, reflections, and recommendations by the end of the semester. There will then be opportunity for feedback in a manner probably similar to the peer review forums and opportunity for online comments.
  - vi. Research Clusters. There were 36 proposals received and the committee has developed a stringent scoring process. The review committee has sent e-mails to the primary contacts with the timeline for review. The first cut will be made shortly and in-person contacts will be made after this. Vish Prasad is chairing and will send the committee recommendations to the Provost. Dr. Wilkins has asked the committee to enhance opportunities for future success of non-recommended proposals by offering feedback. She will provide some seed money for proposals that were close to being accepted where the money could be used to strengthen the proposal in a future year. One Senator noted that this process was an excellent way of bringing faculty together to talk about interdisciplinary research and Dr. Wilkins added that she hopes the talks will continue. It was hoped that the review feedback will be provided to the faculty
  - vii. Dean Searches. The Dean of COBA is in place. Video interviews have been completed and campus visits are being organized for 3 CoEng candidates. CoEd is developing on-campus visits for several candidates. Both colleges will need interim leadership and this is being prepared for.
  - viii. State Funding. The Commissioner wants to fund universities on the last day of classes while the Formula Advocacy Committee is advocating for the continuation of 12<sup>th</sup> day funding. This issue is still very open for discussion. It was noted that that the proposed changes are not-student friendly and will probably increase admissions criteria.
- III. Approval of Minutes
    - a. March 5. Motion to approve by Senator Swan and seconded by Senator Figa. Approved with one abstention.
    - b. Minutes from March 26. Motioned and seconded by Senators Sahliyah and Holt. Approved with 3 abstentions.
  - IV. Core Task Force. Dr. Celia Williamson presented the report. She noted that the faculty and UNT community in general were responsive to the process. The final list of objectives is similar to LEAP and were endorsed by the UCC, Core Oversight Committee, and the Academic Affairs Committee.
  - V. Report of the Chair.
    - a. Evaluation of Administrators. To date, 50 people have participated.
    - b. Faculty members are needed for a faculty IDEA Team. It was agreed that there would be one member from each Senate group.
    - c. Ad Hoc Legal Committee. The second part of the report will be ready for the next Senate meeting
    - d. University Day. April 4. Senator McPherson encouraged everyone to attend as it had been mentioned by the President that there was little faculty support last year.

- e. Election of Offices will take place at the May Senate meeting. Senator Thomsett-Scott, if re-elected by her group, is willing to serve in the vice-chair position. Neither Senator Wells nor Senator McPherson will be eligible to serve again.
  - f. Teaching Assistants/Teaching Fellows Committee. Senator McPherson presented the report in the chair's absence. The Committee successfully completed their changes with the exception of developing a University-wide pedagogy session. Schools and colleges felt that their disciplines were specific enough that a group session would not be valuable. There were several suggestions for improvement of the report.
- VI. EC Dialog
- a. Faculty Senate Agenda. The Mentor Committee report would not be ready and there has been no communication from the Academic Affairs committee. Charter and Bylaws committee would have a report as well as a second reading on the issue of adding lecturers to the Senate. Elections will report after the elections are completed. URC has not communicated about its report. The Budget Committee is expected to have their report available on Friday and present at Senate. Committee on the Evaluation of Administrators will report when the evaluation is completed. Committee on Faculty Participation in Governance – Senator McPherson is working to get a meeting of current members as they need to review the College of Engineering Charter. There has been no update from the Committee on Benefits. The Faculty Load Committee will send on their report as soon as able. The Faculty Research Committee report is on target but Art Goven has requested to present at the same meeting as the Athletic Director. Senator Swan noted that the Oversight committee on the Core has done minimal work beyond participating in the core task force. Jack Peters had sent a message noting that his committee was on track for May, as was the Faculty Salary Study Committee. The Writing Committee has some suggestions for improving the process and will present on time. The continuing discussion of joining the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics was added under Unfinished Business and Dr. Bill McKee will be joining the Senate for the discussion.
- VII. Unfinished Business. Senator Wells reported that the guidelines on lecturers are currently considered to be in effect.
- VIII. New Business. None
- IX. Comments for the Good of the Order. None
- X. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott, Faculty Senate Secretary