

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

February 27, 2008, 2:00 PM, Board Room, Hurley Administration Bldg

Executive Committee Members:

Name	Group	Dept.	Term	Present
Dornith Doherty	I	COVAD	2008*	X
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*	
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*	

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm

- I. Vice-Chair Wells welcomed attendees
- II. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2008. Approved and seconded by Senators Swan and Sahliyeh. One abstention.
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Scholarship Committee. Debbie Arnold and Lisa Goodwin. The report was presented. There were a variety of questions concerning how students were recruited, the demographics of applicants and awardees, disciplines of awardees, advertising of the awards, graduation rates, and success after graduation. This information is not currently provided but they will get as much as possible in time for the Senate presentation. Senator McPherson asked how the faculty could help the committee. Ms. Arnold replied that the continued support of Faculty Senate and faculty in general is helpful. There were several suggestions for enhancing the report.
 - b. Charter and Bylaws. Senator Wells presented the suggestions. There were concerns about including lecturers and instructors as "full-time regular faculty", although it was agreed that lecturers (as

defined by the proposed lecturer policy) should have some form of governance and representation on the Senate. Senator Thomsett-Scott suggested that only lecturers with 3 or 5 year contracts should be allowed to serve on Senate or that a separate category be created to allow 2 at-large lecturers to serve (similar to the current at-large positions for instructors). While these ideas were considered helpful, there was still concern that if Senate treats lecturers as faculty, they would be considered faculty in other ways including sitting on PACs and having other input into faculty affairs such as faculty hiring. An ongoing concern related to this is that lecturers are hired by Chairs without faculty input and the definition of instructor as it was previously used for people hired into defacto tenure positions. It was agreed to discuss the concerns with the Provost at next week's meeting. The discussion was suspended when the Fine Arts Series representatives arrived.

- c. Fine Arts Series. Mary Finley and Tom Rufer. The Fine Arts Series Committee is requesting to be made an administrative committee under the auspices of Student Development rather than a Faculty Senate standing committee; however, they emphasized that they will keep faculty on the committee using the normal process for administrative committees. Since the program is already funded 100% by Student Development (as well as occasional grants or donations from UNT departments), there is a feeling that the committee will be more successful at raising funds in they are positioned under Student Development. The EC agree to discuss this proposal. After the presenters had left the room, Senator McPherson questioned the advantage of the move, and several members noted concerns with the Distinguished Lecturer Series which is an administrative committee. Senator Wells agreed to add this as a question for the Provost and President.
- d. Continuation of Charter and Bylaws discussion. The discussion moved to the issue of the definition of administrators and their role in Faculty Senate. The EC approved the definition of administrators as presented, including having chairs classified as administrators, and agreed that they should not serve as Faculty Senators. Senator Sahliyeh requested that the role of administrators on Senate committees be clarified. After discussion it was agreed to add "or Faculty Senate standing, administrative, or elected committees".
Committee on the Status of People of Color. There was a discussion as to the wording and the inclusiveness of "color" as to whether it included people of Latin descent. It was agreed to ask Gilda Garcia for advice on the appropriateness of the wording.
- e. Committee on the Evaluation of University Administrators. Bob Benjamin was unavailable. Senator Sahliyeh, who serves on the committee, noted that the letter to accompany the survey was approved at the last meeting. The EC agreed that they wanted an

- update on the survey process and timeline and requested that Dr. Benjamin attend the next EC meeting.
- f. UCC. It was noted that the agenda item should read "University Curriculum Committee" rather than Core Curriculum. There was no representative present so the report was deferred until the next meeting of the EC
 - g. Mentor Committee. The committee had requested and been granted a one month's extension.
 - h. Faculty Senate Budget Committee. Senator Mueller, a member of the committee, noted that they had had trouble contacting the chairs of the committees they are supposed to coordinate with, and that Lou Pelton had been out of the country and this may be the reason for his absence.
- IV. Questions for Administrators.
- a. For the President. Senator Chandler noted that COE had had a recent concern with the Development Office. After discussion, it was agreed that she should have her Dean bring the issue forward to the President. However, a general question on the oversight of the Development Office would be asked of the President. Senator Sahliyah suggested that an update of the President's fundraising tour would be appreciated.
 - b. For the Provost. Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4 were approved as written. A question concerning the need for graduate students to enroll in the summer when not actively taking courses and their faculty advisors are not working at UNT. Senator Thomsett-Scott requested an update on the status of the committees that recently asked for faculty representatives. She noted that this had been agreed to be asked for regularly. A question on the professional development of chairs and an update on the Dean searches were added.
- V. Senate Agenda. Shana Gooch from the SGA requested 5 minutes to discuss the use of newspapers in education. It was agreed to add this as an agenda item under New Business. Mentor committee was removed from the list of committee reports. The discussion on the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics was deferred until the April meeting.
- VI. Chairs Report. The main issue was an update on the Graduate Education review, which was postponed until after the Provost's update.
- VII. Unfinished Business. Senator Wells noted that he and other faculty are still experiencing a 40-50% shortage of textbooks every semester. Several other EC members noted that they experience similar issues at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It was agreed that anecdotes will be collected and followed up with the bookstore. A second issue was raised concerning faculty requiring students to pay

for course packages from the Copy Center although the content was solely from the faculty - no copyright issues involved. Senator Wells noted that he had attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. There has been a recent issue concerning a possible breach of confidentiality in a PAC meeting. Senator Wells will look further into this. There was also a report that the Coordinating Board will be doing away with the 12th day payment and fund institutions based on their enrollment on the last day of classes. Senator Wells will check with the Provost on this item.

VIII. New Business. University Curriculum Committee Issue. The committee procedures state that Deans should attend meetings but a number of Deans are sending Associate Deans in their place. The EC discussed the various merits of this and the importance of Deans knowing the information. It was agreed that Vice-Chair Wells will contact the Chair and remind her of the procedures.

IX. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott, Faculty Senate Secretary