

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

February 6, 2008, 2:00 PM, Conference 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	
Cynthia Chandler	VI	CHE	2010*	
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*	

Guests: President Gretchen Bataille; Provost Wendy Wilkins; Andrew Harris, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Jean Bush, Assistant Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs and Chief Budget Officer; and Joseph Doster, Faculty Senate Budget Committee

- I. Welcome. Senator Wells called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm, and welcomed attendees. Attendees briefly introduced themselves.
- II. Questions for Administrators.
 - a. President Bataille and Andrew Harris, with assistance from Jean Bush, discussed the budget presentation that they would be showing to the Board of Regents Thursday. The full slides are available on the Faculty Senate web site under Reports. President Bataille noted that the Strategic Plan has high goals and significant financial investment is required to meet these goals. The budget is a two-year plan which will address four of the goals. Undergraduate tuition will be raised 7.9% each year. Data was presented showing the UNT would still be under the average tuition for our Texas peers and just slightly over the average rate for our national peers, both assuming that no other university in the groups raises their

tuition. The four goals addressed are: Excellence in Student-Centered Education, Increase Research and Creative Activities, Enhancing Institutional Reputation, Community Engagement and Advancement, and Improved Institutional Effectiveness. Highlights of the budget include: 4% merit raise for faculty and staff, \$1million market adjustment money for faculty, additional dollars put towards staff salary adjustments, funds for increasing the number of student advisors and enhancing their salaries, additional faculty lines, additional graduate student support, additional need-based financial aid, additional funds for equity and operating support (travel, office supplies etc.), and \$1 million for a Library and Research Equipment Pool. The President emphasized that all money discussed in the budget is recurring funds. After a question from Senator Wells, the President noted that the Strategic Plan has measures and she will ensure that the measures are aligned with assessment to determine the effectiveness of the initiatives. Mr. Harris noted that there is an audit committee at the System level that will be looking at various metrics to determine how well the budget worked. Senator Wells noted that the budget is looking at the big picture and not the individual requests from the budget hearings. After a question from Senator Swan, President Bataille noted that issues involving graduate students will be addressed later. Dr. Dolston asked about funding for the research clusters. Provost Wilkins noted that the requests currently being received will be evaluated and funding provided for the successful applicants. She added that there is additional funding from Academic Affairs beyond what is mentioned in the budget.

- b. Summer School. Provost Wilkins noted that there are several strategies to increase summer enrollment including scholarships for those students within 30 hours of graduation and those making good progress towards graduation. She added that they are considering an extra salary level for those teaching larger classes. Improved compensation and incentives for faculty teaching study abroad classes is another priority. She is also working to provide departmental incentives for those who do a good job of increasing revenues. Her goal is to have an annual pool to support this initiative. After a question from Senator Wells, the Provost noted that she feels that the money should go to the Colleges and then be divided, although she does recognize that there are concerns about this. She encouraged faculty to take issues through the administrative chain rather than bring issues directly to her. She does want to know about issues but is concerned that chairs and deans be notified of the issues as well.
- c. Regents Rules. Dr. Wilkins had been reviewing and revising Section 6 of the Regents Rules at the request of Nancy Footer. In general, Dr. Wilkins revised the rules to let the rules on individual

campuses be in effect. Most changes were to update terminology and bring into alignment with current practices, especially using “tenure track faculty” instead of “regular faculty”. Other changes included removing Board of Regents ruling on tenure or promotion, removing all Regents awards except for the Regents Professors, and deleting the Annual Regents lecture and have this given at Faculty Convocation. Dr. Wilkins noted that the Legal Office is more engaged with UNT administrators than previously and that they request an opinion on the legality of an issue rather than dictating a decision.

- d. Lecturers. Provost Wilkins has created a set of job titles for lecturers allowing promotion through the ranks and career advancement. She asked Faculty Senate to determine an effective system for allowing the lecturers some form of governance. There was some concern expressed about hiring lecturers into potentially 5 year contracts without faculty input. Currently Chairs hire the lecturers. Dr. Wilkins noted that these concerns should be addressed in the governance document. She added that lecturers are different from instructors who are hired solely to cover semester by semester needs.
- e. Midterm Grade Reports. Provost Wilkins would like faculty to consistently provide midterm grade reports for students in the D and F range and provide faculty-initiated drops. Senator Mueller requested that the form be available online. She added that this would be only for undergraduates. Senator Figa noted that online classes need to be considered in this process and that technology issues need to be factored into the process.
- f. Evaluation of Teaching. Dr. Wilkins requested faculty names for a new University-Wide Evaluation of Teaching Committee which will develop standardized questions to evaluate teaching. She recognizes that there will be diverse points of view and wants a diverse committee. The committee will design an evaluation instrument with the assistance of Ron Carriveau. Provost Wilkins added that she sees this questionnaire as one metric and not a sole assessment tool. Senator Swan asked about peer review of teaching and whether this committee could assist with developing a framework. The Provost noted that the Director of Faculty Development (to be hired) will have this as a task.
- g. The One Book/One Community discussion was postponed due to time
- h. Honor Code Committee. The Provost requested names of faculty to sit on a new Honor Code Committee. Senator Thomsett-Scott noted that David Marling had been active in this regard and should be considered as a staff member of the committee. Senator McPherson asked whether the EC should provide a list of names for the Provost to choose from or select a committee for her

approval. Either option was fine from her perspective but she reserves the option to add other members.

- III. Minutes. Motion to approve from Senators Swan and Doherty. The use of page numbers was requested. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- IV. Faculty Senate Agenda. A correction was made to the Coalition for Intercollegiate Athletics (to replace sports).
- V. Chairs Report. Evaluation of Administrators. Senator McPherson noted that the Provost is interested in taking over the Evaluation of Administrators process to allow the information to go to her office. The Policy Manual states that the Faculty Senate Office is responsible for evaluation. There were concerns about anonymity and that the administration needs to assure faculty that the results will be used in order to increase the response rate.
- VI. Unfinished Business. None
- VII. New Business.
 - a. Senator Holt reported that the Graduate School is no longer offering Doctor of Musical Arts scholarships. This will be followed up.
 - b. Senator Swan asked about student contact hours and wondered if there was a policy. It was suggested that this be a question for the Provost.
 - c. Senator Doherty noted that Gilda Garcia's office is now requiring that search committee processes and documents receive approval from her office. After discussion, it was agreed that this was a good change but that the turnover needed to be quick, and that the change needs to be publicized so the time can be built into the search process.
- VIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott, Faculty Senate Secretary