

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

May 28, 2008, 2:00 PM, Board Room, Hurley Administration Bldg

Executive Committee Members:

Name	Group	Dept.	Term	Present
Dornith Doherty	I	COVAD	2008*	
Elizabeth Figa	II	SLIS	2008*	
Dennis Mueller	III	PHYS	2008*	
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*	
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: Terry Clower, Art Goven

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm

- I. Welcome and Introductions. Senator Wells called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees
- II. Committee Reports.
 - a. Scholarly Misconduct Ad hoc Committee. Dick White, chair, presented the report. The committee worked to resolve three particular issues. The Research Integrity Officer will be the VP for Research, the Provost is the deciding official, and the investigation committee will be a standing revolving committee comprised of faculty recommended by Faculty Senate. The Provost will make the selections. Dr. Wilkins is supportive of the policy and the Office of Legal Council is not concerned about the changes. There had been a recommendation to change the name to the Scholarly Misconduct Committee but the Provost disagreed with this as it sounded more student orientated. The committee agreed and the name will remain as the Research Misconduct Committee. Dr. Vish Prasad is in

- agreement with the policy. Rick Reidy will present the report at the June Senate meeting as Dr. White will be absent.
- b. The Faculty Participation in Governance will not be presenting a report. Keith Turner has been asked to review the College of Engineering charter.
 - c. Evaluation of Teaching Committee. Ron Carriveau, chair, discussed the activities of the committee. He noted that by October they should have a proposed instrument ready for discussion. The committee has gathered questions used from across the campus (525 different ones), put them in a matrix, and categorized them against four criteria: statement geared instructor, statement geared towards course, personal evaluation by student, or student extrapolates to the class. The concepts from the questions will be captured and reworded. There is a sub group looking at surveys for online classes also. The instrument will provide core questions to which the departments can add some of their own. The committee will provide potential additional questions and provide suggestions for scaling the questions across the campus so the data can be compared. The evaluation instrument will be tested with focus groups of students and faculty. Summer school students will be used for “developmental field testing which examines how questions are interpreted by students. It is expected that the instrument will part of a tool pack which may include teaching portfolios and peer review activities; however, at this time, the committee is not involved in designing these. An IRT scale will be used to reduce variability of students from year to year. Dr. Carriveau asked for any concerns. Identification of biases, the rumor of a move to online surveys only, and flexibility in administration versus the need for uniformity were discussed. At this point, online classes will receive the evaluation online and face-to-face classes will receive print surveys. National surveys are being reviewed for possible use. Dr. Carriveau asked if there were any Faculty Senate groups that the committee should be working with. Academic Affairs and the UPTC were suggested, and these committees will be given a charge to work with the Evaluation of Teaching Committee.
 - d. Rick Villarreal, Athletic Director. Mr. Villarreal presented a PowerPoint presentation showing how UNT athletes are faring academically and discussing the improvements in academic resources and facilities. Overall, academics have improved and going well. Mr. Villarreal noted that the football program sells the rest of the university and the new stadium will be an incredible help. It could also be used to host music concerts and provide real life practice for SMHM students. Improved communication with faculty involving monitoring of at risk athletes is needed. Mid term reports for at-risk students would be helpful. Timeliness of responses is

vital. There was a discussion on the costs of the new stadium and how the money would be found. They are exploring adding baseball and professional beach volleyball. Mr. Villarreal will add a slide to the presentation relating to the amount of mentoring that the students receive.

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III. Minutes. Approved unanimously.

IV. Questions for Administrators. Bookstore question. Agreed. It was noted that there is a rumor that the Bookstore will soon stop selling cigarettes. Question 2 (budget) was reworked slightly to sound more positive as was number 3 (annual report and Sustainability Council). A question will be posed regarding the President's travels and potential partnerships. This led to a discussion about possible changes to the way faculty create and manage partnerships, especially international partnerships. There is a rumor of a policy or guidelines on partnerships. The question was reworked to include a request for information on partnerships, and invite Earl Gibbons to the discussion. Art Goven noted that there is some concern that UNT has a number of inactive memoranda of understanding with various entities and this may have resulted in a policy being created. Senator McPherson reminded EC that one of Dr. Gibbons major activities will be to coordinate partnership opportunities in order to get the most value for UNT's efforts. Provost Questions: Question 1 (reduced indirect costs to PIs) will be shortened and made more "friendly", and will be posed to both administrators. Questions 2 and 3 were accepted. An additional question will be added to ask whether there were concerns at all levels or just at the Provost level. A second question will be asked about changes to graduate scholarships. There is some concern that there is a trend towards fewer more valuable scholarships and the effect this will have on numbers of graduate students. A question of interest that will be asked if there is time is the role faculty will be playing in the development of the Discovery Park with emphasis on the feasibility of offering students incubation opportunities.

V. Report of the Chair. Senator McPherson reported that the dollars for lecturer ranks are being set. There is a calendar for One Book One Community events on the Provost's site and she is looking for events to fill it up. There will be a "wind-down" party at Riprocks after the June Senate meeting. The SGA wants to meet with Senate to discuss the Latin honors programs – UNT is apparently much stricter than many of our peers. The Provost is implementing a new system where Deans will receive a 5 year review. The committee working on this is currently discussing metrics for the evaluation.

VI. Items for the future: implementing a +/- grading system, using internal expertise rather than outside consultants, and increasing community involvement.

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

Respectfully submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott, Faculty Senate Secretary