



- Meeting:** Faculty Senate Meeting, 12 March, Wooten Hall Room 322
- Present:** Babcock, Bratton, Catalano, Chandler, Clower, Cole, Conover, Cushman, Donahue-Wallace, Eddy, Emmanuel, Figa, Harrell, Harris, Hayes, Heidelberger, Hill, Holt, Johnston, McPherson, Mueller, Oldmixon, Pavur, Peters, Plummer, Pohlen, Reidy, Seligmann, Swan, Thomsett-Scott, Todd, Turner, Wallace, Weiller, Wells, Windsor
- Absent:** Atkinson, Baker, Benet, Chen, Cox, Doherty, Jagadeeswaren, Miker, Nagaoka, Packard, Perez, Sahliyeh
- Guests:** Margie Lagleder, Celia Williamson, Wendy Wilkins, Donna Asher, Lisa Goodwin, Belinda Newman, Michelle Mears, Bill McKee, Carolyn Bobo, Shana Gooch, Josh Ness
- Opening:** Michael McPherson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

- I. Welcome and Introductions. Senator McPherson welcomed attendees. Music was provided from the CD French Trumpet Concertos featuring John Holt. Dr. Belinda Newman, Ombuds, was introduced. Dr. Newman emphasized that her services are extended to staff as well as faculty and encouraged Senators to spread the word. Dr. Newman will also have some interactions with students where there are issues beyond academics. Thus far, she has had an equal number of staff and faculty visits, with one student visit that was referred to the EEO. There are a number of effective confidentiality safeguards in place to protect people using her services. As examples, she takes only brief notes, files information by code rather than name, and destroys notes after the situation is resolved or after 30 days of inactivity. When there is a case of imminent harm, however, Dr. Newman will notify the appropriate authorities but these cases are rare. She noted that her role is to facilitate a solution, and that she follows the standards of practice approved by the International Ombuds Association. Occasionally, she may recommend policy changes to help avoid ongoing issues. Dr. Newman may also ensure that an appropriate investigation is launched by the correct people but will not initiate an investigation herself. Belinda can be contacted at ombuds@unt.edu and recommended using the e-mail contact to set up a meeting but not to provide details. Full information on her office and contact details can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/ombuds/>
- II. Approval of Minutes (February 13). Senators Eddy and Pavur noted that they were in attendance. With these corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Committees. Report approved unanimously
 - b. Committee on the Evaluation of Administrators. Senator McPherson noted that the chair was unable to attend but wanted Senate to know that the evaluation would be out shortly. The survey will be online but anyone wishing a paper copy should contact the Faculty Senate office. The Provost is interested in using the

results in her evaluations but there must be a sufficient return rate for the data to be considered valid.

- c. There was no report from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee. The Provost noted that she, the President, and the VP of Finance are working on School and College budgets, and non-academic department budgets.
 - d. Scholarship Committee. Lisa Goodwin. UNT was again able to fund all Meritorious Scholars who applied to UNT. Over the last 3 years, all of these scholars have stayed with UNT. Other scholarships are well-funded also and generally most students continue with UNT. The report, which will soon be available on the Senate's web site, provides greater detail. The recommendation of the committee is to continue to find more money for scholarships.
 - e. Charter and By-laws Committee. Senator Wells. Presented a draft of revisions for first reading. There was some concern about instructors being referred to as "tenure track faculty" and a number of questions about the lecturer policy. Responses will be included in the Provost's report as she was present and able to address these issues. It was recommended by the committee that lecturers have 2 at-large seats and that a minimum of 3 year contract length was required to serve. In addition, it was recommended that any administrator at the chair level and above not be eligible to serve on Faculty Senate committees. There was also concern about the delay in creating a Committee on the Status of Persons of Color. The Executive Committee will try to hurry this along – it had been decided to run the committee name and charges through Gilda Garcia to ensure appropriate wording.
 - f. UCC Report. Dr. Celia Williamson. Report approved.
 - g. Core Task Force Report. Dr. Celia Williamson. Dr. Williamson noted that the survey on the objectives for the core curriculum closes Friday. Over 110 faculty have responded. The UCC, Oversight on the Core, and Academic Affairs committees will meet to review the survey results and develop a report for presentation at the April Senate meeting.
- IV. Report of the Provost. Dr. Wendy Wilkins. Dr. Wilkins noted that most of her time recently has been taken up with budget issues. She is working very hard to get more funding for Academic Affairs.
- a. The 2008 Faculty Meeting 2008 will be held on April 30 in the Lyceum beginning at 3:30. The 2007 Regents Lecture and Faculty Awards presentation will occur after a Q&A with the Provost.
 - b. There will soon be a call for Summer Faculty Fellowships related to undergraduate student success and engagement.
 - c. Dr. Wilkins is concerned about the current practice of having graduate students enroll in courses over the summer terms for the sake of having them "enrolled". She is examining this issue in more detail but is leaning towards not having them enroll. However, the student credit hours will be affected and the financial impact of this needs some thought.
 - d. Graduate Education Peer Review. She noted that the review team has passed on a preliminary report for fact-checking and should have recommendations soon. There is also an internal review team being established which will conduct their own investigation and, using the report of the external review team, provide recommendations for enhancing UNT's graduate education system.

- e. The policy on modified service (currently called Early Retirement Policy) is being revised to limit the years of modified service from 5 to 3. This change will occur beginning Fall 2009. The policy will also make it clear that modified service will only be provided when both the faculty member and the department benefit from the arrangement and that not all departments may be able to offer this opportunity. The Provost will be contacting the chair of the Faculty Senate Benefits Committee to see how this affects faculty benefits.
 - f. The Regents Rules have been revised and now have enhanced the requirements for faculty to serve as Regents Professors. The Regents Professor Selection and Review Committee is reworking their guidelines to match the new requirements. Faculty who have already applied will be given an opportunity to revise their documentation to match the new requirements. The committee has also been asked to create 2-3 new awards or honorary designations to provide additional opportunities for faculty to be rewarded.
 - g. Policy on Lecturers. This policy is now in effect. There was some concern as faculty have not seen the policy. The Senate Chair will send it out. It was noted that Deans and Chairs need to be reminded to ensure that faculty receive information like this as well. The policy provides for 3 lecturer ranks with renewable contract lengths. Departments should revise their promotion and tenure documents to provide for these changes and to ensure appropriate governance of lecturers, including opportunities to grieve promotions and contract situations.
 - h. Update on Deans searches. Dean of COEd – 4 candidates slated for phone interviews. Dean of COEng – 8 candidates slated for video conferences after Spring Break. Dean of COBA – search will be closed and the result cannot be commented on at this point in time although the Provost noted that this is not a “bad” thing.
- V. Report of the Vice-Chair. Senator Wells noted that most of the information had been covered during the Provost’s discussion.
- a. There was a discussion about the revised workload policy. This will be sent out from Faculty Senate soon as it is another item that hasn’t yet worked its way to faculty. One of the Workload Committee members noted that it is a flexible policy and is not meant to be directive. The Provost and the committee are hopeful that it will well-received. It will require revisions to current governance documents.
 - b. Some faculty are concerned about the length of time it is taking to move over to Outlook as it is causing some communication issues. It was suggested that they contact their network administrator. Some departments are eager to be move while others are more hesitant. It was noted that the departments that have been moved over consider the move successful.
 - c. Senator Wells attended the Texas Council on Faculty Senates. There is a debate concerning universities being funded based on enrollment on the last day of classes rather than on the 12th day. This issue is requiring more investigation.
- VI. Report of the Chair.
- a. UNT is doing preliminary investigations with iTunesU to determine the possibility of having lectures pod or video cast. Senator McPherson encouraged faculty to visit the site http://www.apple.com/education/itunesu_mobilelearning/itunesu.html and send any comments to him.

- b. The University Curriculum Assessment Committee is a dormant committee whose functions have pretty much been taken over by other committees. It was suggested that the committee be abolished. However, it was recommended that prior to abolishing, faculty has some assurance that all functions of the committee are being taken care of and that faculty are adequately represented on these other committees. Senator McPherson will investigate this.
- VII. Unfinished Business. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics discussion with continue at the April Senate meeting when Bill McKee and Art Goven are able to attend to share their views on the Coalition.
- VIII. New Business. Shana Gooch and Josh Ness, SGA. Newspapers on Campus. The Student Government Association has contracted with USA Today, New York Times, and Dallas Morning News to provide free newspapers to students. The SGA is seeking support from Faculty Senate in both using the newspapers in their classes and supporting the SGA in expanding the program. USA Today has a faculty site which provides additional information, including videos, to assist faculty in teaching current events.
- IX. Comments for the Good of the Order
- X. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm

Respectfully submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott, Faculty Senate Secretary