



- Meeting:** Faculty Senate Meeting, 14 May, Wooten Hall Room 322
- Present:** Atkinson, Catalano, Chen, Cole, Conover, Cushman, Doherty, Eddy, Emmanuel, Figa, Harrell, Harris, Hayes, Heidlberger, Holt, Jagadeeswaran Johnston, Mikler, Mueller, Nagoaka, Patur, Perez, Peters, Plummer, Pohlen, Reidy, Seligmann, Swan, Thomsett-Scott, Todd, Turner, Weiller, Wells, Windsor
- Absent:** Babcock, Baker, Benet, Bratton, C. Chandler, Clower, Cox, Donahue-Wallace, Hill, McPherson, Oldmixon, Packard, Sahliyah, Wallace
- Guests:** Mark Vosvick, Gretchen Bataille, Art Goven, Robert Benjamin, Carolyn Bobo, Wendy Wilkins, Donna Asher, Celia Williamson, Margie Lagleder, Seifollah Nasrazadani, Donna Ledgerwood, Denise Philpot, Wai Dwan Lau, Mariel Ma, David Taylor, Rhonda Richards, Leticia Anaya, Grant Miles, Steve Cobb
- Opening:** Richard Wells, Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM
- I. Senator Wells welcomed attendees. Music was provided by Mark Ford from the Polaris album
 - II. **Report from the President.** Dr. Bataille noted that the Board of Regents accepted the budget as presented. Her report included the slides from the BOR meeting which are on the Senate web site. In 2009, UNT will focus on collaboration, internationalization, and diversity. Research, new partnerships, improved reputation, and increased private financial support will be emphasized. During 2007-2008, there was success in academic excellence, student success, new partnerships, international growth, and new initiatives (primarily campus committees). Research grant proposals and funded research increased by 47% between Sept 2007 and March 2008 compared to the same time during FY2007. There have been several nationally recognized faculty and students, and a notable increase in cross-disciplinary research. The UNT Strategic Plan has been “tweaked” by the upper administrators and planning is in progress to develop open forums and online discussions for development of the next 5-year plan.
 - III. **Approval of Minutes.** Approval motioned and seconded by Senators Turner and Swan. Approved unanimously.
 - IV. **New Business:**
 - a. **Election of Officers:** Senator Terry Clower was nominated in absentia (but had agreed via e-mail to the Senate Chair) and elected unanimously for the position of Senate chair; Senators Beth Thomsett-Scott and John Windsor were nominated for vice-chair: Thomsett-Scott was elected by majority vote; Senator Pam Harrell was nominated and elected unanimously for Senate secretary.
 - b. **New Workload and P&T Policies:** Discussion of new P&T and Workload policies. This was a challenging discussion. Both policies were ultimately approved. The workload policy concerned some faculty as it still left “too much” decision-making in the hands of the chairs and deans. The Provost emphasized that chairs and deans will receive professional development opportunities on how to set appropriate workloads for the wide variety of faculty that we have at UNT. The policy also ties merit evaluation to workload which should provide more effective rewards for high producing faculty. The P&T policy had more questions but most were focused on departmental type issues. There were some broad concerns about who could serve as external reviewers as some faculty were concerned that the wording left out researchers in industry and the timing of the materials. These were responded to by the Provost, and most seemed happy with the answers. The University Tenure Committee who worked on the report has requested a name change to

University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Senator Wells thanked Steve Cobb, chair of the Workload Committee, and Mike Nieswiadomy, chair of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, and his committee members were thanked for their hard work. The workload policy was accepted with two abstentions. The Promotion and Tenure Policy was approved unanimously.

V. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Committee on Committees.** Senator Johnston presented the report and noted that she and the committee members were working on filling the current vacancies and renewing members for second terms where applicable. Report accepted unanimously.
- b. **Faculty Load Committee.** Report present by Senator Wells as Dr. Cobb had another appointment. Report accepted unanimously.
- c. **Faculty Research Committee.** Dr. Prasad presented the report. The Research Office is hiring several new employees to provide more effective service to faculty. Both sciences and humanities will have help finding and writing grant proposals. There was some concern about lowering the amount of indirect costs returned to the primary investigators to 10%. Dr. Prasad noted that this lets the Deans keep more of the indirect costs and provides for a “pool” of money which researchers can request to be used for big purchases that they would normally not be able to afford. Dr. Prasad will also have a pool that can be tapped in the event that Deans do not fund particular projects. He emphasized that he will be tracking the use of the Deans’ pools and work to ensure equitable access. At the request of Senate, he will provide an annual report of how this funding is used. Several Senators were concerned that this system favored the science disciplines who frequently have larger equipment purchases. Dr. Prasad responded that the funds could be used to upgrade computer system, purchase research-related software, provide graduate students with travel funding, and other items relating to research/creative projects. There was also concern that the funds be used in the disciplines that received them. Overall Senators were comfortable if Dr. Prasad followed through on monitoring the use of the additional funds and made an annual report on the use of both pots of money. Report accepted unanimously.
- d. **University Review Committee.** Bob Benjamin, chair, presented the report. One case had been examined but it was determined that it was not handled properly at the department and college level, and was returned to the department. The case did not come forward again. Report accepted unanimously.
- e. **Committee on the Evaluation of University Administrators.** Bob Benjamin, chair, presented the report. Dr. Benjamin noted that the survey had an excellent response rate and that the Provost will be using the data in her evaluations. Data on chairs will be released after Deans have evaluated Chairs, and data on Deans will be released after the Provost has completed her reviews. Report accepted unanimously.
- f. **University Elections Committee.** Grant Miles, chair, presented the report. All Senate seats have been filled. Committee seats will be filled soon. Report accepted unanimously.
- g. **University Curriculum Committee.** Celia Williamson presented the report. Report accepted unanimously.
- h. **Oversight Committee on the Core.** Senator Wells presented the report as Senator Swan, chair, had to leave earlier. The committee had little activity as the focus was on the Core Curriculum activities, but expects to be more active in the coming year. Report accepted unanimously.
- i. **Library Committee.** Jack Peters, chair, presented the report. There is still some concern about the calculations used to determine the college/school/departmental allotments, and COBA is interested in having their funds broken out by department. The committee is working to determine how the \$1 million pool of Library and Research Equipment Support funds will be used and how it can benefit the Libraries. Report accepted unanimously.
- j. **Mentor Committee.** Donna Ledgerwood, chair, presented the report. The committee will be looking at examining what faculty mentoring programs as used in international and national organizations. Report accepted unanimously.
- k. **Faculty Salary Study Committee.** Pat Reese, member, presented the report. The committee was not able to complete several charges due to a lack of data. They will pursue the charges next year. A question was raised about the organizations used for peer comparison. The peer list was the same as the previous year.
- l. **Report of the Provost/VPAA.** The Provost had to leave by this time but had contributed substantially to the discussions of the workload and P&T policies.

- VI. **Vice Chair Update.** Presented as a written report. There were concerns over the bookstore not having sufficient runs of textbooks and selling cigarettes. The textbook issue will continue to be investigated and the cigarette issue will be handed over to the newly formed Sustainability Council due to the issues of smoking in general.
- VII. **Chair Update.** Presented as a written report. Robust faculty participation in the 2010 strategic plan is “encouraged and expected” which will occur in the fall. One Book One Community planning is well underway and the Provost is seeking faculty to lead freshman discussion groups in August and to incorporate the theme of the book in their classes.
- VIII. **Unfinished Business.**
 - a. **Charter and Bylaws Committee.** Approval for establishing a Committee on the Status of People of Color. Quorum was called as this involves changes to the bylaws. Quorum was not met. Item was postponed until the next Senate meeting but will be at the top of the agenda.
- IX. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Submitted by Beth Thomsett-Scott, Faculty Senate Secretary.