

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

October 29, 2008, 2:00 PM, 2nd Floor Board Room UNT Administration Building

Executive Committee Members:

Name	Group	Dept.	Term	Present
Vacancy	I			
John (Jack) Peters	II	ENGL	2011	X
Jose Perez	III	PHYS	2011	X
Emile Sahliyah	IV	PSCI	2010*	X
John Windsor	V	FIRL	2011	X
Cynthia Chandler	VI	CHE	2010*	
Jim Swan	VII	AGER	2008	
Donna Emmanuel	VIII	MUSIC	2008*	X
Terry Clower	Chair		2008*	X
Beth Thomsett-Scott	Vice-Chair	LIBR	2009	X
Pam Harrell	Secretary	COE	2009	
Michael McPherson	Immediate Past Chair	ECON	2009*	X

- I. Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Beth Thomsett-Scott, vice chair of the Faculty Senate. Attendees were welcomed
- II. Approval of minutes from October 1. Minutes were approved and seconded by Senators Windsor and Sahliyah. No discussion. Approved unanimously.
- III. Committee Reports. The Faculty Awards Committee report was discussed. There was some concern that committee members may not see the overall rankings and have an opportunity to discuss them. Senator Thomsett-Scott will pass this along to the chair of the committee.
- IV. Topics for Administrators. Questions and topics were discussed and agreed on. There was a discussion about the types of topics/questions to be asked and what the role of meeting with the administrators is. This will be pursued at the next meeting.
- V. Chair's Report. Senator Clower had a number of items to bring forward. He recently attended the Texas Faculty Senate Association which discussed a recent case in California that could have implications for academic freedom. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is shifting focus (and funding) on community colleges and

two-year programs resulting in the Texas Equal Opportunity Grant funding will increase from 7 million to 193 million with an expected decrease to 4 year and above institutions. UTD is requesting support for a petition to have a non-voting faculty member on all state Board of Regents – top tier institutions tend to have this while only one of our peer institutions does. University of Houston’s Board of Regents has a slot for the Faculty Senate to make a short presentation. A discussion on how to enhance relationships with the Board will take place with the administrators. From discussions with other attendees at the Association meeting and through a discussion with the Chancellor, Senator Clower suggested several options for enhancing the Evaluation of Administrators: including a rating of how familiar the respondent is with the work of the particular individual or department; for some areas, evaluate the department/unit rather than a person; evaluate every 2 years (not favorably received by EC members). This will also be included as a question for the administrators.

- VI. Unfinished Business.
 - A. Update on workload policy and Senate Charter. There has been a small revision to the Workload Committee policy resulting in the need for a subsequent update to the proposed revision to the Senate Charter. This change will be proposed as an amendment from the Workload Committee at the upcoming Senate Meeting. It was agreed unanimously to recommend that the term “academic freedom” be removed from the purview of the Workload Committee
 - B. Senator Thomsett-Scott reported on progress in finding faculty for EC appointments.
 - C. After discussion, it was agreed that Senator Thomsett-Scott would clarify the function on the Charter Review Committee. EC members suggested names of faculty for this committee.
- VII. New Business. Concern from the School of Music about the shortening of Dead Week. EC members suggested some alternatives and recommended gathering data concerning the costs of the alternatives, then presenting to the Provost.
- VIII. Comments for the Good of the Order. Senator Thomsett-Scott thanked Kathy Nichols, Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant, for her assistance with setting up the Senate tent for Homecoming.
- IX. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm