

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

February 4, 2009, 2:00 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room UNT Administration Building

Executive Committee Members:

Name	Group	Dept.	Term	Present
Vacancy	I			
John (Jack) Peters	II	ENGL	2011	
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	X
Donna Emmanuel	VIII	MUSIC	2008*	
Terry Clower	Chair		2008*	X
Beth Thomsett-Scott	Vice-Chair	LIBR	2009	X
Pam Harrell	Secretary	COE	2009	X
Michael McPherson	Immediate Past Chair	ECON	2009*	X

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**II. Discussion of Topics with President Bataille and Provost Wilkins**

- A. President Bataille indicated Provost Wilkins and Celia Williamson drafted a response to questions from the governor's office about faculty accountability. This information was provided to Gail Strange, the Chair of the Board of Regents. Recently, Gail Strange was called to put together a second response to this question to the governor's office about faculty accountability for teaching in conjunction with Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Williamson. Provost Wilkins is developing a new teaching evaluation form.
- B. Update on budget hearings – The spending plan will come up at the UNT Board Meeting in May 2009. They plan to share this information with others during April. A letter was received from the Lt. Governor today. The letter contained information about how we would revert 2.5% of money of a particular budget

line item. The President and Andrew Harris already have ideas of where this money could come from. Returning money to the State is still up in the air. Individuals who attended the budget meetings did not provide specific feedback regarding what they heard. What was wanted was more specific feedback regarding recommendations that came from the deans from each college.

- C. Update on staff job category/compensation review. The report is due to be presented to the Cabinet soon. The number of job descriptions and job bands has been reduced. The new classification is comprised of career bands where the range goes from 1-6 within a band. Salaries have been assigned for each band. Currently costing how much it would take to bring all staff up to minimum.
- D. President Bataille will be addressing the Legislature about UNT's funding requests which include N Gen courses and a new building for the College of Visual Arts and Design.
- E. Funding for research status. We will continue joining with UTA and UD to become emerging research universities. The argument is that Texas needs more research universities. Texas Tech and University of Houston are lobbying hard not be a team of seven emerging research universities. These universities will receive an infusion of funding which includes money such as matching funds for research dollars, more graduate students, and money to attract more faculty to the university.
- F. President did an interview with KERA. They believe we are establishing a higher profile within the region.
- G. No update on Fry Street construction.
- H. Update on Radisson Hotel and the College of Business Building – We are negotiating with the preferred developer to begin renovations on the Radisson property. Construction on the College of Business building is expected to begin during the summer.
- I. The EC was asked to provide two names of faculty to serve on a committee for giving out honorary degrees.
- J. Policies. There is a change to modified service that will take place in May 2009 which affects modified service. The time period will be reduced from five to three years. Also, modified service will be awarded when it benefits both the university and the faculty member. There are time period exclusions to the probationary clock. For example, an illness may qualify a faculty member to exclude time from the probationary period. One change to the honorary degree

and the conferring of Emeritus Status - Emeritus faculty members are not excluded from a modified service agreement. The pre-finals week policy has been completed and can be found on the VPAA website. More policies are under revision: Regents Professor, University Distinguished Research Professorship, University Distinguished Teaching Professorship, Out-of-State Tuition Waiver/Teaching Fellows, Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants & Depends, Dual Career/Partner Assistance Policy, and gifts.

- K. UNT is in compliance with the 2008 Higher Education Act. Information from CLEAR will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate that details UNT efforts toward compliance.
- L. The research centers are doing a good job toward their mission. However, there are research centers that are losing money. There will be attempts to bring those research centers into self-sufficiency. Also, some research centers are receiving subsidies and do not need it.
- M. Introduction to the position of the Director for the International Indigenous and American Indian Initiatives. He is a staff member and was a targeted hire.
- N. Delaware Study. We have not yet received the results from last year. However, the faculty was asked to fill out the information for this year. It remains to be seen if we will continue with this process. Dr. Wilkins recommended a Faculty Senate update on the profile system.
- O. Faculty development leave – A discussion about what happens to the \$5000 sent to the department for the faculty member on leave. The intent of this money is to cover the instructional load of the faculty members on leave. Provost Wilkins wants documentation from faculty reporting about the results of their leave.
- P. Academic Integrity Policy. This is an interim policy and needs faculty feedback. It is a placeholder while we seek additional information. A recommendation was made to appoint a committee of 3-5 faculty members to serve on an ad hoc committee to work with all committee members from the Provost's office, and an undergraduate and graduate student from SGA to improve the Academic Integrity Policy. The UNT attorney will serve as an ex officio member. Bill McKee's graduate assistant will serve as a resource to this committee.
- Q. Coache Study (for junior faculty). Response rate for this survey was 77%

III. Discussion with Vish Prasad and Ken Sewell of Research and Economic Development was postponed.

- IV. Discussion with Robert Benjamin, Chair of the Committee on the Evaluation of University Administrators was postponed.
- V. Presentation from Luis Tapia, Emergency Management Planning Coordinator. Luis Tapia presented information about UNT Emergency Planning Preparedness. He requested suggestions about how this might occur at UNT. Several suggestions were made: utilizing training for faculty to become familiar with evacuation routes, providing information to be posted in each room, posting information on a syllabus, sending information out with acceptance packets for new students. It is important for students to keep their records current.
- VI. Approval of minutes from January 28, 2009. John Windsor made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Terry Clower. The vote was unanimous.
- VII. Committee Reports - University Curriculum Committee – Dr. Williamson provided a discussion about the two courses which will become part of the core curriculum. James Swan made a motion to require the Dean office at the college level or the curriculum committee chair in each college to provide a signature approving any course added to the core. The motion was seconded by John Windsor. The vote was five yes votes and one abstention. This will go on the Faculty Senate Agenda for Fall 2009.
- VIII. EC Dialog – We agreed to add the discussion about the academic integrity bookmark under new business for the Senate meeting.
- IX. Chair’s Report – The UNT Faculty and Staff Talent Show has been reinstated.
- X. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.
- XI. New Business – Institutional Option Recommendations. Learning objections were reviewed.

John Windsor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Terry Clower. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.