

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

March 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	2009*	X
Emile Sahliyah	IV	PSCI	2010*	X
John Windsor	V	ITDS	2011	X
Cynthia Chandler	VI	CHE	2010*	X
Jim Swan	VII	GERO	2011*	X
Donna Emmanuel	VIII	MUSIC	2010	
Terry Clower	Chair	ECDEV	2010*	X
Beth Thomsett-Scott	Vice-Chair	LIBR	2011*	X
Pam Harrell	Secretary	COE	2009	X
Michael McPherson	Immediate Past Chair	ECON	2009*	X

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.
- II. **Minutes:** Mike McPherson moved to accept the minutes and Emile Sahliyah seconded the motion.
- III. **Discussion of Topics with Provost Wilkins**
  - Lecturers hired for the new Core Academy will be hired through the appropriate departments (not through the Provost Office).
  - Method for allocating the merit money. If there is a 3% merit pool they look at faculty salaries and allocate 3% of that to the pool. Last year, the Dean's could withhold a % of the merit money to deal with issues that arise in the College (e.g., equity issues). Provost Wilkins withheld money for an excellence fund from money for lines which were not filled. The issue that came up last year was that most senior faculty members by discipline and by rank were the farthest away from where they had hoped to be. Merit is separate from how you handle annual evaluations. Dr. Wilkins will get more information about how the merit for librarians works.

- There are advising conflicts between UNT Dallas and the UNT main campus. There have been issues with courses students wanted to take in lieu of a course that was required. They will not be able to admit student, provide financial aid, offer certificates, and have degree programs until they are accredited.
- Provost Wilkins will be piloting the teaching evaluation form during fall 2009. She will conduct a presentation on highlights of evaluation and teaching during the next Faculty Senate meeting. The purpose is to evaluate the quality of instruction and how much student-learning is taking place. Frances Van Tassel is heading up a committee that will add features to teacher evaluation (e.g., peer evaluations, portfolio).

#### IV. **Harold Strong – Discovery Park Director.**

He came to us from A&M where he was Director for the Research Center. He will be working on a master plan of the area. So far, we have interest from various incubators (e.g., gaming, agriculture, alternative energy, IT companies and one storage company). The objective is to create jobs and to utilize space. Presently, they are getting the ground lease defined and defining specifically what the facility will look like. He is working with NTech and other enterprises to grow our own entrepreneur and innovators (train the trainer model).

#### V. **Research Office: Vish Prasad**

Cluster grants are moving along. Most of them originate from the top administration and they talk about what are the top priorities which are fundable. Six cluster grants were selected. The second round of cluster grants is in progress and there are 12 applications. Some advisory committees have been formed to evaluate if these research efforts are going to move us toward our goals. Almost 1.7 Million dollars has been committed in terms of upgrading the structure for existing faculty. A 3000 square foot clean room will be built for about \$3 million dollars. It is a class 10,000 and class 100 room. Every year there is a review of the cluster grants (they are 3-5 year grants).

##### ***Ken Sewell***

There are 3 junior faculty grant programs.

1. REG (Research Enabling Grant) results in a product itself
2. ROP (Research Opportunities Program) should result in the seeking of external funds
3. RIG (Research Initiation Grant) should result in getting research underway for junior faculty.

There are three changes to the process. The budget caps were moved to \$7500 from \$5000 - in order to clarify and make distinctions between the different grants. The members of the faculty research committee serve on panels to review these grants with additional faculty selected to round out the committee. Each proposal is reviewed by two panelists.

\$200,000 is allocated for RCE for liberal arts and fine arts faculty (Research and Creativity Enhancement Award). Approximately 18-20 awards/year will be provided. Summer release for about 1 month is provided with additional funding to support expenses such as travel which are related to the research.

VI. **EC Dialog** – Senate Agenda. A few suggested changes.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

Reapportionment – Beth Thomsett-Scott presented a proposed reapportionment for the Faculty Senate 2009. John Windsor moved to accept the proposed reapportionment and Jim Swan seconded the motion. The motion carried. It will be sent to the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Other updates – There is a question about the best method to survey administrators. Should we use a method where faculty log in with EUID or use something like the Survey Monkey. However, there may be certain validity threats using the Survey Monkey because people can log on multiple times. Emile Sahliyah brought a suggestion from the Evaluation committee to postpone the evaluations until the fall semester. Pam Harrell moved to do the survey for administrators in the fall. It was seconded by John Windsor. The motion carried.

**VIII. New Business:**

Draft resolution that we compete for research funding \$200,000,000.00 to be shared among UTD, UTA, and UNT. We will continue discussion via email.

**IX. Comments for the Good of the Order**