



FACULTY SENATE University of North Texas

Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting, 10 December 2008, Wooten Hall, Room 322

Present: Babcock, Bush, Bratton, Catalano, Chen, Cherry, Clower, Conley, Conover, Cox, Cushman, Emmanuel, Goggin, Guzman, Harrell, Jagadeeswaran, Justice, Lu, Mikler, Miksa, Nagaoka, Nasrazadani, Oldmixon, Pavur, Perez, Peters, Pohlen, Reese, Seligmann, Shahrokhi, Swan, Thomsett-Scott, Turner, Vosvick, Wallace, Weiller, Windsor

Absent: Baker, Chandler, Donahue-Wallace, Kaminski, Puccinelli, Sahliyah, Slottow, White

Guests: Margie Lagleder, Celia Williamson, Wendy Wilkins, Donna Asher, Carolyn Bobo, Saleha Suleman, Lynn Bissett

Opening: Terry Clower, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

I. Welcome and Introduction

II. Unfinished business – The discussion continued from the November Faculty Senate Meeting regarding changes to align the UNT Faculty Senate Charter and the University Promotion and Tenure Committee Charter. Proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Charter were distributed. A motion to accept the proposed changes was made by Senator Pohlen and seconded by Senator Cushman. A question about where academic freedom would reside was raised. Chair Clower indicated academic freedom would reside with the University Review Committee. This discussion should be formalized through the URC. A recommendation was made that we move this proposal forward and in our next iteration of charter changes we should address this issue. A vote was taken regarding the changes to Article I and Article VI. There was one vote opposing the changes. The motion carried.

III. Approval of the Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting was made by Senator Swan and seconded by Senator Reese. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports – Reports from the Committee on Committees, Teaching Fellows/Teaching Assistants Committee, and UCC were submitted. Senator Bratton

made a motion to accept the reports and Senator Wallace seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from Celia Williamson – Required Learning Objectives for English, Natural Sciences, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Humanities, and Visual & Performing Arts.

Senator Swan made a motion to accept the UCC minutes and Senator Reese seconded the motion. A discussion about the required learning objectives was described by Dr. Williamson. According to Dr. Williamson the process was to (1) send the document to the faculty members at the beginning of the academic year via a flow chart which was distributed at the Faculty Senate Meeting and sent out over the email system to department chairs; (2) Several fora were streamed on the web in an effort to provide information to the faculty and (3) The documents then went to the UCC for comment. Following Dr. Williamson’s description of the process, a motion to accept the recommendation from the UCC for the English Objectives was made by Senator Swan and seconded by Senator Bratton.

Senator Conover proposed an amendment to the Exemplary Educational objective that excluded the last objective. Senator Bush seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was proposed to eliminate the word “leadership.” The motion carried. Senator Swan suggested a change to EEO4 – add the word literate between A and “literate.” The motion was seconded by Senator Cox. The motion carried. A move was made by Senator Windsor to accept the committees report. The motion was seconded by Senator Cox. The motion carried.

Senator Conover made a motion to handle as a unit the remaining required learning objectives from the UCC (i.e., Natural Science, Social and Behavioral Science, and Visual & Performing Arts) in the core curriculum. Senator Cox seconded the motion. Two senators voted no, and the rest of the senators voted by acclamation. The motion carried.

Senator Turner made a friendly amendment and Senator Swan seconded a motion to change the rules to say that any course coming forward does not have to meet every objective. The motion did not carry. Senator Wallace made a motion to accept the document on humanities from the core curriculum committee and Senator Cherry seconded this motion. The motion carried with one vote of no.

V. Report of the Provost VPAA –

A. Provost Wilkins’ report included discussion about revising the Regent’s Professor Policy based on changes made at the Board of Regents.

- B. She is also reviewing criteria for a “Distinguished Professor” position. Among those criteria will be that this position will not require years of working at UNT.
 - C. Policy regarding partner hires is also being developed.
 - D. The policy on modified service is being revised to reduce modified service from five to three years. Modified service will be offered when it is a benefit to the university and the faculty member. The modified service change will go into effect at the end of 2008.
 - E. A change to the requirements for Emeritus Faculty was discussed. Members can be Emeritus and on modified leave simultaneously. Administrators will be able to retire with the title of Dean Emeritus or Chancellor Emeritus without meeting the 10 year requirement. Other recommendations regarding honorary degrees are undergoing policy revision.
- VI. Vice-Chair Update was submitted as a written report.
- VII. The Chair’s report was submitted as a written report.
- VIII. New Business – Senator Turner made a motion that a committee be created to explore representation for LGBT faculty (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender). Senator Bush seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- IX. Committee of the Whole
- X. Adjournment