



FACULTY SENATE

University of North Texas

Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting, 11 February 2009, Wooten Hall, Room 322

Present: Bush, Catalano, Chen, Cherry, Clower, Conley, Conover, Cushman, Donahue-Wallace, Goggin, Guzman, Harrell, Heidelberg, Jagadeeswaran, Lu, Miksa, Nagaoka, Nasrazadani, Oldmixon, Perez, Pohlen, Reese, Sahliyah, Shahrokhi, Swan, Thomsett-Scott, Vosvick, Wallace, Weiller, Windsor

Absent: Babcock, Baker, Bratton, Chandler, Cox, Emmanuel, Justice, Kaminski, Mikler, Pavur, Peters, Puccinelli, Seligmann, Turner, White

Guests: Wendy Wilkins, Celia Williamson, Donna Asher, David Schwarz, Gabriela Carranza, Saleha Saleman, Richard Sanzone, David Schwarz, Lynn Bissett, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Carolyn Bobo, Joseph Kung, Tobye Rae Nelson, and Rolando Rivas

Opening: Terry Clower, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm

- I. **Welcome:** Guests were recognized and committee members were greeted.
- II. **Approval of Minutes December 10, 2008.** Senator Swan moved to accept the minutes and Senator Sahliyah seconded the motion. No discussion. Minutes accepted unanimously.
- III. **Committee Reports:** Senator Sahliyah moved to approve the written report from the Committee on Committees. The motion carried unanimously. The University Curriculum Committee report was submitted.

The agenda was suspended and the Vice Chair Update and the Chair Update were submitted.

- IV. **University Curriculum Committee Report.** Senator Sahliyah made a motion to accept the recommendations from the Curriculum Committee for approval of the noncore items. The motion carried unanimously.

Senator Windsor moved to accept the committee report on proposals for institutional options. A lengthy discussion about the Discovery and Capstone Experience occurred between the Senators and Celia Williamson. All of the listed objectives must be met in order for a course to be considered for this type of credit. Time was called.

Senator Swan made the motion to continue the discussion. There was no second. Vote was called: Two opposed, one abstained. Motion to accept carried.

Part of the discussion included concern about the timeliness between the meetings of the University Curriculum Committee and their approval of their minutes and when the approved minutes are brought before the Senate in order to approve new courses and programs. It was agreed that the time lag is an issue and solutions will be considered including having the UCC vote via e-mail to approve the minutes or to bring the minutes before Senate prior to approval so Senate can approve course and degree changes earlier. Additionally, moving the UCC meetings to the week prior to Senate meetings will be investigated.

Senator Windsor moved to suspend the rules in order to approve the new Aviation major and its supporting courses. Senator Pohlen seconded the motion. The motion did not carry. There were 13 no votes to 12 yes votes.

V. Report of the Provost/VPAA

The five new policy changes include: (1) Retirement of Faculty Members and Modified Service which becomes effective in May 2009. The length for modified service has been reduced from 5 to 3 years; (2) Time Period Exclusion from the Probationary Period were discussed and include stopping the tenure clock for major life interruptions; (3) The Honorary Degree Policy has been revised; (4) The Conferring of Emeritus Status has been revised; (5) Pre-finals Week and Final Examinations policy removes restrictions about what faculty can do before pre-finals week.

Several other policies are under review such as the waiver policy for students who had work assignments in an area outside of their major area. Now, the faculty will make the decision about the appropriateness of the policy. Dual-Career Partner Assistance Policy is under review as is the Policy for Creation of Centers and Institutes.

Review of faculty development leave may move from the Provost's Office to the Colleges. Currently \$160,000 has been allocated to faculty development leave. Up to 6% of faculty can be on faculty development leave. The Provost's Office may provide funding for an adjunct to replace the faculty member while they are on leave.

Academic dishonesty is currently routed through Student Rights and Responsibilities. Provost Wilkins would like this routed through the VPAA Office and the faculty member. The new policy is scheduled to be in place by Fall 2009.

VI. The agenda was suspended and the **Vice Chair Update** was submitted by written report.

VII. **The Chair Update** was submitted by written report.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:** None

IX. New Business

- a. Eagle Connect is the new student e-mail system launched on February 3, 2009. Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner provided an overview and demonstration. Students have until May to switch over. There were some questions as to how faculty could use it to enhance communications with students and what effect it would have on current communications. Current communications should not be disrupted. Once all components are loaded, faculty should have improved communications with students including the ability to have online office hours and shared calendars.
- b. Implementation of on-line schedule of classes: UNT will no longer offer a paper schedule of classes. This will begin for the summer 2009 schedule. Rolando Rivas provided an overview of the new portal page <http://www.unt.edu/classes-registration.htm> which brings together all services and information students need when registering.
- c. Academic Integrity: Some members dealing with academic integrity in the VPAA's office are not faculty and will move to a faculty senate committee and serve as ex officio members.
- d. Senator Windsor made a motion to suspend the rules to approve the Aviation Logistic Degree and the courses that make this up prior to receiving the UCC report. Senator Pohlen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Senator Windsor made a motion to approve the Aviation Logic Degree and courses that make up this degree. This was seconded by Senator Swan. The motion carried with one abstention.
- e. Senator Thomsett-Scott recognized Bob Benjamin, chair of the Committee for the Evaluation of Administrators. The survey will contain fewer multiple choice sections and more opportunity for comments. The committee has decided to use the institutional research office like they did last time. A lengthy discussion followed. Since time was up, a motion was made to continue the discussion about evaluation of administrations by Senator Swan. It was seconded by Senator Sahliyeh. A resolution was made to request from the administrators being evaluated a statement of objectives and accomplishments by the end of the calendar year. It was seconded by Senator Sahliyeh. The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Senator Cherry brought forward a resolution expressing the concern of Faculty Senate that lecturers were being hired to teach courses without going through normal departmental channels. The resolution was seconded by Senator Conley. The Provost noted that she will look into this issue. A motion was made to table the resolution until the matter could be investigated. The motion was seconded by Senator Windsor. Senator Cherry made a motion to suspend all lecturer searches until a satisfactory process was developed. A lengthy discussion took place about a purported mathematics hire that did not involve the mathematics faculty. There was a call for a quorum. Roll was taken and only 23 members of the faculty senate were present.
- g. Senator Clower noted that Emergency Management is asking faculty to talk about emergency exits with their students and to include a short note about Emergency Management on their syllabi. A handout with proposed wording was passed out.

X. **Committee of the Whole.** Senator Thomsett-Scott asked attendees to leave their recyclables on the tables and that these would be gathered up for recycling.

XI. Chair Clower dismissed the meeting at 4:15 p.m.