



FACULTY SENATE

University of North Texas

Meeting: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting – April 1, 2009

Present: Emile Sahliyah, John Windsor, James Swan, Donna Emmanuel, Terry Clower, Mike McPherson, Cynthia Chandler, Jose Perez and Kathy Nichols

Guests: Provost Wilkins, Bill McKee, Mike Nieswiadomy

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM.

I. Welcome: Guests were recognized and committee members were greeted.

II. Discussion of Topics with President. Bataille:

- Dr. Bataille reported that the BOR retreat went well. They primarily discussed how to evaluate the two Presidents and Chancellor. While the BOR was in executive session, President [Bataille](#) and several others were able to write a strategic plan that Robert Nelson is to present to the Board.
- The Legislative Session – she just flew back in from Austin this morning. A few things to report. The National Research Institution designation is a very frustrating situation. However, Judith Zaffirini, has been working very hard to get a pool of matching funds for the 7 emerging universities. It was suggested that we send a letter of support to Senator Zaffirini. Senator Duncan favors Texas Tech and is trying to require Constitution Amendment with very high qualifications (ex. 5 million endowment, highest quality students and faculty). His bill would privilege Tech, UH & UTDallas. One Senator noted that Texas Tech recently failed their accreditation.
- [e](#) Tuition – there are a few ideas out there. Some freezing tuition for various years, all encourage following the UTD model of waiving tuition and fees for \$30 K or less – this would keep several areas of the university from receiving their money. Senator Duncan did suggest that if they request freezes of tuition that the State would have to step up to the plate to help with the difference.
- Concealed handgun. Several Senators support this bill. John Windsor suggested that perhaps the military faculty members could write a letter addressing the issues with the freedom to carry a handgun on campus. There was talk about doing a resolution

against the bill next week at the FS meeting. Students should know where the faculty stands. The SGA will be meeting tonight to discuss this bill. A police officer from UNT will be addressing the SGA about the bill so they will be better informed.

- Salaries and budget. President Bataille talked with Andrew about the salaries not being included in the budget information that is available. He said he didn't know why it would need to be included since it was such a large amount of information (several pages)- so he took it out. She asked him to put it back in because she had promised it would be available. He will make it available again. As far as the Internal audit certification process – she has had issues as well and Andrew assured her that they are working on correcting the process. We might want to request a meeting with him to discuss other issues. She also addressed the tone of the email messages that were coming out from that department.
- Sustainability – Pres. Bataille agrees that the catalog should be online. Provost Wilkins talked to the catalog folks and they told her that there are numerous questions that need to be answered before they can put the catalog online. Emile reminded them that in 2003 the faculty senate voted to have the catalog online and it passed unanimously. One difference is that in 2003 the printing office did not report to the Provost's office but it does now. Timeliness is a big issue. Courses get approved but don't make it in the catalog for 18 months or so because it has to wait for the new printed catalog. They will begin the process to get the catalog online.

Provost Wilkins:

- Faculty Profile System – She hopes it will have multiple uses. She can pull reports by querying the system. There is not a comparison system. However, within a discipline there probably would be some comparison. All of this is dependent on the faculty updating their information in a timely manner. It is open statewide and is public information. The main problem we are having is that the information is being added in different formats so the information is not consistent.
- Core Courses. This is a senate process/committee. Our main question is – if a course comes in with deficiencies can we temporarily accept the course with the stipulation that they fix the deficiencies within the first year or they will be removed from the core? Provost Wilkins said you really need to talk with Undergraduate Dean, Celia Williamson. Jim Swan has already spoken with Celia and she has said it is a good idea.
- Regents Professors – John Booth is the chair of this committee and is ready to start. Changes in policy - Salary supplements will be supplied centrally and they have no teaching requirements. New policy was handed out. Teaching professors will take on the introductory courses. Research faculty will negotiate their courses with their department. This committee is full and ready to begin.

- Discipline Process – She has been looking at the Discipline Policy – it is very poorly written. There is no one involved in the process at this time. She is going to be revising it. However, it is not at the top of the list and when she has time she will revise this policy. She would like faculty to work on this with her. Perhaps the URC. Senator Clower commented that we had discussed this and felt that the URC is the place to start along with some additional faculty. Provost Wilkins suggested that she do a 1st draft to have a place to start. Dr. Wilkins will be developing an ad hoc committee using URC members and selected faculty.
- VPAA Form – Request for UNT Planning Authority. Recently, programs, centers, etc. at the last minute. As a result, she is implementing this new form to help her know what is out there and to help those emerging programs/centers/courses, etc. be BOR ready. She was most concerned that the Aviation Degree came to her as a new degree before she had a chance to see it. Although the form is primarily informational, there are boxes at the bottom of the form where an item can be denied. The form is final and must be used. Discussion can occur on an informal basis. However, all proposals require approval using this form.
- Amendments to our Charter – approval of Regents? There is no mention in the Regents Rules that they have to approval Faculty Senate amendments to their Charter.

III. Discussion with Mike Nieswiadomy – UPTC Charter

Mike Nieswiadomy shared with us that he is waiting to hear that the FS Charter changes were approved and then once that happens he would bring the UPTC Charter to the FS for approval. The faculty vote has been done and we can move for approval from the BOR on the changes to the FS Charter. Terry Clower talked to the legal office to see if the President could approve the charter changes so that we could move forward. He has not heard anything from them to date. We will proceed with the assumption that the charter will be approved so that we can proceed with the UPTC Charter approval and get committee members in place ASAP. If the changes are not approved the UPTC would still have a quorum with its current membership – they just would all have to be present to do business. Kathy Nichols will prepare Calls for Nominations and send them out Thursday, April 2nd to begin the process. We can receive nominations over the next week and then on the 9th of April send out ballots. Questions arose from the fact that we are in the middle of a reapportionment. We will simply work under the current groups and if changes need to be made afterwards we can adjust.

Mike N. will check to see if we have any appeals. If so, members need to elect a chair.

IV. Minutes from March 25th meeting – Jim Swan made the motion to accept, John Windsor seconded.

- V. EC Dialog – Agenda – add under new business – the UPTC – just in case we can move forward. Move the Provost to #3 and the move the committee reports before the chair and vice chair. The new order should be: #4 Unfinished Business, #5 New Business, #6 Committee reports, #7 Vice-chair report, and #8 Chair’s report. John Windsor made the motion that these changes take place, Jim Swan seconded the motion.
- VI. Unfinished Business – Nominations to serve on the NT Daily – Terry Clower suggested Bud Weinstein; Mike McPherson suggested Frances Van Tassell; John Windsor suggested Dick Vetter and Cynthia Chandler suggested Dennis Engels. Terry will talk with Bud, Frances and Dennis. John Windsor will contact Dick Vetter.
- VII. New Business – Bill McKee from the Academic Integrity Committee presented an update from his committee. This is a very complex initiative and they are currently waiting to get a revised Student Code of Conduct. This should happen this month. The committee plans to have the best plan available to the EC by the 1st May meeting. They have discovered that as they squeeze one decision something else comes out somewhere else that needs attention. John Windsor brought up discussion on the grading process – specifically an “F”. There was also discussion on “I’s” and appeals. There are a variety of folks giving opinions of these issues now and it is slowing the process down. Battles will continue. The timeline is still an issue – he agrees that 90 days is too long. However, most of the appeals happen at the end of the semester and then the faculty members are hard to find etc – it makes the process very difficult and long. Bill assured us they are looking into all aspects of this policy and that is not an easy task but they are doing the best they can to get an agreeable policy ready ASAP.

Jose Perez brought up some changes to the Charter and Bylaws - basically having to do with adding Lecturers to the senate.

- Add 2 senator positions for lecturers. They would like the lecturers to be included in all senate matters except issues dealing specifically with promotion and tenure, post tenure reviews and other tenure matters. The question arose – What is an Instructor? This was unclear and no one knew if we actually had faculty members that were Instructors. It was brought to our attention that in the charter the Librarians were listed as instructors. It was discussed to do away with Instructors and make them Librarians. That would allow us to have 8 At-large senators 2 from each rank as follows : Professors, Assistants, Associates, Lecturers, and Librarians.
- Article VII of the FS Charter Section 3 – remove this sentence completely.
- Article III, Section 3 of the Charter to include a statement that states that Department Chairs are not eligible for the senate. Interim Chairs? If only for one semester they could remain on the senate but with no voting rights. If longer than an academic year – they would be removed from the senate.

- Terry Clower asked Jose to ask the Charter/Bylaws committee to remove the listing of all the Senate committees from the Bylaws. After some discussion it was realized that the FS Charter mentioned what committees the FS were required to have all others are at the request of the EC or FS itself. The listing will be removed.
- It was suggested that the Core Oversight Committee be a sub-committee of the University Core Curriculum Committee. Should it be?
- Bylaws – Article I, Section 2 – additional statement needs to be added to include the lecturer seats. We also need to change instructor with librarian.
- Terry Clower made a charge to the Charter/Bylaws Committee to make sure that the Charter and Bylaws do not conflict with Regents Rules and University policy.

VIII. Adjourn – John Windsor motioned that we adjourn. Jim Swan seconded.

We adjourned at 4:50 pm.