



FACULTY SENATE

University of North Texas

Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting – March 11, 2009

Present: Bratton, Catalano, Chandler, Chen, Cherry, Clower, Conley, Conover, Cox, Cushman, Emmanuel, Goggin, Guzman, Harrell, Heidlberger, Jagadeeswaran, Justice, Lu, Miksa, Nagaoka, Nasrazadani, Oldmixon, Perez, Pohlen, Puccinelli, Reese, Sahliyah, Swan, Thomsett-Scott, Turner, Vosvick, Wallace, Weiller, White, Windsor.

Absent: Babcock, Baker, Bush, Bratton, Donahue-Wallace, Kaminski, Mikler, Pavur (leave), Peters (leave), Seligmann, Shahrokhi,

Guests: Wendy Wilkins, Celia Williamson, Carolyn Bobo, Donna Asher, David Schwarz, Lynn Bissett, Skip Krueger

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM.

- I. Welcome: Guests were recognized and committee members were greeted.
- II. Approval of Minutes (February 11, 2009). Senator Conover moved to accept the minutes and Senator Windsor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - a. Committee on Committees - Senator Elizabeth Oldmixon submitted a written and oral report from the Committee on Committees. Senator Swan moved to accept the report and Senator Sahliyah seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously.
 - b. Senate Budget Committee – Dr. Skip Kruger submitted a written and oral report which included four recommended action items: University budget should be more descriptive, there should be regular reporting about research clusters, the future cluster choices should be vetted through the budget process, and there is a need to solve the library funding issue.
 - c. Scholarship Committee report was delayed until the April meeting.
- IV. Report of the Provost/VPAA

There is considerable interest from Governor Perry to put in place mechanisms to make sure students have a voice with regard to how satisfied they are with their teachers. Furthermore, teachers who rate high on such measures should be given cash bonuses. For

this reason, UNT is strongly in favor of assuring and rewarding excellence in teaching and our mission highlights student learning as a central objective. We are committed to the concept of engaged instruction, improvement of pedagogy, and evaluation of teaching.

UNT has begun a research study to develop and implement a student evaluation for teacher effectiveness. Through a process of survey refinement, the Student Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness (SETE) was developed and subsequently distributed for faculty review.

Survey items were selected on the basis of the following characteristics: student viewpoint, student observable, fit with clusters and elements, included a statement of measurability, and universality. The items were gleaned from current instruments used at UNT and from other universities. Survey items were refined and/or eliminated based on four cycles of expert review. Field testing for the SETE has been implemented and is ongoing.

Finally, there is a second committee charged with investigating alternative ways to evaluate faculty effectiveness. Frances Van Tassell is chairing this committee. Other methods to measure teaching quality include peer evaluations and teaching portfolios.

UNT Dallas – Although UNT Dallas has made the target numbers for becoming a standalone university, there still remains issues of accreditation and getting programs approved through The Higher Educating Coordinating Board. This will take a minimum of one year so we will need to support their efforts until accreditation and program approvals are in place.

V. Vice Chair Update

Beth Thomsett-Scott provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding Executive Committee presentations. The presentation included topics such as a discussion about internal grants and the method for providing questions or concerns to the EC committee. Other topics included evaluations and merit, evaluation of teaching, UNT Dallas, and the visit with Harold Strong, Director of UNT Discovery Park. See the Vice Chair Report for additional information.

VI. Chair Report

Presently, there are two bills are based on competitive models for emerging research institutions. Another bill provides an individual with a concealed handgun permission to carry weapons on educational campuses.

There is a discussion about switching the requirement for full time classification for graduate school from nine hours to six hours. Additional items in the chair report were submitted.

VII. Unfinished Business

Senator Cherry made a motion to remove the tabled item regarding core academy hiring from the last meeting. John Windsor seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Senator Cherry moved to withdraw the tabled item. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. New Business

Allen Clark initiated a discussion about the faculty Profile System. This system provides a mechanism to link the research agendas of faculty at UNT with eight other institutions. He demonstrated how this looks and might be used by faculty. Documents can be dropped into the system and links can be made within the system. The profile system is housed at the following URL: <http://www.faculty.unt.edu/> It is expected that all faculty will have entered their information into the system by August.

Jim Swan presented information about the approval process to add courses to the new core curriculum. All courses in the fall 2010 core curriculum must be approved through this process. Courses must be approved by Faculty Senate at the June meeting in order to appear in the printed course catalog.

A first reading for reapportionment was provided by Jose Perez of the Charter & Bylaws Committee. A handout for the proposed reapportionment of the Faculty Senate for 2009 was distributed to Faculty Senate members.

Beth Thomsett Scott brought forward a resolution from the Executive Committee concerning 81 R HB 51 and 81R SB 9 allowing University of North Texas faculty, staff, and administrators to compete without peer institutions for these additional funds. John Windsor made a motion to accept the resolution and it was seconded by Barbara Cox. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Committee on the Whole – nothing to report

X. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.