



FACULTY SENATE

University of North Texas

Meeting: Faculty Senate Meeting, 8 October 2008, Wooten Hall, Room 322

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

Absent: Donahue-Wallace, Emmanuel, Jagadeeswaran, Mikler, Nasrazadani, Sahliyah, Seligmann, Shahrokhi, Slottow, White

Guests: Belinda Newman, Celia Williamson, Steven Hill, Joseph Oppong, Foster Roden, Hillary Talatzko, PF Roden, Michael Nieswiadomy, Carolyn Bobo, David Schwarz, Margie Lagleder

Opening: Terry Clower, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Dr. Belinda Newman provided an overview of the UNT Office of Ombuds. This office provides a safe place to seek guidance about resolving conflicts or concerns to be addressed in an informal manner. A summary of the role of this office in terms of what they can and cannot do was provided. Confidentiality and neutrality are the cornerstones of the Ombud's office. The majority of cases handled during 2007/2008 involved supervisor/evaluator relationship.

B. Agenda suspended to allow Steve Hill, Director of Institutional Compliance, time to come from another meeting. Compliance review with Steve Hill. Mr. Hill made a presentation at 3:06 PM. A discussion about the importance and protocol for handling the I-9 at HR was provided. There is a three-day turn around for the I-9. It should be completed the first day and carried by hand to HR. The retention for the I-9 is three years from the day of hire or one year after the employee terminates employment. There are fines if the documents are filled out correctly. The business unit and point of contact should be included on the I-9 form to facilitate association of the new employee with the correct department. A summary about the proper handling of sensitive or confidential documents was provided. Faculty members need to know that they can call UNT Recycling Services to arrange pick up of materials containing sensitive materials.

II. Graduate Education Review

Joseph Oppong provided an overview about the Graduate Education Review Process going on at UNT. This information is availability on the VPAA website. There will be opportunity for faculty to engage in forums and send emails with their concerns regarding this process.

III. **SECC Campaign** (Foster Roden and Hillary Talatzko). Information was provided about how faculty can contribute to the charitable campaign. The campaign started on October 1 and so far has 44/179 people to donate to the campaign. It is possible to give a minimum of \$2 or \$2/month. The goal is to raise \$190,000. Every Thursday at the Gateway Center there will be celebrity wait staff. All tips will go to the SECC Campaign. The monies go to the President's general cornerstone fund.

IV. **Approval of Minutes** (September 10, 2008)

Senator Turner made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Swan. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

V. **Celia Williamson**

- A. The core revitalization will involve a series of fora to establish the required learning objectives for a course to be in the core curriculum. The first meetings will be held on October 22 followed by a second meeting on Oct 29. On Nov 5 we will begin talking about the institutional option. By the end of fall 2008 we will have established the required learning objectives for any course to become part of the UNT core curriculum. The UCC will review the proposal; the core oversight committee will present a subset to the Faculty Senate which will make the final recommendation. The attendance so far has been small. There is a website on the VPAA website, "Revitalizing the Core." All changes will go into effect Fall 2010.
- B. Academic Integrity – Bill McKee is heading a committee to investigate organizational reporting and decision-making related to academic integrity issues. They are attempting to move academic integrity issues over to Academic Affairs. Presently, faculty are asked to refer these issues to each department. However, there is no record that can be shared university-wide so the recommended changes are underway. An interim process will be set in place January 1, 2009.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- A. FAS Committee – This is a written report from the committee. All were in favor of approval with no abstentions, negative - 0
- B. Committee on Committees – Nominations were listed in their report with the following write-ins: Alan Mayper (Group V) to serve on the Faculty Research Committee and Noreen Goggin (Group VI) to serve on the Faculty Participation in Governance Committee. We are also looking for someone to serve on the Student Government Association. All were in favor of approval with no abstentions, negative – 0

VII. **Vice Chair Update**

A discussion about textbook costs and availability occurred. SGA is working on a sales tax exemption for texts. Faculty is encouraged to determine if the latest edition of their books is really needed and

also to investigate eBook options. There is also a textbook grant program where the SGA will buy a text and place it on library loan.

An update on the hurricane evacuation shelter was provided.

We Mean Green Efforts include hiring a sustainability coordinator to serve as liaison with the community concerning sustainable practices at UNT. 250-500 bicycle spaces will be added this year. There was also a discussion about creating special bike paths to reduce chance of pedestrian injuries.

A brief discussion about a UNT smoke-free campus was raised.

UNT is allowed one new building every two years through a tuition revenue bond. The selection is based on the number of classes taught, number of students, classroom needs, and other data.

External funding has increased by 15.4% over last year.

Dr. Wilkins has asked the Faculty Senate to do a periodic review of college and school charters. The Faculty Handbook Committee will be active this year revising the handbook to incorporate the new and revised policies.

Adoption of the lecturer policy - All but one college/school has approved lecturer policies. Roles and process for promotion are being established. There should be college-based decisions related to their own needs and processes. Policies regarding how lecturers move from lecturer to senior lecturer to principle lecturer will be set. These are issues which are addressed by the faculty senate.

Interdisciplinary hires do not occur widely at UNT. The Provost has asked that we begin thinking about this issue and what could be done to encourage joint/interdisciplinary hires.

VIII. **Chairs Report** – The Evaluation of Teaching Committee has submitted a draft report to the Provost.

IX. **Unfinished Business** – There is no unfinished business

X. **New Business** –

A. There is a first reading on changes to the Faculty Senate Charter. Dr. Pohlen gave the first reading for the changes. Changes will be made to Article I and to Article VI, Section II.

PROPOSED: Article I. Role and Competence of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate shall decide and promulgate academic policy ~~(except tenure and review policy)~~ for the university, acting with due regard to the requests and needs of the specific departments, divisions, schools and colleges, to the advice of the president and vice president for academic affairs (as amended May, 1998) of the university, and to the regulations of the Board of Regents of the University of North Texas and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Such policies become official when published by the president in the official university policy publication. The Faculty Senate may consider all other matters of general welfare to the university including matters raised

by senators, by senate committees and by the president of the university, and, through petition, by any other administrative official or body, and by any full-time faculty member who shall then have the right to speak to the petition. Decisions on all such matters shall be final when approved by the president of the university, subject to the regulations of the Board of Regents of the University of North Texas.

Article VI – Status of Existing and other Faculty Governmental Bodies

Proposed Section 2 - *There shall be a University Promotion and Tenure Committee (UPTC) whose members shall not be appointed by the Committee on Committees but shall be elected by the faculty at large. The UPTC shall be responsible for developing reappointment, promotion, and tenure policies for the University, subject to ratification by the Faculty Senate and the President of the University of North Texas. Reappointment, promotion, and tenure policies cannot be changed without approval of the UPTC, the Faculty Senate, and the President. The UPTC has responsibility for creating procedures for handling specific complaints or grievances concerning reappointment, promotion, tenure and academic freedom.*

B. A form for the SGA textbook grant program was discussed.

XI. **Adjournment** - Senator Swan made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Senator Bratton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.