

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Rio Grande B
2:30 PM

Attendance:

Tom Ingram, Faculty Senate Chair	Desiree Henderson--English
Toni Sol, Chair-Elect	Brian Horton -- Communitation
Joe Kongevick, Secretary	Haiying Huang--MAE
Douglas Klahr, Parliamentarian	Andrew Hunt -- EES
Winfield for Alexander -- Library	Seiji Ikeda--Art
Cheryl Anderson -- Nursing	Aimee Israel-Pelletier--Modern Languages
Randal Basham--Social Work	Judy LeFlore--Nursing
Robert Bing--Criminology/Crim Justice	Carl Lovely – Chem/Bio Chem
Dan Cavanagh – Music	James Campbell Quick--Goolsby/Management
ThomasChrzanowski—Biology	BarbaraRaudonis--Nursing
Mark Cichock--Political Science	M. K. Reja--Information Systems(Bus)
Norman Cobb--Social Work	Kevin Schuck--Staff Advisory Council
Stephanie Cole—History	Johanna Smith--English
Reni Courtney—Nursing	Michael Ward--Economics
Jennifer Fox--Student Congress	Lewis Wasserman--Educational Leadership
Sarah Frisof—Music	Matthew Wright--CSE
Desiree Henderson—English	Robert Young--Sociology Anthropology
David Hopman--Architecture	

1. Call to order
Tom Ingram, Faculty Senate Chair
2. President James Spaniolo, Comments:
President remarked on the 2 percent merit pool for this year; not a stipend but a raise effective January 1 and paid on the February 1, 2012 paycheck.
3. Provost Elsenbaumer, Comments:
Thanked the president and VP Davis for finding merit money
Two searches underway the Dean of Library and the VP for Research search committees started and should complete by August or September.
4. Approval of Senate Minutes from October 5, 2011
Approval of minutes hold until clarified.
5. Reminder to all Senators: FS elections are consistent with the academic calendar year.
All appointments follow the academic calendar.
A normal elected term is 2 years with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms.
6. Senate Chair's Report, Tom Ingram

During the Executive Advisory Committee and Presidents Advisory Committee meetings became evident for a need to standardize the review of tenured faculty calendar so everybody is on the same cycle. Other topics discussed included the draft on financial excellence, the by-laws and HOP are being cleaned up and phone service—security issues; AT&T faculty and student lifetime discounts 20% and 15% respectively; emergency alerts pilot programs

7. UT System FAC Report, Dr. Dan Formanowicz

There has not been not been a FAC meeting since last time the Faculty Senate has met. A taskforce on evaluation of teaching, which was initiated by the Regents, is co-chaired by Tim Allen and Samantha Delafield also includes 12 others Senate members and 3 students. The post tenure review Regents rule is on the agenda for the next FAC meeting in January. The UT System has bought into MyEdu there are reports that former Chancellor Cunningham and his had son bought shares in MyEdu Finally the Hearts of Texas Charity does not belong on charitable campaign list it does not meet criteria for being listed on charitable list.

Q: Israel-Pelletier—MODL: What is MyEdu

A: Doug Klahr: online system all about speeding up graduation

Q: Israel-Pelletier—MODL: Is there an advisory piece to MyEdu

A: Yes, but you have to register to look at it

8. Chair-Elect Report, Toni Sol, Faculty Satisfaction Survey

There were 56 Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty that responded to this survey:

Items that stood out were - Low trust in the work place, Optimistic about Tier One but no support, and Concerned that Deans will decide how information will be disseminated

Results:

That there is a lack of managerial skills; teaching, research were lacking faculty input; low performers; communication/trust biggest problem; senate not communicating.

Outcomes:

Focus on quality of communication; sense of interaction; be solution oriented and move forward; chair training; training; address and review fairness concerns regarding rewarding performance; focus on quality of communication; strengthen the communication and credibility at the senior leadership; and a sense of interaction between the faculty and administration; be solution oriented and move forward.

There are first-year seminar flyers to bring back to your departments and post, Freshman seminars for recruitment/mentoring and encouraging results for retention

Q: Cavanagh—Music: Is there funding?

A: Sol: yes—resources are available through the dean, possibly, or Michael Moore

Tom Ingram – Update

Concerning dissemination that had been raised at the President’s Advisory Committee last Tuesday. Jean Hood told us that they are not posting/distributing at this point. They need to debrief Dr. Elsenbaumer then to do the same thing with the Deans.

Next step is that the Deans would not decide what is disseminated; that information will be posted on our public sites; not sure if they will say everything is public or here's the public report. Consultants are saying the Deans can decide what gets distributed; we need to all be on the same page with the Provost saying, are you only going to allow them to distribute things they want to deal with and not the negative comments.

It is reasonable to give Dr. Elsenbaumer time to get up to speed; this isn't going to fall off our radar.

Dan Formanowicz – Survey Remarks

There were several issues with the way the survey was done, basically they benchmarked the responses against honor roll institutions/aspirational institutions. I asked if all the institutions were public because they need to compare apples to apples; the answer was no. There were private institutions on the list. Basically they looked at our percent responses and benchmarked it against positive responses only. I suggested that benchmarking is not the appropriate thing to do. They only benchmarked positive responses—if we had positive response it would only show that percentage -- they did not benchmark the negative. We don't know how our negative stacks up against the benchmark. The percentages are important but we need to be careful how you interpret the benchmarking because we have no idea what we're being compared to.

9. TCFS Report, Joe Kongevick

37 universities comprise The Council of Faculty Senates.

State Representative Donna Howard reported to the Council that the legislative session was budget driven; THECB: HB 30-25—states all syllabuses must include learning outcomes. There will be 6 core objectives needed for new course and existing course, 37 educational objectives that are needed for the new core, 6 basic intellectual educational objectives and Fine Arts objectives must include the word “appreciation”. This needs to be solved by 2014.

10. Other Committee Reports—Parliamentarian Doug Klahr

Dialogue with the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion the issue of representation of non-tenure track faculty on the Senate. A survey will be conducted by the CDI to see how widespread the desire is, the CDI will be asked to come back with numbers for us before another presentation is given to the senate which hopefully will occur during the spring.

Sarah Frisof—Music

The Academic and Student Liaison Committee report is attached to the back of the agenda. All interested parties raised concerns about the number of school days/vacation days as set by the Texas Legislature.

11. Old Business—none noted

12. New Business—none noted

13. Adjournment—motioned and seconded