

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 7, 2012

Toni Sol, Faculty Senate Chair
Tom Ingram, Past Chair
Joe Kongevick, Secretary
Douglas Klahr, Parliamentarian
Cheryl Anderson—Nursing
Ivonne Audirac---SUPA
Robert Bing---CRCJ
Miriam Byrd--Philosophy & Humanities
Thomas Chrzanowski—Biology
Mark Cichock--Political Science
Norman Cobb – Social Work
Stephanie Cole -- History
Minerva Cordero-Epperson---Math
Reni Courtney--Nursing
Jennifer Fox--Student Congress
Luanne Frank --English
Jap Efendi--Accounting

Brian Huff---
David Hullender---MAE
Seiji Ikeda--Art
Aimee Iseael-Pelletier – MODL
Susanna Khavul-Management
Cindy Kilpatrick---Ling/TESOL
Alir Koymew---Physics
Ashley Smith---SAC-Chair
Mike Ward---Economics
Robert Young--Sociology Anthropology
Yuan Peng-Psychology

Call to Order:

Toni Sol, Chair

No members of the press were present at the meeting.

Remarks by the President

Unable to attend

Remarks by the Provost

A celebration of service is taking place this afternoon in the Bluebonnet to recognize our students who have served in our military. General Tommy Franks will be the keynote speaker.

About two weeks ago I had a visit from Steve Minutes I don't know if you know Steve but he is a new hire at University of Texas System and he is our executive director for transformational learning. UT System Board of Regents have been very proactive in this area and has allocated significant amount of funds to Steve's operation to help develop new innovative teaching methodology on our campus and it is not just distance education it is a lot of other things about changes in the way that we deliver instruction that actually helps improve learning outcomes so there is going to be a request for letters of intent from our campus. We are going to coordinate those efforts through Pete Smith's office, he is in our distance education center and we are going to collect those thoughts put them together and submit a letter of intent to UT System to try to get some significant funds back to UT Arlington to help with some of these projects so watch for that, it is coming we will hopefully get that out fairly soon.

A week ago I meet with the senate president's advisory committee and there was a discussion around student evaluations of teaching and whether or not we can provide more incentives for students to fill out the evaluations. You heard David Silva talk about this across the campus last spring. I talked to several student groups including the Presidents Roundtable trying to get the word out about how important it is for students to evaluate our faculty members teaching in a classroom. The more we can get the message out to encourage faculty in your departments and programs to send a message to our students that filling out the evaluation forms is very important to all of us here at the university. We also are looking at potential ways of trying to provide other incentives for students to fill out those forms and UT System may be providing us some guidance on what we can do and what we can't do. We talked also about the classroom scheduling the Astra system and the fact that central administration took over scheduling all classrooms last spring. We know that there were a few upsets around campus and we did talk to Toni extensively and others about what some of those issues were and I think Toni had a meeting with Dale Wasson and hopefully has certain concerns heard more quickly and hopefully try to alleviate some of those issues this spring schedule. It helps if we know who the faculty members are or if the chairs have identified who actually is going to be teaching classes the sooner we know that the sooner you get to us potential issues we would very much appreciate knowing about it sooner rather than later and address these things right up front. We talked a little bit about online learning and e-instruction and other technology that is available on campus for teaching. I talked to Pete Smith about this and he would love to have the opportunity to come and make a presentation to you about some of the things they are already providing and I would like him to hear a little more from you about what you think is missing. Some of the issues nursing is having in respect to some of their contracts getting approval, we are working through that process approval from OGC. UT System has a standard form that they would like us to use, the standard form is approved. I just ask that when you run into difficulties and you think you are experiencing unreasonable delays that you bring those things to our attention we will try to get some action sooner rather than later. It is especially important when we are dealing with students, the last thing we want to do is delay the students progress in their program.

Q: Cole—History: Point of clarification, will Pete Smith be able to tell us which of the technology is UTA is still contractually affiliated with ie e-instruction he will be able to tell us what latitude we have about going with other companies other than e-instruction for example.

Elsenbaumer: Yes, exactly someone had asked about e-instruction and yes we still have a contract with them. That doesn't preclude us from doing other things. I think he would very much appreciate hearing about your experiences and colleges experiences if you have something in mind and you know it is particularly attractive and useful let us know about it and we can also engage in using those the other types of technology as well.

Q: Young—Soci/Anth: When you met with the students to talk about teaching evaluations did you get any sense from them of what their take is on why most students just don't bother with that?

Elsenbaumer: I think probably the most significant response that I saw was that students really were not aware of how important that process is and maybe Jennifer can answer from her perspective. It seemed to me that they didn't realize that it was that important

and you were actually using it for all these evaluations. They thought it was just for that particular course and whether they could make some adjustments in that course. But in a broader sense there was not a lot of response because I just think that students did not realize how significant those evaluations are. Jennifer you want to add to that?

Jennifer Fox: I agree, a lot of students don't realize even if they are used that is a huge issue but also the timing of when they are sent out this last go around they were sent out the week before and the week of final exams and so students are not concerned with anything but cramming for their tests so we are actually working with Dr. Silva on potentially doing it the week after finals before grades are posted just so the finals are out of the way they have nothing else to do so maybe they will go in and fill out the survey.

Elsenbaumer: Jennifer from your perspective what sort of incentives would you see from the students perspective might be useful to help them to get a little more motivated to fill out these forms?

Jennifer Fox: We have talked about it a lot at UT SAC of whether it is a punishment you get if you don't do it or if you get something out of it but I think really it is just the time if professors allowed students to do it in class designate ten to fifteen minutes to fill it out on your I Pad or iPhone I think they would be more willing to do it I don't think it is so much what they are getting out of it than they just don't have time or that is not a big thing on their priority list.

Elsenbaumer: Let me bring up this one thing you just mentioned that I think is really important, we need to be able to provide these sorts of surveys and make them readily available on iPhone I pads smart phones and make it convenient for students we are probably not there yet but you need it.

A question was asked about degreed students having to pay a fifty dollar reapplication fee in order to take an extra undergraduate level course. The Provost stated he was not aware of this fee and thought something could be worked out on this matter.

Provost Elsenbaumer exits the meeting.

Presentation on SharePoint

Ron Roberson

Q: What are the technology requirements?

Roberson: There are not technology requirements but you have to attend my two hour session you have to watch about an hours' worth of Linda videos before my session and be willing to administer the sight in terms making sure everybody has secured access to what they need and that is easy to do.

Q: Specifically who are they assigning?

Roberson: they are assigning one of their admins and one of the instructors that does some web work for them and one other individual to be determined later usually they try to get someone in there that has more of a technical background but it is certainly not necessary.

Q: So this is not for faculty to use with their classes?

Roberson: Right now we are going to get all the departments on campus deployed and then look at other things and deploy them as deemed necessary

Roberson exits the meeting.

Quorum Call

There is a quorum

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting were approved

Reports

TCOFS—Doug Klahr

There was a panel discussion on the ten thousand dollar degree. And there was a presentation from the coordinating board that stated they may have to close down some programs that don't graduate enough people and how you can get temporary extensions.

Ingram: One thing that continues to come up just as an observation is that the legislature would be very happy if community colleges granted degrees.

Q: Grant what kind of degree?

Ingram: A baccalaureate degree.

Silence in the room

Klahr: They are looking at the first ninety hours digitalized of that education. They want to bring in mentors who will keep contact with the students instead of faculty so that you have this transformational learning but you still have contact people so the faculty are used as sensibly not so much advising and mentoring but teaching their attitude is that is what they do best teaching the upper level courses competencies so they are dividing this education into two basic tiers for that first ninety hours are very trade school-like and then the professors finally get involved the upper level courses. They are going to use a fixed tuition program 650 dollars for every seven to eight weeks and students can move to as many competencies as they wish during the period which means that they can accelerate if they want to this breaks out to ninety four dollars per semester credit of the anticipated three years for new students which cost about fourteen to sixteen thousand dollars they must have an eighty percent retention rate and they will serve five thousand students over the first several years of this program. They are claiming that this is not just about the cost it is doing things in a totally different way they are trying not to change the structure of higher education it is plain to see that they were trying to do that. Their target audience is a small group that has prior work experience prior life experience and some college credit they are placed down meaning they don't have the freedom to relocate they are targeting veterans, nurses with AA and RN degrees and oil field people who all need bachelors of science in organizational leadership and they say if they get this on the ground this degree in bachelors of organizational leadership they may propose to become much more widely acceptable in academia as a legitimate degree.

An open discussion ensued relating to this matter ending with...

Klahr: They had Anthony Carnavelle who is an economist at Georgetown, he said they have done studies and over the next ten years we will have an additional twenty two million jobs created in Texas supposedly. Twenty two million at the current rate that will require higher education but at our current rate we will only produce nineteen million people that are qualified to hold those jobs a gap of three million and we are saying that the state must be globally complete we will need to have fifty five percent of people twenty four to sixty four with an associate's degree or better that is currently double what we are producing.

Academic Freedom and Tenure

Mike Ward

A matter was referred to us a while back met with a lot of the parties involved this came from a faculty experience he was not asking for a reversible decision he lived through a decision but he was worried about policy going forward so it has been at least one instance where he was exempt from the IRB review and sought approval only after the it was completed the vice president can and has refused to allow the researcher to use the IRB without approval. First recommendation is that the vice-president of research considers retroactive approval of data collection process for first time infractions of research processes where the research protocols that were implemented do in fact need safety. Second is the recommend the Office of Research will on appeals mechanism decisions by the IRB and vice president of research are unwarranted and the last is recommend that their communication mechanisms develop for the university can meet periodically reminded of the protocols of the renewed process.

Equity & Ethics

Operating Procedures

Budget Liaison

Academic Student Services

Special Projects

Old Business

Faculty Survey Reports—Q & A for February 6, 2013

Chair Sol

The consultant is coming in February meeting and I told him it was for a Q&A he would like to know some of your questions ahead of time so he can prepare. Please send the questions to me and Jean Hood so she can send them so the fellow can do his homework. Ingram: Just to remind you we had a couple of major issues we raised and didn't get much of an answer to previously, like who we were bench marked against and why. Not only size of institutions but private versus public a number of different things and not necessarily consistent with what most of our programs have been told to bench mark against the so called peers and aspirational groups and they did not seem to use that same type of criteria which was suspect. Go back and look at the questions look at the responses and think about it because we have made a pretty big point about getting this guy in here so we need to take advantage of that since we have him.

Sol: Stephanie Cole and I had a meeting with Dale Wasson about classroom scheduling problems. He gave us the background why we had the centralization of classrooms just briefly we went from 2009 instruction cost efficiency to overnight to space utilization. There was a report published and UTA ranked at if not the bottom one of the bottom three in space utilization and that became a big problem with the President when he had to defend why we needed more building or space. Provost Bobbitt was charged with fixit. They did studies and centralization the schedule of classrooms centrally were more efficient and already our classroom utilization has gone from a D-C to an A-B or B plus.

New Business

Senate Budget

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.