

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 6, 2013

Toni Sol, Faculty Senate Chair	Brian Horton—Communication
Tom Ingram, Past Chair	Haiying Huang -- MAE
Joe Kongevick, Secretary	Seiji Ikeda--Art
Douglas Klahr, Parliamentarian	Aimee Israel-Pelletier -- MODL
John Adams -- Fin/RE	Susanna Khavul -- Management
Julie Alexander	Ali R. Koymew---Physics
Robert Bing---CRCJ	Judy LeFlore--Nursing
Miriam Byrd--Philosophy & Humanities	Kytai Nguyen--BE
Dan Cavanagh--Music	Yuan Peng---Psychology
Mark Cichock--Political Science	Barbara Raudonis -- Nursing
Stephanie Cole -- History	Stefan Romanoschi--CE
Reni Courtney--Nursing	Lewis Wasserman--ELPS
Jap Efendi -- Accounting	Robert Young--Sociology Anthropology
Jennifer Fox--Student Congress	
George Gintole--Architecture	

Call to Order:

Toni Sol, Chair

Members of the press were recognized from The Shorthorn.

Remarks by the President:

Town hall meeting with Dr. Karbhari had a good turnout.

Regents should be meeting in the middle of next week to act on conformation of Dr. Karbhari.

Spaniolo will remain in place through May; will be here for graduation.

The legislative session ends at the end of May; the legislature is different than two years ago and we should do better than before.

Q: Cichock – POLS: What is the case for the Legislature?

A: our enrollment, retention and graduation rates are all up, hopefully that means money is put into the formula to fund universities. We have not raise tuition this year and for undergrads 2013-2014; we have shown considerable restraints on finances and affordable issues. We need predictable, stable funding.

Remarks by the Provost:

Responding to questions raised at our last session concerning faculty survey--

Gave Sol the latest scores on classroom utilization, these numbers are up and above what is expected by the Coordinating Board. Sol will be sending to the senate members.

Items found useful from the survey that can be implemented.

Initiative for better communication

Initiative for better mentoring of tenure-track faculty

--just finished this year's tenure/promotion decisions:

41 cases presented this year – 24 cases for promotion to associate, 16 to full, 1 for tenure is already associate position and 2 received unfavorable reviews (Ron will release final figures later).

Fewer controversial decisions each year, a sign that mentoring is working.

Initiative to pay more attention to faculty members at associate level especially who have accomplished a great deal and perhaps can be promoted to full status.

Q: Young – SOCI/ANTH: Question of rate of publication versus absolute numbers?

A: We need to look at the whole portfolio and how they are seen by the Department and College/School; need to keep in mind what the individual brings to the profession and institution.

Q: Courtney – Nursing: Was the university review more robust with retention numbers, university committee referring to tenure given Tier-1 context?

A: Provost: No more robust than at the Department or college/school level.

A: President: Having added a rep from the senate was an important aspect of the committee.

Q: Ingram: If not strong on research, how should a portfolio for promotion to full be designed?

A: Provost: Variable workload assignments that are coming in the future will be a benefit; we will look at local as well as external reviewers.

Q: Israel-Pelletier – MODL: Can anything be done in the future to have support on variable workloads at the department level.

A: Provost: 3rd year tenure track who get a strong review will get a teaching reduction for one semester.

Q: Huang – MAE: What about sabbaticals?

A: Provost: We are forbidden by the legislature to allow them.

Q: Cavanagh – Music: How do work load percentages relate to number of hours as an evaluation tool?

A: Provost: It is the purview of the department chair.

Sol brought up an issue concerning Scantrons; sometimes it can take up to 3 days to have scantrons come back with the results due to the fact that they have to go to Fort Worth to be processed. A senator from Nursing pointed out that the results were quickly available digitally. The problem it seems is when the test is given and the time the shuttle with the exams leaves. If one misses the shuttle due to a later exam time, the results are delayed and this interferes with students dropping a course in a timely manner. The Provost said he would look into that matter.

Q: Cole – History: Can you tell us to what extent you are consulting faculty under the deans' reorganization of grad school.

A: Provost: These are initial discussions, no deliberations at this time. We are just at the beginning in our request for input. A larger discussion will occur. Units and not the deans will make the decisions; the deans are only being informed at this time.

President and Provost exit.

Quorum is present.

Approval of minutes:

November 7, 2012 minutes were approved

February 6, 2013 minutes were approved

Reports:

TCOFS – Klahr

Representative Dan Branch, chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education reported to the council that by 2020, 60% of all US jobs will require a post-high school education. Only 32% of Texans will have this. There is a House Bill regarding basing 10% of state funding on metrics – who is in class on 12th and 20th days of classes. This funding is under discussion. Other metrics are possible.

House Bill 29 deals with four year fixed tuition rate and would also encourage 4 year graduation rate. James Goeman from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - (THECB) reported on an agency wide policy shift concerning graduate program review, the results would make it easier to establish new programs, but have greater scrutiny of reviewing them once they are established. There would consist of a 7 year scheduled review cycle, limit the review to no more than 20% of grad programs in a year, and require schools to submit review a schedule for to Coordinating Board for approval. He went on to give an overview of the Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program and the National Research University Fund. Undergraduate program approval is easier than before and the program review is harder than before.

Sol notified the senate there have been two bills introduced concerning the Coordinating Board and its mission.

FAC – Ingram

Attitude toward higher education is better than it was two years ago. UT system budget should be good for growing campuses. Controversy growing between Regents and UT-Austin President, the role of the regents maybe come under review by the legislature.

Q: Cavanaugh – Music: Any chance of gun bills not being approved?

A: Ingram: probably not.

The Senate supports the Council of Faculty Senates' Resolution passed on 3/25/2013 and submitted to the provost:

“The University of Texas Faculty Advisory Council believes that the carrying of firearms on campus by anyone other than law enforcement officers is detrimental to the safety and security of all on campus.”

Sol: Three committees to be charged with duties:

Budget committee: look at UT institutions regarding summer assignments and pay to compare with ours.

Operating Procedures committee: Regents Rule 180 conflict/commitment – see if we want to suggest any changes.

Academic and Student Liaison committee: Mid-career funding initiatives-look at how different units in the university as well as other institutions handle this.

Issues about evening escorts:

University escorts are not allowed to escort you on private property.

Nominations committee:

Elections will be at May meeting. Send nominations to Ingram.

Emeritus: Dossiers need to be to the senate by April 4th.

Meeting adjourned 4:05.