

## Faculty Senate Minutes

5 March 2014

### Senate Leadership in Attendance

Toni Sol, Senate Chair

Tom Ingram, Past Chair

Mark Cichock, Chair Elect

Douglas Klahr, Secretary

Reni Courtney, Parliamentarian

### Senators and Student Representative in Attendance

John Adams	Business	Theresa Jorgensen	Science
Amanda Alexander	Liberal Arts	Cynthia Kilpatrick	Liberal Arts
Mindi Anderson	Nursing	Joseph Kongevick	Liberal Arts
Ivonne Audirac	SUPA	Ali Koymen	Science
Randy Basham	Social Work	Kytai Nguyen	Engineering
Robert Bing	Liberal Arts	Yuan Peng	Science
Miriam Byrd	Liberal Arts	Anand Puppala	Engineering
Dan Cavanagh	Liberal Arts	Barbara Raudonis	Nursing
Thomas Chrzanowski	Science	Jennifer Ronyak	Liberal Arts
Norman Cobb	Social Work	Sarah Rose*	Liberal Arts
D. Stefan Dancila	Engineering	Peggy Semingson	Education + HP
Ray Elliott	Liberal Arts	Mike Ward	Business
Kevin Gustafson	Liberal Arts	Lewis Wasserman	Education + HP
David Hullender	Engineering	Robert Young	Liberal Arts

\*Standing in for Stephanie Cole

### Guests

David Silva, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Maria Martinez-Cosio, Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Development

### Call to Order: Toni Sol

2:34 PM

#### David Silva

- **President Karbhari** and **Provost Elsenbaumer** are unable to attend, for they are being inducted into the National Academy of Inventors.
- **Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence**
  - Approval has been received to transform part of the fourth floor of the Central Library into the Center, which already exists despite space challenges. All Center personnel except for David Silva will be housed there, and part of the floor will become a faculty commons, including a conference room. A September completion date and open house is anticipated.
  - The Center's director, Lana Rings, is retiring, and DS plans to request that a new director be hired, which will be announced in the Faculty Affairs Newsletter.

## Lana Rings

- The Center has an eight-member advisory board comprised of faculty and staff. The website is not yet visible, but she hopes it will be a central website for all teaching matters, even those within units. Some of the Center's activities:
  - March 28 conference will be about Day 1.
  - Two groups about team-based learning are running.
  - Consultations about peer review are occurring with units.
  - A peer overseer training curriculum is about to get started.
  - Collaboration with distance learning is occurring.

## David Silva

- **Peer review of teaching**
  - UT and FAC policies have been resolved, and the latest version will be forwarded to Toni Sol. Senate input then can begin. Training will be provided, and he recommends that a faculty member who becomes certified from the Center become the departmental/unit observer. This is a recommendation, not a requirement. No departmental chairs/program directors or assistant chairs/directors can serve as observers. He will look into a module regarding observation of online classes.
- **Vice President of Student Affairs**
  - Frank Lamas is leaving and a search has started. This will be a national search with faculty representatives on the search team, with the final selection to be made by the president, to whom the new VP will directly report.
- **Commencement**
  - Academic regalia orders are due by April 1. In response to questions, he does not have figures about faculty attendance at prior commencements nor any information about potential consequences for not attending. Regarding the decision to no longer seat faculty on stage, it is a matter of consistency: some units' faculties are too large to fit on stage, therefore all faculty except those presenting/hooding will be seated in the audience.
- **Reporting issues**
  - He understands that required reporting regarding students can be burdensome for faculty, especially since 4- and 8-week reporting is now required. He encourages faculty to use Blackboard, as well as have something to report by the 4-week mark, even if it is only a quiz or two. The point is early intervention for students who appear as though they might be headed toward problems.
  - Wasserman: Is there any empirical investigating to see if any of this really matters?
  - DS: There is some indirect evidence that prior to this reporting program, the retention rate for first-year students was 7-8 points lower, although this does not prove a causal relationship.
- **Work-Life Balance Committee**
  - **María Martínez-Cosío:** With regard to free childcare during Commencement, the challenge is finding a site. A blog for parents is being developed.
- **Assorted issues**
  - DS thanks the senators for sending departmental guidelines regarding promotion and tenure to him, as requested at a prior senate session. All the guidelines will be posted on the Faculty Affairs website so that the variety of guidelines across the campus can be assessed.
  - With response to a question, he does know of any procedures currently in place to examine faculty salaries/compensation equity.

## Senate Business

- **February minutes: approved by vote.**
- **Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCoFS)**
  - Ingram: the meeting covered general issues such as the role of contingent faculty, the unbundling of sports coaches as instructors, financial exigency, freedom in the classroom, and the economic status of the profession, which has declined.
- **New standing committee for IT and information security policy (Dancila):**
  - Although Jim Bradley (VP IT) will partner with the committee, it ultimately will advise the president.
  - Whether the committee has a rep from each unit and/or whether the senate chair will appoint members still needs to be clarified.
- **Special Projects (Kongevick):** March 28 is the deadline for Toni Sol to receive the complete digital dossier for any faculty member desiring to become a Professor Emeritus.
- **Financial exigency policy: approved by vote.**
- **Academic Program Review Committee:** Sol requests two volunteers. Cavanagh and Chrzanowski offer to serve.
- **HOP Committee (Hullender):**
  - **Current Language of Section 6-305 Promotion and Tenure Process**
    - A. Department P/T Committee Review
    - 1 Committee Composition
      - “Departments will establish departmental P/T committees. Departmental committees will have a minimum membership of three (3) tenured faculty. Committee size, composition (number of faculty in each rank), membership, and term of office will be decided by vote of the tenured and tenure track voting faculty of the department. Deans, assistant and associate deans, chairs or equivalent are not eligible to serve on the committee. If the department lacks sufficient tenured faculty members to constitute a committee, qualified faculty from related disciplines shall be selected by vote of the voting faculty of the department.”
  - **Proposed Language of Section 6-305 Promotion and Tenure Process**
    - A. Department P/T Committee Review
    - 1 Committee Composition
      - “Departments will establish departmental P/T committees. The members of the Departmental committees should be tenured faculty and the committees will have a minimum membership of three (3) faculty. Committee size, composition (number of faculty in each rank), membership, and term of office will be decided by vote of the tenured and tenure track voting faculty of the department. Deans, assistant and associate deans, chairs or equivalent are not eligible to serve on the committee. If the department lacks sufficient tenured faculty members to constitute a committee, qualified faculty from related disciplines shall be selected by vote of the voting faculty of the department.”
  - The proposed change was discussed and a vote was tabled until the April 16 session.

**A closed session was then convened.**

**The session was reopened at 3:59.**

**Sol: Meeting adjourned at 4:00.**

Revised minutes submitted by Douglas Klahr on 2 April 2014.