



Faculty Senate

The Forum for Professors at UTA

"An Elected Legislative and Deliberative Faculty Body Whose Primary Purpose is to Represent UT Arlington Faculty"

Faculty Senate Minutes

22 October 2014

Senate Leadership in Attendance

- Toni Sol, Senate Chair
- Tom Ingram, Past Chair
- Douglas Klahr, Secretary
- Reni Courtney, Parliamentarian

Senators and Student Representative in Attendance

John Adams	Business	Loan Ho	Student Congress President
Amanda Alexander	Liberal Arts	Joseph Ignagni	Liberal Arts
Mindi Anderson	Nursing	Seokjin Jeong	Liberal Arts
Siamak Ardekani	Engineering	Theresa Jorgensen	Science
Bethany Bateman	SAC Representative	Sonia Kania	Liberal Arts
Rebecca Bichel	Library	Joseph Kongevick	Liberal Arts
Miriam Byrd	Liberal Arts	Don Liles	Engineering
Dan Cavanagh	Liberal Arts	Yuan Peng	Science
Thomas Chrzanowski	Science	M. K. Raja	Business
Norman Cobb	Social Work	Barbara Raudonis	Nursing
Stephanie Cole	Liberal Arts	James Richards	Architecture
David Coursey	SUPA	Stefan Romanoschi	Engineering
D. Stefan Dancila	Engineering	Jennifer Ronyak	Liberal Arts
Chris Ding	Engineering	Peggy Semingson	Education + HP
Amir Farbin	Science	D.J. Seo	Engineering
Luanne Frank	Liberal Arts	Jason Shelton	Liberal Arts
Kevin Gustafson	Liberal Arts	Albert Tong	Engineering
Tom Hall	Business	Martha Walvoord	Liberal Arts
James Hardy	Education	Matthew Wright	Engineering

Guests

- David Silva, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
- Maria Martinez-Cosio, Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Development
- Rebecca Bichel, Dean of the Library

Call to Order: Toni Sol

2:35 PM

Remarks from David Silva

- **The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence:** the interim director retired in May and an offer has just been made for a new director. It is hoped that a new director will be in place by December 1.

- **Ebola:** the university, in conjunction with the city of Arlington, has an Ebola response plan. Regarding influenza, all faculty members are eligible for a free quadrivalent version of the flu vaccine, as noted in an e-mail sent to faculty. The vaccine is being managed but not administered by student health services, and certain times/places for flu vaccine clinics have been announced. One for faculty is scheduled for November 1 in the Palo Duro Lounge, and a driver's license and photocopy of one's insurance card are needed in order to receive the vaccine.
- **FDLs and REPs:** one workshop already has been held and the next one is scheduled for October 23. A reminder: only tenured faculty may apply for these.
- **Search updates:**
 - SOA/SUPA dean: the search is progressing with campus visits by three candidates this week. Dean Croson (COB) is the chair.
 - VP for academic programs and curriculum: the search has been put on hold and duties of this position have temporarily been redistributed. An earlier search was not successful. He is chair of the search committee and will work with an executive search firm. So it is still an open ticket although on hold right now.
 - COS dean: a committee has been formed and Dean Behbehani (COE) is the chair.
 - VP communications: a committee has been formed.
 - VP development: airport interviews have occurred (reported by Dean Bichel).
 - VP research: a committee is being formed.
- **Faculty hiring policy:** hiring plans are being released by the Provost.
 - Sol: The provost explained that hiring was going to be rolled out in three stages.
- **Official enrollment:** almost 35,000. When you add those who are taking courses outside Texas online, it goes to about 40,000 but these are not counted by the Coordinating Board. When we add in all those who are taking continued education courses, we get close to 70,000.
- **Healthcare at UT SW:** this was just a pilot program and there is no discussion regarding a future for it.
- **Syllabus templates:** will attempt to distribute annual template updates in the summer.
- **Adjunct salary rates:** these are set by department chairs.
- **Student Feedback Surveys:** Senator Tom Hall has expressed interesting in doing a study of the data, but there has been some difficulty in extracting the data due to huge data demands on campus. We therefore need to mount a different type of effort and form an ad hoc committee that would work toward getting some of this data. The UT System has no interest in validating the SFS instrument, and is just interested in attaining the data.
- **Publishing of SFS student comments:** the questions that UT System Chancellor Reyes posed in the policy proposal are perhaps the wrong ones to ask. Perhaps we should ask why are we doing this and does it make sense? He [Silva] is uncomfortable with students' comments being posted on a website.

Discussion regarding publishing of SFS student comments

- Cole: instances of inappropriate/derogatory student comments that could constitute sexual harassment have occurred. Publishing these could result in lawsuits filed by faculty members regarding a hostile work environment.
- Coursey: not only the cost of implementing a system regarding FERPA regulations but also the cost of potential lawsuits need to be stressed to UT System.
- Frank: no mention of students being asked to have their names published along with their comment. Silva: yes, it is an unequal playing field, giving students anonymity.
- Dancila: if the policy goes forward, could we replace the comments section with something else?
- Silva: only the 5 questions are required. Everything else is up to our discretion. We could deliver a variety of attributes – positive and negative – that students could check. The comments are more valuable to us as an internal matter than they would be on a website, but they cannot be aggregated like the data obtained from the five mandatory questions. Some institutions have students run the comment process.

- Bateman: as a U Toronto grad, I saw how the process worked, although it was a while ago. At U Toronto, it was a great idea to have students take charge, for it encourage involvement in the process.
- Byrd: if we were to pass ownership to students, wouldn't we have the same problem with sexual harassment comments occurring?
- Silva: possibly, but there is a distinction between having a publishing process that is administratively sanctioned and one that is not. There has been a reduction in the amount of inappropriate comments since the SFS now focuses more on the learning experience than on the instructor. Still, such comments online would live forever, and we have to have a zero tolerance policy toward them.
- Sol: feedback from FAC to UT System about this proposed policy is due at the end of the first week in November, so all faculty who have received such comments are encouraged to send them to Sol so that she can have a collection of comments for the report by Nov 1.

September minutes approval: motion made, seconded and minutes approved.

Election of chair-elect:

- **Ingram:** quorum present. Past chair serves as the chair of the nominating committee upon which Raudonis and Courtney also served. Two nominations received: Cavanagh and Dancila. The floor is open for further nominations, none forthcoming. Motion to closed nominations made, seconded and approved. Nominees will give speeches.
- **Cavanagh:** at UT Arlington six years and has been in Austin as representative for TCoFS (Texas Council of Faculty Senates), which I hope will be useful experience. I am a big proponent of the way this body interacts with the administration. If we get too rough, that cooperation will shut down, but we still must push for important issues, such as the discussion about commencement last year. There is a lot of pre-communication coming from the administration, and I want that to continue. I will be an effective voice for the faculty.
- **Dancila:** I am a grad of Georgia Tech and have been here for five years. My research area is aerospace energy. What motivates me is that UT Arlington is undergoing a significant structural change, and it is important for the senate to have a strong body and faculty to have strong self-governance. What prepares me is being the chair of the Information and Security Committee, serving on the PAB (President's Advisory Board), and FDL committee. My style: I favor a clear message, transparency, a clear and coherent voice. The administration deserves this type of voice. There are two sides to an agenda: one is handed down to us that we cannot control but we can come to informed decisions via discussion. The second part is proactive: I would focus upon strategic issues for the faculty, and a leading one is career development. Also the hiring of new faculty and the development of infrastructure, especially IT.
- **Ingram:** both candidates have agreed to continue to serve in the senate regardless of the outcome. The new chair-elect is Dan Cavanagh.

Library report by Dean Bichel

- **Acquisition policy:** the old policy was driven by the number of volumes owned by an academic library, but today the perspective has shifted to how many you can provide access to. There are some factors driving these changes:
 - **Expanding used populations and their expectations.**
 - **A doubling of information every 13 months.**
 - **Budget:** library no longer receives dollars from library fees but instead receives a flat budget. About 50% of the total budget is spent on salaries but 90% of the remaining half – therefore 45% of the total – is spent on collections. Our operational budget does not permit us to take funds from unfilled salaries and use them for collections. We now lease and don't buy content, but the rates increase every year. The annual inflation rate for journal prices is twice that of the

consumer price index. Book budgeting therefore is suffering to keep up with journal price inflation, and journal prices are negotiated at the system level: we cannot back out of them.

- **Circulation:** for books purchased 2000-2013, overall 44% have never circulated.
 - Feb-Aug 2013: traditional purchase model used, resulting in 28% circulation rate
 - Feb-Aug 2014: new model used, resulting in 49% circulation rate
 - The new model: on-demand purchasing. There is an auto-link to the ILL that the library uses to purchase via Amazon 2-day delivery, with a goal of getting the book to the faculty member within one week.
 - Requests are filtered not through department but through the library's budget.
- **Multimedia licenses for online courses:** we do purchase these, but we also are looking ahead to where groups of faculty could make larger buys.
- **Fund to pay faculty publication fees:** this is discussion with the Provost.
- **Library attorney:** we are in the process of hiring an attorney for scholarly information who will serve the faculty. We hope to have that position in place by the beginning of 2015.
 - **Sol:** Patricia Hearn and the President are charged with reviewing IP (intellectual property) policy.

Committee reports

- **Cavanagh for Operating Procedures:** we are charged with looking at recommendations for dual appointments and have had one meeting. We have come up with a list of research questions that we will attack this semester.
- **Dancila for IT Information + Security:** we have met twice, elected a chair, and met with the president at our second meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11

Submitted by Douglas Klahr on 29 October 2014