



# 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

4 February 2015

### Senate Leadership in Attendance

Toni Sol, Senate Chair  
Dan Cavanagh, Chair-Elect  
Douglas Klahr, Secretary  
Reni Courtney, Parliamentarian  
Tom Ingram, UT System FAC

### Senators and Student Representatives in Attendance

John Adams	Business	Tom Hall	Business
Amanda Alexander	Liberal Arts	Loan Ho	Student Congress President
Mindi Anderson	Nursing	Andrew Hunt	Science
Siamak Ardekani	Engineering	Seokjin Jeong	Liberal Arts
Donelle Barnes	Nursing	Sheik Imrhan*	Engineering
Bethany Bateman	SAC	Theresa Jorgensen	Science
Dan Cavanagh	Liberal Arts	Joseph Kongevick	Liberal Arts
Thomas Chrzanowski	Science	Yuan Peng	Science
Norman Cobb	Social Work	Barbara Raudonis	Nursing
Stephanie Cole	Liberal Arts	James Richards	SOA
David Coursey	SUPA	Peggy Semingson	Education + HP
Bill Crowder	Business	DJ Seo	Engineering
D. Stefan Dancila	Engineering	Jason Shelton	Liberal Arts
Ray Elliott	Liberal Arts	Albert Tong	Engineering
Luanne Frank	Liberal Arts	Michael Young	Nursing
Kevin Gustafson	Liberal Arts		

\*Standing in for Don Liles

### Guests

Vistap Karbhari, President  
Ron Elsenbaumer, Provost  
David Silva, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs  
Maria Martinez-Cosio, Office of the Provost  
Nakia Pope, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

### Call to Order: Toni Sol

2:31 PM

### Remarks from President Karbhari

- **UT System Chancellor William McRaven**
  - The new chancellor made two visits to UT Arlington over the past two weeks: the Winter Executives' Meeting, which is a meeting of the largest group of donors to UT System, and a campus visit. About 100 gathered at the Executives' Meeting at our campus in Fort Worth to discuss future priorities. The Chancellor's campus visit to Arlington was our first big opportunity to present UT Arlington in the best light, with Regents also in attendance. All the Regents are receptive to us being named one of the top units in the system, and Frank Alexander, chair of the Executive Council, stated that we represent "the urban flagship of the system".
- **UT Arlington Strategic Plan**
  - He will be presenting it next week at a Regents meeting, with only 15 minutes given to outline the plan. He is hoping that they will approve it and move forward, and from what he has heard, they seem in favor of where we are headed. The last stage in putting the document together is the Principles of Community, which Douglas Klahr and others have worked on. Public commentary on this will occur soon.
- **The Texas Legislature Session**
  - He encourages anyone who is approached by the media for commentary about the session to first contact Kristin Sullivan, Associate Vice President for Media Relations before speaking to a member of the press.
- **Renovations/New Buildings**
  - We were told last year that if we proposed just renovating the Life Sciences Building, there would be no money available from TRB (Tuition Revenue Bonds). Therefore we are combining it with construction of a new Life Sciences/Engineering Building and proposing a higher number than before (now 230-240 million). There would be a crosswalk over the road connecting the two buildings; therefore we hope to build the new one first and transfer personnel to the new building before renovations begin. A new building for nursing also is being requested.

#### Remarks from Provost Elsenbaumer

- **UT System Chancellor William McRaven**
  - The new Chancellor made clear that we don't always have to look to UT Austin as the only leader, that some of our things are at the forefront as an institution. Some interesting approaches were proposed at the meeting regarding being more flexible with faculty workload issues, e.g., looking for more entrepreneurial activities, and he was very supportive.
  - The Chancellor has come out with two reductions in unfunded mandates:
    - Elimination or postponement of doing anything more with faculty data files [as per the faculty "dashboard" originally instituted at Texas A+M that included faculty workloads and salaries, etc.];
    - Postponement of a request on enrollment management that was received a few weeks ago. He doesn't see the need for either of these two data collection endeavors at this point, and is attempting to reduce the number of data requests made of institutions.
- **Teaching Load Discussion**
  - Shelton: What is it that we count for teaching? Are there ways to reduce teaching load? There is quite a bit of flexibility under Regents' Rules that we have used, so how do we use that to our benefit?
  - Silva: Our challenge is the way we are valued and quantified. It is antiquated regarding the emphasis upon the hours of instruction: these current metrics don't match the reality of who we are, for we are a research university. Unfortunately, under the existing system of evaluation, things like research and service are extra-ordinary things. It therefore is less about reducing teaching load and more about how to adequately evaluate what we actually do, such as research and service. The system needs to be rethought to bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- Ron: It's a workload issue, not a teaching issue.

#### Remarks from Vice Provost Silva

- **The Faculty Affairs Office**
  - The office is now open for business on the fourth floor of the Central Library, with a small conference room that can be reserved for 12-14 person by calling 2-7422. Also check out the "maker" space on the first floor of the library.
- **The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence**
  - Nakia Pope is the new director [introduces him], and the webpage now has a site devoted to peer evaluation of teaching.
  - Pope: He is happy to come departments to train as well, and happy to hear from faculty as to what we want the center to do. This first full semester is devoted to ascertaining needs and mission of the center.
- **Peer Evaluation of Teaching Discussion**
  - Silva: If a department already has a process, that is fine, as long as it doesn't conflict with university guidelines, and deans determine this. One important change: we no longer can include the document in the official record, even if this was done in past procedures. We ask the deans to have college level policies, for that is the path of least resistance regarding UT System and the HOP.
  - Sol: She has been through the process and enjoyed it, for it was constructive.
  - Silva: This is exactly what we are looking for – not a punitive process, but rather about professional development. Therefore take seriously the reflection paragraph that you have to write after you are evaluated.
- **QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan)**
  - This is coming around again in 2017 and we are behind schedule right now. The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellent is a tangible outcome of a prior QEP, and the next one might be about experiential education.
- **Attendance Issues**
  - Silva: He acknowledges that the new MyMav requirements are difficult for Monday evening courses if a student happens to miss one class, but these are the exceptions.
  - Chrzanowski: Regarding taking attendance in large classes, he decided to try to create a single question exam in Blackboard as a true/false response, e.g., "Yes, I was here and read the syllabus".
  - Silva: The alternative is to give five true/false questions regarding the syllabus on the second day, which therefore acts as a roll call and also a record of reading the syllabus. Note: word out there is that all faculty may be pushed into using Blackboard in the future, so it is a good idea to become familiar with it.
- **Assorted Items**
  - **David Silva's position:** There are some discussions about the future of the position and an announcement should occur shortly.
  - **Mentis:** All Mentis files must be updated soon if faculty want to be included in the April 21 recognition day. The library draws faculty achievements solely from Mentis profiles.
  - **Note-taking services:** Grade Buddy is a scam and do not allow it. Nobody should be in your class to take notes for students to share with them later. Students can take their own notes and sell them on Notebook. If you have any questions, contact Mario Martinez-Cosio, and she will put you in contact with the university attorney.
  - **Contacts from the media:** Refer them to Kristin Sullivan for two reasons. First, that is what your compliance training compels you to do and you therefore breach your training if you do not. Second, if Sullivan comes back and says that you are welcome to interact with someone from the media, then feel free to say yes or no, as well as asking Sullivan's office for support that they can

give you, for instance, during an on-camera interview. Remember that you can say anything as a private citizen, but not within your capacity as a university employee.

- **Farewell remarks:** He has been here for 21 years and was honored to be the first Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs. A university is all about faculty, students and staff all working together. We are not a college but a university, and part of that is creating new knowledge. Therefore without the faculty, we are not a university [departs to a strong round of applause].

**Call for a quorum from the chair.**

**Quorum confirmed by the parliamentarian.**

**Call for a motion from the chair to approve the November 2014 minutes. Motion made and seconded, minutes approved.**

#### **Discussion by senate leadership regarding the Chancellor and Regents**

- **Sol:** Regarding the Regents, Steven Hicks has been reappointed, and we heard that he might be the next chair. Sara Martinez Tucker and David Beck are incoming Regents. Regarding the Chancellor, we were impressed with him. He wants to get away from a focus upon the mechanics of data gathering and seems very supportive of faculty.
- **Ingram:** He was very commanding and says the right things. He is not naïve to Texas politics, for he attended UT Austin. He drew an analogy between his previous command structure within the Navy as being virtually the same as dealing with multiple institutions within a system, the legislature, and dealing with Regents. He did not seem overwhelmed by the job at any point, and I don't see him as being a puppet of anybody.
- **Klahr:** One of the most important points he made is that he told the Regents that he does not want them dealing directly with university presidents, but rather to go through him as the intermediary.
- **Reni:** At the meeting that we had with the Chancellor, the first order of business was to have everyone introduce themselves to him. He seemed to want to know about everyone, and also talked about how the humanities made him the tough soldier that he is.
- **Elliott:** He also very strongly stated that he is against having guns on campus.

#### **Senate membership, committees and FAC**

- **Sol:** We welcome two new senators from the College of Nursing and Health Innovation: Donelle Barnes and Michael Young. On another note, we need a volunteer to serve on the university Program Review Committee. It is a two-day job where you meet with program reviewers and accompany them, etc. Kevin Gustafson volunteers.
- **Ingram FAC report**
  - **Guns on campus:** the FAC passed a resolution against any such measure in September 2014 and reiterated its stance at the January meeting. There might be an option for individual campuses to opt in or out regarding this.
  - **Medical units:** new medical campuses in the Rio Grande Valley and in Austin mean that for the first time, there will be a coupling of academic and medical units.
  - **Employment advisory council:** FAC met with the head of employment advisory council looking at a way of shared concerns between faculty and staff, e.g., training and support for staff, incentivizing food staff, etc.
  - **UT Seek:** it is a dashboard for transparency so people can track how a student is doing at UT. We are now tracking 5-7 years of data after students graduate, re employment and salaries, 1 and 5 years out, with a goal of doing 10 years out, but only students who stay in Texas. This data helps to answer questions regarding whether college is worth it. [Sol: IRS may cooperate in the future re tracking students who have left Texas].
  - **Legislative session:**

- There is a very conservative budget coming out of the senate this time, as opposed to the house.
- The unfunded mandate for veterans, the Hazelwood Act, does impact us, and that may come up for discussion.
- In the next decade, the legislature would like to see at least two years of study dual credit high school/college credit become a reality, with community colleges then awarded limited baccalaureate degrees. There already are 2-3 program nationwide regarding this, such as one in Florida. These will start with managerial, technical and vocational degrees. The legislature says that it will take care with how this interacts with SACS. The bottom line is that they are going to need our credentials to certify those community college degrees.
- Competency based education: about 10% of state funding will be tied to this. UTA is only 18% funded by the state, so the actual percentage will be small.
- **Cavanagh Operating Procedures Committee report:** We are collecting data from peer institutions re best practices for dual appointments and should have a report by the April session. We seek information from faculty members who have dual appointments re job descriptions, mechanics of how it works, how loads are split, promotions, etc.
- **Dancila re IT and Information Security Committee:** the committee has not met since the last session.
  - **Jeong:** UTA IT was slow to respond to inquiries re a secure data system that can transfer large amounts of data such as UT SW has.

#### **Old Business from the chair**

- **Summer salaries:** Tom Hall was sent data regarding the budget, and this will be forwarded to the provost. We might not be able to get a percentage of annual salary increase, but could maybe raise the cap.
- **P+T committee membership:** We are seeking clarification re a requirement to have a minimum of three tenured members: does this mean that untenured members can serve?
- **COLA Dean Search Committee:** Kim van Noort is chair.
- **Alternative funding for faculty research:** the president and provost are working on how to make this workable for the entire campus, and the senate suggested that it be run by department chairs and section heads. The Budget Liaison Committee is charged with dealing with the issue of summer online courses not being eligible for such funding.
- **Professor emeritus nomination:** The chair requests that senators inform their units of the length of the process (Section 6-201 in the HOP) immediately, for nominations need to pass up through unit and reach the senate chair by March 27.

#### **New Business**

- **Senate updates on Faculty Affairs Newsletter:** [Cavanagh]: Would like to add items/updates once in a while on the Faculty Affairs Newsletter, for it fits within the Faculty Affairs Division and also increases the visibility of the Faculty Senate. Requests that members send him ideas regarding short paragraphs.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:57**

**Submitted by Douglas Klahr on 15 February 2015**