

regarding research and another regarding student success. Neither is in a bill until they go into conference. We have good support from Tarrant County, chambers of commerce and the corporate world regarding these.

- Discussion regarding open carry bill: things are being tried that might allow a rider for each campus.
- **Regents Meeting in May**
 - Approval for CAPP (College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs), as well as for a Ph.D. in kinesiology and also for some new residence halls on campus.
 - Two new regents begin: one from Dallas, one from Houston.

Remarks from Provost Elsenbaumer

- **Academies of Distinguished Teachers and Scholars**
 - We are working on making awards for induction into these academies. In the past, we gave only one or two awards for distinguished record of research/creative activity and for outstanding record of research/creative activity. This year we will potentially be awarding up to 3 or 4 in each category. It is time to recognize this larger percentage of faculty: we are trying to increase the membership, so the pipeline must increase, and receiving an award is the first step toward eventual membership. The process is through the committee of the academy.
 - President Karbhari: It is not only about acknowledging faculty but also providing a pool from which we can nominate for awards at the system level.
 - Maria Cosio-Martinez: It also allows us to broaden the disciplinary scope and not have a few disciplines dominate.
- **Assorted questions for the President and Provost**
 - Chrzanowski: Can you provide us with figures for the current P+T process? President: We are not yet finished and cannot provide figures until mid-April.
 - Coursey: Notices regarding university closure (e.g., for inclement weather) are confusing for online classes; the language needs to be refined. Provost: We will look at how we phrase this and then look at a policy that we can provide.
 - Farbin: Are 10 students still required for graduate classes? Provost: We have kept that for an efficiency basis but will look at it case by case, especially when a class is needed for graduation.
 - Dancila: The number of instruction hours required for fulltime status needs to be reevaluated, especially with regard advanced classroom instruction. Provost: The current amount is 9 hours, and this is something to be looked at.

Focus from the President regarding the Strategic Plan

- There basically are three parts: look at his presentation to the Regents regarding this.
- The first part of the plan concerns our legacy and history, which are based on concepts of being innovative, diverse in the broadest sense, excellent in what we do, and providing access to education for a wide range of students who were committed to getting an education. We focus a lot on student success.
- The second part: where we are based, in the Metroplex, which is growing to megacity status. Our faculty already is working on megacity problems around the world, so it made sense to focus upon this team and how we can have an impact upon the region.
- Third part: our closeness to DFW Airport means that we should use this to our best advantage.
- The four broad themes of the strategic plan integrate all units of the university.
- The plan is also about students having work experience before graduation. This becomes an important fact for us, and therefore internships become important, engaging with the corporate community.

- On another level: what is being done in each college? Each of the deans already has put together an extensive plan regarding this. Now we synthesize these into a larger plan, and therefore some items will drop to lower or local level priority, whereas others will rise to university-wide basis.

Discussion regarding the Strategic Plan

- **Dan Cavanagh** to senators: see page 35 of the Strategic Plan PDF regarding aspirations. Reports also are available individually on the website. To President: how can we as members of faculty governance help with realizing the plan?
- **President:** on the philosophical level, it is important that a lot of the plan came from the bottom up. As we go forward, departments and college become important regarding ownership and implementation of the plan. The senate can help in two ways: (1) there already is a wealth of faculty committed to working together, bringing views together across disciplines; (2) innovation in community engagement is important, and SUPA currently is providing an example of this. As far as the senate, I encourage the senate as a body to come up with a list of items that it feels are most important and pass it along to the administration, for this would be great input.
- **Provost:** The plan cuts across dimensions of teaching, research and service. It affects faculty hiring and how they link across units. Colleges already are talking with one another and this has non-linear effects on how we will grow in the future. Regarding senate input, we need this quickly, for SACS is coming up.
- **Dancila:**
 - The four themes identify the pull elements, but what about the push at the individual faculty level? What about faculty with expertise in an area that doesn't fit into one of the four themes? Will they be supported?
 - The 2020 60% graduation rate goal is dependent upon retaining students already here.
 - The 2020 faculty breakdown regarding contingent/tenured, tenure-track is not provided in the plan. Why is this?
- **President:**
 - Yes, those faculty will be supported. This is a living document that states priorities and changes will occur. Internal and external stimuli will affect it.
 - Once we take into account students who complete their degrees elsewhere, the graduation rate is 55%. Therefore the major challenge is to convince students to complete their degrees here.
 - A lot of hiring decisions will depend upon units and that is why no specific breakdown is given for 2020, so that we have some flexibility going forward.
- **Provost:** regarding student retention, this is where the senate and entire faculty can help, paying attention to every detail of a successful progression of our students. Therefore items such a prompt grade submissions are important.
- **Coursey:** regarding departmental structure, people still work by discipline, yet we are now looking at a matrix organization. How well will this be supported by the HOP?
- **President:** We will have to figure out way to cross these boundaries, and if the HOP isn't working we will have to come up with new ways. Look at action plans: what do you think is possible in the short run? How would our students benefit the most? Are the numbers good? What do faculty believe they actually can do with regard to any of these?
- **Provost:** We can use program terminology or we can change the HOP. We do not want anyone constrained by the HOP if they have a new idea or concept.
- **Farbin:** Are they occasions for faculty to get together, faculty symposia?
- **Semingson:** What is the process for cross-pollination among faculty and disciplines? At what level does this occur? Is there an innovation lounge or space where faculty can meet?
- **Dancila:** Serendipity plays a role regarding informal interaction among faculty. Could a lounge be created?

- **Courtney:** The great challenge is overcoming inertia of our daily schedules in order to have any of these interactions. Maybe the senate could put some time into thinking about this.
- **President:** The cross-pollination occurs at all levels, from faculty to deans. There is a long-term concept called an innovation depot, but this is a term used for a place for commercializing ideas. We are working with the city regarding space and money for this, and some of this is tied with UTARI. Some faculty are using the University Club for interactions. We also will be opening a Starbucks at the bookstore that will stay open longer than bookstore hours.

Guests depart

Approval of February minutes

Reports:

- **Cavanagh:**
 - The **public reports about deans** will be more detailed than in the past and will be on the provost's website for the UTA community.
 - **Senate bylaws** require us to get written reports from university-level committees once a year. Dan wants senate feedback regarding this, as opposed to having people come and present to the senate and requests e-mails concerning this issue.
 - **Chrzanowski:** The background regarding this is that during President Witt, staff meetings were held on a regular basis and every VP gave a status report. The senate was incorporated into these meetings as well, and sometimes we gained very useful information. After Witt, those meetings disappeared and we relied more on written reports. While he still supports written reports, they were not as useful as meetings.
 - **Dancila:** Written reports are preferable for they make one organize one's thoughts well.
- **Ingram:** **FAC** will meet in April and we will hear from the Regents, Chancellor and legislative updates. Regarding a gun bill, something will pass and the best case would be a local option.
 - FAC met with the Chancellor and continue to be impressed by his leadership. His job is to help presidents run their individual institutions, and he intends to visit each campus annually. FAC presented him with the following issues:
 - Enhanced evaluation of administrators from chairs upward
 - Balancing teaching with the pressure of doing research, especially that which can be monetized
 - Competitive pay: salary compression, inequality, variance across the system
 - Competitive compensation for grad students
 - Having a FAC rep present at every UT system task force, e.g., intellectual property, as well as including past FAC chairs on health and academic affairs committees of the Regents with speaking but not voting privileges
- **Dancila:** Regarding **TCofS**, see the two-page memo about collegiality.
- **Cavanagh:**
 - **Operating procedures committee** will have a report for the next session on joint appointments. We are looking at aspirational institutions, of which only one-third to one-half have policies already, but these are very instructive. We may get the presidential okay to develop a policy.
 - **Emeritus professor nominations** deadline is approaching. The process: departmental ACTP to chair to dean to provost to senate emeritus committee then back to provost and president.
 - **Faculty survey:** desires feedback regarding the senate creating a new faculty survey. Thinks it might be time to assess the faculty climate across campus.
 - **Gustafson:** Contingent faculty have rising concerns in general. Would they be included in the survey, and what is the prospect of them serving in the senate

- **Ingram:** There is history of the senate considering contingent faculty serving and concluding that establishment of a separate governance body for them would be most effective, given that they often have different interests than tenured/tenure-track faculty.
- **Coursey:** Suggests that we think about having focus groups regarding what the questions would be like.
- **Departmental chairs as 12-month administrative positions:** this is the push going forward, and it is coming down from UT System. The push is to have them filled by full professors whenever possible. We need to address the question whether such chairs would be eligible to serve in the senate. An increasing number of chairs are being filled by external search firms involved.
- **David Silva's position:** no clarity yet as to whether that position will be filled, changed, or dissolved. The senate needs to think about a possible resolution or motion regarding the importance of this position.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29

Submitted by Douglas Klahr on 31 March 2015