



Faculty Senate Minutes

March 23, 2016

Senate Leadership in Attendance

Dan Cavanagh, Chair
Theresa Jorgensen, Secretary
Ray Elliot, Parliamentarian
Toni Sol, Past Chair
Tom Ingram, UT System FAC

Senators and Student Representatives in Attendance

John Adams	Finance/Real Estate	Tom Hall	Accounting
Amanda Alexander	Art/Art History	James Hardy	Educational Leadership
Siamak Ardekani	Engineering	Desiree Henderson	English
Ivonne Audirac	Planning and Landscaping	Seokjin Jeong	Criminology/Crim Justice
Donnelle Barnes	Nursing	Susanna Khavul	Management
Donald Butler	Electrical Engineering	Peter Lehmann	Social Work
Miriam Byrd	Phil/Huma	Don Liles	Ind, Manufact, & Syst Eng
Joe Chapa	Theatre Arts	Luca Maddalena	Mech & Aerospace Eng
Kay-Yut Chen	INSY/OPMA	Chris Morris	History
Thomas Chrzanowski	Biology	Kytai Nguyen	Bioengineering
Norman Cobb	Social Work	Mohan Pant	Curriculum + Inst.
David Coursey	Public Affairs	Yuan Peng	Psychology
Reni Courtney	Nursing	Jason Shelton	Soci/Anth
Bill Crowder	Economics	Martha Walvoord	Music
D. Stefan Dancila	Mechanical Engineering	Arne Winguth	EES
Amir Farbin	Physics	Naoko Witzel	Linguistics/TESOL
George Gintole	Architecture	Shiyong Yang	Marketing

Guest in attendance:

Linda Johnsrud, Interim Provost
Nakia Pope, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

1. Call to Order: Dan Cavanagh

2:3 PM

2. Welcome from the Chair

3. Identification of any press members present (none)

4. Remarks from Interim Provost Johnsrud

- The position for vice provost for faculty affairs ad has been posted. I am interested in an internal hire if possible. Decided to do national search in any event. We will have faculty representation on search committee.
- Parking, tickets concerns. I talked to John Hall and Kim Lemieux. We need to give the faculty an update, so they will come to Faculty Senate in April.

Questions to the Provost

- **Senator:** Update on tenure and promotion decisions? **Linda:** Denials have been notified. As of this morning I signed a stack of letters with affirmations. They will go out no later than tomorrow.
- **Senator:** If you haven't heard yet, you will get good news? My chair said he was not informed of these decisions before candidate. Is there rationale for this change in procedure? **Linda:** I didn't know we changed anything. The deans knew of all denials. They came out of the president's office.
- **Senator:** A junior faculty member in my department is expressing frustration with UT Share and setting up his lab, and in comparing himself with folks at other institutions. We have a mess. We have had to hire more people in our department to just deal with UT Share. Are these concerns bubbling up to you. These problems are not getting better. **Linda:** I sat in on audit committee report this morning. UT Share reported. Someone is visiting system to solve this problem. He has been on the job for one month. UT Share has been a disaster. All the money spent to solve the problem have not solved the problem. He is working on it systematically. He is changing the governance structure. He is talking about shifting possibly to centers of excellence at different campuses. This UT Share system is making the president maddest.
- **Senator:** IT is not just UT Share. There are other systems at UT Arlington, we need to fix how we run it.
- **Senator:** I echo this. I see missing functionality in the software. And reconciling accounts. Forensic accounting. There is no guarantee this can be done.
- **Linda:** Chairs have brought me screen shots and said "I cannot sign off."
- **Senator:** Discrepancy between departmental T&P requirements and unwritten criteria applied at the university level. **Linda:** I know of no situations where criteria have been applied unknown to candidate. Historically it has not been as bad as people say. Deans are reflecting anxiety among the faculty. I have asked the deans to share with me the college level criteria and all the departmental criteria so I can make a matrix and come back to the deans and give them feedback. Deans are doing that right now.
- **Senator:** Can you give us a percentage of number of cases rejected this year? **Linda:** I have the numbers. I will send them to Dan.
- **Senator:** Will there be mechanism for transparency in T&P above College level? For denials, will we hear reasons for denials? **Cavanagh:** There is a system rule that does not allow a reason to be given by the president for the actual decision.
- **Senator** Rumor: policy that unless you were on 12 month appointment you will not be allowed to have administrative rating on faculty activity report. **Linda:** Send me an email about this so that I can look into it.
- **Senator:** I am trying to get a better idea from the university perspective of how many student FTEs have been shifted to Accelerated Online Courses (AOC). It seems a substantial number of our students have been shifted to that system. Those are all overage in teaching for faculty. What are implications of that shift? **Linda:** We are working on new business model for our AOC courses. The proportion on resident to nonresident students is key and we are watching this. It is not us shifting. It is students voting with their feet. There are consequences.

Provost departed.

5. **Call for a quorum.** A quorum is present.

6. **Approval of minutes** from Nov. 15, 2015 and Feb. 10, 2016

- Approved with friendly amendment to add more organization to minutes (use agenda outline). Provide description for two unclear bullet point (on “malfeasance” and on “growth model”).

7. **Reports**

a. **Chair report**

There is new student feedback survey software. New software, same survey. We will be able to log in and see response rates before the end. Will there be data privacy issues?

Discussion was help about potential issues with new software: is this one step away from having student comments go online? What is keeping legislature from requiring this to be accessible to everyone (if it is accessible to us as faculty?)

There is administrative support for the faculty senate. The interim provost is hiring support in her office, and one of the hires with have a percentage of FTE for the Senate

The next deadline to request travel funds from the Senate is in April Encourage colleagues to apply. \$500 per two year period.

Discussion was held about the level of travel funding per faculty member and how it is distributed.

Progress is being made on policies in the HOP committee. Most do not have bearing on us in Faculty Senate. There is one important one related to FMLA and 3rd year review.

The Tuition Waiver Scholarship is now back in place for current employees – will be allowed tuition reimbursement if the courses relate to your job.

Elections are coming up next meeting. If you are considering running, give name to Ingram, Sol, or Chzranowski.

b. **Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) report**

No meeting has happened. Ongoing things that we reported last time: working on forming task force on workload, along with other task force on dual credit hours. Next meeting is April 4. Expect significant reevaluation of post-tenure review. Steps are going closer to Texas A&M red and black report (are you profitable or not). Some regents and legislators believe post tenure review is not catching people who are not productive.

c. **TCOFS report**

Two things: presentation from THECB with regard to Texas 60 by 30 plan. Each course treated equivalent/each degree in each instituion considered same. Marketable skills to be associated to each course. I will distribute a resolution on this to senate. Second: item from bursar from UTD – proposed shift in balance of power between regents and UT System Chancellor (old bill). TCOFS asks if we are supporting such a bill to be reintroduced. TCOFS would be in a position to lobby the legislature to bring this bill back up for a vote. I will send a proposed resolution.

d. Committee reports

i. **Equity and Ethics** – We are looking at how faculty can appeal sexual harassment accusations. Currently there is no policy.

ii. **Academic Freedom and Tenure** – Language for new proposed HOP policy on makeup of university Tenure and Promotion Committee was posted. Aspirational peer institutions all have committees that look like this (made up of faculty members from each college/school). Recommend that we put this on floor for discussion and vote.

Discussion about proposal. Urgency to move this forward so that it can go through HOP committee process in time to be ready for next academic year's T&P process. What about situation in which a college does not have a full professor?

Motion by committee to pass this suggested language for makeup of university level T&P committee.

Vote: 33 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, Motion carries.

iii. **Operating Procedures** – nothing to report

iv. **Budget Liaison** – nothing to report

v. **Academic and Student Liaison** – Committee provided recommendation for how student academic dishonesty cases are processed, related to faculty input. Four recommendations: instructor should have right to 1) get updates on case, 2) submit new information at any stage in hearing process, 3) attend hearing, and 4) after hearing have right to appeal. Also, they recommend an instruction page to accompany the form which faculty fill out when reporting the academic dishonesty.

vi. **Information Technology and Information Security** – Head of IT is now reporting Business Affairs.

8. Old Business

a. Submit departmental T&P guidelines to chair of senate.

9. New Business

a. Pedestrians/bicycles on campus: In our department, we are the south end of fine arts building. The bridge over Cooper is there. Moving Mavs come and go there. Bikes are using the ramps and coming fast. Many of our faculty have very expensive instruments (one person over \$400,000). I have had cyclists come around the corner so fast that I could never get out of way. I have seen people in wheelchairs not be able to get out of way and have a biker go over their handlebars. What is policy? I am all in favor of more bikes, but I don't see safety.

Parking representatives will address this at the April Senate meeting.

10. Adjourn 4:31

Submitted April 25, 2016

Theresa Jorgensen, Secretary