



# Faculty Senate

The Forum for Professors at UTA

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

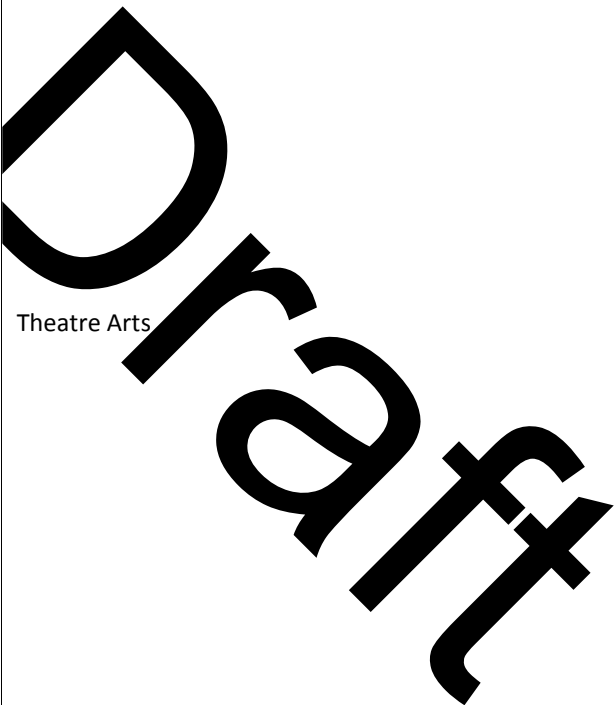
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
DRAFT October 4, 2017

**Senate Leadership in Attendance**

- Tom Ingram, FAC
- Theresa Jorgensen, Secretary
- David Coursey, Chair
- Ray Elliott, Parliamentarian
- Dan Cavanagh, Past Chair

**Senators and Student Representatives in Attendance**

Revenor Baker	INSY/OPMA	Heather Jacobson	Sociology & Anthropology
Donelle Barnes	Nursing	Kayunta Johnson-Winters	Chem & Biochem
Brad Bell	ARCH	Paul Krawietz	Kinesiology
George Benson	Management	Darryl Lauster	Art/Art History
Keith Burgess-Jackson	Philosophy/Humanities	Don Liles	Ind. Manu. & Syst. Eng.
Bill Carroll	CSE	Chris Morris	History

Joe Chapa	<p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	Taner Ozdil	PALA
George Chave	Music	Linda Perrotti	Psychology
Gregory Cook	Art/Art History	Alejandro Rodriguez	PAD

Reni Courtney	Nursing	Mike Roner	Biology
D. Stefan Dancila	Mechanical Engineering	Joseph Sabbagh	Linguistics/TESOL
Venkat Devarajan	Electrical Engineering	Peggy Semingson	C&I
Maiie Fan	EES	Mary Schira	Nursing
Jackie Fay	English	Maria Trache	ELPS
Katie Gosa	Student Congress	Martha Walvoord	Music
Penny Ingram	English	Zhiyong Yang	Marketing
Manfred Huber	CSE		

**Guests in attendance:**

Vistasp Karbari, President  
 Teik Lim, Provost  
 Toni Sol, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs  
 Maria Cosio-Martinez

**Press:**

None in attendance

1. Call to Order 2:31 pm
2. Welcome
3. Identification of press members and visitors
4. President Karbhari took questions.
  - **Senator:** What is your response to proposal from our Budget Committee, submitted to you last spring? **President:** With the Growth Model, most money is handed to the colleges. They make decisions. At the university level, it is bookkeeping. If Senate wants to be involved, it should be the college level. Very little spare money is allocated at the university level. Interaction should take place before the deans.
  - **Senator:** Have you expressed that to the deans: **President:** Not yet. I will support it is Faculty Senate want to do it. We need to give deans and chairs the ability to make the decisions they need to make. **Provost:** I have encouraged deans to grow everything from the ground up. Deans should instruct department chairs. **President:** We are required to have a plan at all levels. The intention is to go over those plans and make certain they are valid.
  - **Senator:** Budget. Departments put forth requests and dean aggregates? **President:** We don't see department requests. We see money allocated to college. We see

additional requests above Growth Model. (We want additional money for renovating, e.g.) Those department requests stay at dean level. It is for college at our level. We allow the specific decision to be made at the college level. We want them to have flexibility.

- **Chair:** At PAC we appreciated your comments at last meeting. Our deans all vary in their stances on shared governance. Comfort level with shared governance with faculty. What metrics will we use to evaluate how this is working across colleges?

**President:** Great point, very helpful. I think we should come with a process to give deans feedback on how they are doing in the arena.

- **Senator:** Incident on Monday. Potential shooter on campus. Would like insight as to how we were notified. About half my 1st class didn't get the message. Why wasn't there an alert over communication system (alarms)? There was a scary photo on Campus Police Facebook page. **President:** We need to balance things. We want public to have information, but we don't want to give info to person potentially committing a crime. We felt we didn't know where the person was going to be. We found out that when we send out a message for people to stay in place, people didn't know what to do. We will send out information to the campus community to better define those terms. It will reinforce a process that we already have but is obviously not well known. If someone brings something onto campus that is suspect, there is a process by which you inform the campus police, bring the object to them, and then they transport it. I was pleased with the speed with which our police responded. We waited 7-8 minutes to issue all clear to be certain we had identified the correct person.

- President departed at 2:55.

#### 5. Remarks from Provost Lim

- We have several projects going on. Digital Measures – Toni Sol is responsible. A way to document and count faculty credentials. Seems as though it should be easy, but given the complexity and diversity of positions that we have, it makes it difficult to count.
- Still keeping fingers crossed on SACS. Ruling will come in December in Dallas. The only good news is that SACS has a new VP. The old VP told us that they wouldn't do that if we were in trouble.
- Student Success Taskforce. President felt that was really important because it really impacts our work. New online programs are on hold, because we need to address our graduation rates to get approval from the system. We have about 3000 new freshmen. Our persistency rate is about 40%. A typical public university is around 60%. We need to grow this rate, impact those full time first time freshmen this semester. We are working with History and Math. Meetings were held on Friday at 7pm. We want the message out that UTA is embracing full time first time freshmen.

- You have a very ambitious president. He wants to bring in at least 6000 FTFT freshmen each year. I am trying to help him meet those goals by not sacrificing quality.
  - **Senator:** Is the 40% a blip? **Provost:** It has been around that rate “forever.” We are trying to impact the students who are in the middle – with intervention, we want to help them be successful.
  - **Senator:** Would be interesting for them to correlate the measures to scholastic aptitude measures. **Provost:** We did this in Cincinnati, engineering. There is no correlation for any of these with success. Only correlation is if they get C or above in first math course, they have about 90% graduation rate. I saw a TED talk, this Asian lawyer taught K-12 (grit – strong predictor of student success).
  - **Senator:** How are we teaching students grit?
  - **Senator:** Videos in online courses. Mentoring.
  - **Senator:** Do you have data on other institutions in North Texas on their persistence or graduation rates? **Provost:** We can get it. Georgia State was like us, now at 80% success rate for graduation. I have the impression our rates are very low compared to others that the System compares us with.
  - Discussion followed on factors that impact our students – financial need, grit, etc.
  - **Cosio-Martinez:** Our students leave with high GPA, with scholarships, etc. Many times they say they don’t feel as though they belong. We need to make connections with them.
  - **Provost:** At the taskforce level, we are trying to save one student at a time. Graduation help desk to open doors to get people to graduate. The major donors at Cincinnati are our lowest performers, poor students. Never discount one student.
  - **Senator:** Does CAPs hurt our 40% rate? **Provost:** At last monthly meeting with system provost, nobody likes it.  Provost departed at 3:12.
6. Remarks from Toni Sol, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs
- Explained CAPs program. We have to figure out how to keep those students here.
  - University invested in student tracking service. For each individual faculty member for each class. Go in through Blackboard link, identify lowest part of the class. Training advisors right now. Inspire for Faculty (IFF)
  - State mandate for OER. We need to identify courses in which instructors used free or low cost materials.
  - **Chair:** Titles of jobs for instructors? Full time/part time vs benefits eligible/non benefits eligible **Sol:** We are still discussing it. We are going by regents rules.
7. Quorum is present
8. Minutes from September meeting were approved by acclamation.
9. Chair report

- Parking updates reserved spots. They are going to get a service to have night time removal of cars parked in reserved spots.
- Provost asked about Student Success Summit for system. I am waiting from system on a website that will have summary of all the presentations. There were some really good ideas. We had a good contingent from UTA.
- Scholarships issues – upper administration pushed scholarships through without working with departments. One of the problems is that we have 4.5 million dollars that are unallocated. System requires a report if you don't spend a certain amount of these monies. The deans had been communicating with months ago, spend it or we will spend it for you. It didn't get to seminor down the chain.
- **Senator:** What about specific stipulations from donors? **Chair:** That is part of the issue. We want these monies to go to deserving students.
- **Senator:** Is anyone tracking these things that Davis Hall understood and yet the message never gets out? Communication is a horrible problem. **Chair:** They are going to reinstitute the department and program chairs meeting. I am talking to Provost about letting us directly email faculty. Senators need to update your faculty on critical matters.
- **Senator:** What if VP for Communication only views her job as communicating externally?
- **Chair:** Pres and Provost have authorized fiscal analysts to go to colleges that will help them do financial analysis not just budgeting. Look at costs, what we are producing, instructional cost per SCH, track over time. Also helping strategically. Helping make decisions.
- **Senator:** I am delighted to hear the Pres and Prov talk about importance of faculty in budgeting. I have never been to a budget hearing. I for one would like a little workshop on how to be partners in this process. Not just for senate but for all faculty.
- **Senator:** How can we be informed about the budget process, how can we have impact on the process? **Chair:** Kelly Davis will be here at the next meeting. She will talk about basics about university budgets.
- **Senator:** College outputs many dimensions (Ph.D. students, faculty awards, research grants, etc.) This is an optimization problem, but we need to be able to write a function....
- **Senator:** Budgeting is politics.
- **Chair:** VPR will be here for November meeting to talk about 4th year funding issue.
- Pres asked me to have Faculty Senate address how to have staff feel more respected by faculty.
- Committee appointments. Bylaws need major updates.

#### 10. FAC updates – Dan Cavanagh

- Next meeting tomorrow and Friday. Working on dual credit study. FAC is having positive effect on educational climate in our state.
- How we treat our NTT faculty. The more engaged our faculty are with students, especially outside of class, the better chance the students have at success.
- We are going to propose a list of best practices to avoid having a model HOP that works for UT Austin but doesn't work anywhere else. Tied into that is how do we account for service? How do you separate out the type of service that people lump into teaching, but isn't really part of your teaching workload? These things need to be counted.
- System is considering allowing chair to hold chairship without holding tenure. I suspect this is appropriate to the local side.
- **Senator:** We already have this in Nursing.
- Right now System needs to approve Distinguished teaching professors. They think it is cumbersome and would like to have it approved at local level.

#### 11. TCOFS report, Tom Ingram

- We meet at the end of this month.
- It appears that we might want to check to make sure the representatives in the Undergraduate Assembly are elected. The chair of one of the major committees commented that he is not on the Undergraduate Assembly.
- **Past Chair:** There is a committee on rules and committees that is supposed to oversee all these elections.
- The approval of undergraduate curriculum has been delegated to the undergraduate curriculum committee that is a subcommittee of the full undergraduate assembly. That committee is yes or no.
- **Past Chair:** This is why the FS Chair is ex-officio on that committee.

#### 12. Old business

##### a) Budget committee recommendations.

- **Chair:** Listed out options for how we can go forth on this.
- **Carroll:** I still have a different take on this. I still think there is a need for input on the university level. Essentially the president said there is no control over the budget at the university level. We want to have a voice at that level. My experience has been that there is really not much flexibility at either the college or department level. I still think there needs to be a higher level advisory input for the university budget.
- Discussion about the right level at which to have strategic input into budget process

#### 13. New business

a) Proposed revisions to HOP 6-500

Faculty who want to use their own textbook in their class need to go through a process to get it approved and then donate royalties. The policy would actually mean any materials that you develop for your class (whether you charge for it or not.) It is far too broad. I am sending this off to the operations procedures committee to work on this. We will write this in a way that it will work for us.

b) Student Feedback Survey (SFS) - Gosa

- Change SFS due date to last day of finals from last day of class. We are now student government, not student congress. Our issue is that students have had experiences so that how the professor writes the final (or doesn't show up for final), and that would affect how the student would evaluate the teacher. We are also considering having a midterm evaluation.
- **Past Chair:** There is a taskforce that is being formed right now to better evaluate and reward teaching more holistically (Elliott, and dean of Education Dougherty?). There are some bias issues with the SFS. We need to incorporate this into the taskforce.
- **Senator:** For those of us who teach online, we actually need more time to get a good response on the SFS survey. It is a completely different ballgame.

14. Adjourned at 4:27.

**Submitted October 25, 2017**

**Theresa Jorgensen, Secretary**