APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are the official minutes.

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
September 21, 2016


Absent: Elizabeth Bell, Gail Breen, Thomas Brikowski, R. Chandrasekaran, Chris Davis, Gregg Dieckmann, Frank Dufour, Lev Gelb, Jennifer Holmes, Joe Izen, Midori Kitagawa, Radha Mookerjee, BPS Murthi, Simeon Ntafos, Naim Ozel, Subbarayan, Venkatesan, Jeremy Vickers, Alejandro Zentner

Visitors: Andrew Blanchard, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Dennis Kratz, Michelle Lockhart, Jennifer McDowell, Inga Musselman, Akshitha Padigela, Clint Peinhardt, Nicole Piquero, Marion Underwood

1. Call to Order
President Benson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. President Benson is currently attempting to build his President's Cabinet. The positions of Vice President of Communication, Vice President of Development, and Chief of Staff are all open for applications. The interim Vice President of Communication is John Walls. Recently the university has lost the Vice President and Chief Information Officer David Crain. Brian Dourty is the interim Chief Information Officer.

The Campus Carry debate has been quiet except at UT Austin. Alex Piquero is chairing a committee to do a post mortem, and they met on September 20, 2016. On October 13, 2016, President Benson will present the State of the University Address, and on October 27, 2016, he will be inaugurated. The State of the University Address will allow President Benson to comment on and critique the progress of the past few years. The inauguration will point the university toward the next ten years.

He opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

2. Approval of the Agenda
An updated copy was distributed at the meeting. Richard Scotch move to accept the amended agenda. Karen Baynham seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. Approval of the May 18, 2016, Minutes
   Richard Scotch moved to approve the minutes. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker's Report – Tim Redman
   1. Colleen Dutton and her team have taken the concerns raised by the faculty regarding time reporting and have been working to alleviate them. Her team did a presentation to the Speaker and the two Vice-Speakers, and they all approved of the recommendations. A presentation from the Ad Hoc Time Reporting Committee will take place in the next 30-60 days.

   2. All other items are on the agenda.

5. UT Dallas’s SACSCOC Reaffirmation Project – Serenity King
   Serenity King gave a very brief presentation on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). It is one of six (seven if the divided Western Association is counted as two) U.S. regional accreditors. SACSCOC is the Regional accreditation agency for degree-granting higher education institutions in the eleven southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and schools for U.S. students in Latin America). It is a peer-reviewed, self-regulated process. The SACSCOC staff does not accredit institutions.

   Jessica Murphy gave a presentation to the Academic Senate updating members on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which at this point is entitled “First Year at UT Dallas”. A copy of this PowerPoint presentation is in Appendix A.

6. Student Government Report – Akshitha Padigela -President of Student Government
   Student Government (SG) has started its fourth Green Initiative. A furniture storage space was created to allow students moving out of the apartments to donate their unneeded furniture to fellow students who need it for the following fall.

   On September 17-18, 2016, Akshitha Padigela and Joseph Campain attended the University of Texas Student Advisory Council in Austin, Texas. All fourteen University of Texas institutions are represented. Together the representatives compiled issues that affected all campuses into four major concerns and into associated committees: Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate Education, Student Success, and Tuition and Fees.

   Joseph Campain sat on the committee addressing the Graduation Education concern. They focused on the concerns of paternity leave, maternity leave, and graduate career advising, as well as mental health resources for graduate students. They are performing research on what each institution provides for graduate students, what current policies there are, and how those policies affect students.

   Akshitha Padigela chaired the committee addressing Student Success, specifically concentrating on advising concerns. The committee attempted to discuss the quantum leap initiative the Chancellor created for advising concerns that SAC-Student Advisory Committee had during 2015-2016. The committee is currently researching what all the institutions do, what appears to be effective, and what kind of advising do students want from their advisors. Do the students want career advising,
or advising in situations such as, "I have a hold on my account. Can you take it off?" Each institution handles advising differently.

Joseph Campain sat on the committee addressing Tuition and Fees. Its members analyzed University tuition and fees decisions and processes. Currently, UT Dallas generates 1-, 2-, and 5-year plans on tuition. The committee is attempting to find the most efficient way to do this. Currently, this affects students greatly as tuition changes frequently at some institutions. Specifically, they are working with the universities to discover how tuition increases have been requested in the past. They have discovered that UT Southwestern is making the tuition decision on a much more frequent scale that all of the other institutions. This is increasing the necessary funds required from tuition to calculate the rising requirement for more tuition. The committee wants to work with all UT System institutions on how to decide what the most efficient procedure for determining tuition requests. There was a two-year procedure in place previously. Specifically, how can money not be wasted on this procedure?

The last committee was Diversity and Inclusion. It was decided that the UT System is not as diverse and it should be, and that accessibility should be improved. The committee is researching ways in which to increase diversity and improve inclusion. The next meeting will be November 5, 2016.

She opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

7. CEP Proposals- Clint Peinhardt

Professor Peinhardt presented the following Committee report.

A. English Language Proficiency Requirements
   The amendment updated the wording so that it is more in line with the current process. The amendment will allow students who have either a Bachelors or Master’s degree from an English-speaking institution to have the English Language Proficiency waived. The wording is important because Federal laws require that the university show that everyone has met the English language proficiency requirements. The language of ‘waiving’ cannot be used in this instance. The document must say that those that have a Bachelor’s or a Master’s degree from an English language speaking institution are considered to have met the English language proficiency requirement. Clint Peinhardt made a motion on the behalf of CEP to approve the amendments to English Language Proficiency Requirements. The motion carried.

B. Three-Year International Degrees
   The policy relating to three-year international degrees was updated to allow individual programs to decide which degrees meet their requirements. This will decentralize the process. Clint Peinhardt made a motion on the behalf of CEP to approve the amendments to the Three-Year International degrees requirements. The motion carried.

C. New Degree: Social Data Analytics and Research Degree
   The program has been in development for three years. The degree rebalances the combination of methodological and non-methodological courses. EPPS has several disciplines: criminology, public affairs, political science, and political economy, etc. Typically, students take six to twelve hours of methodological courses, and the balance hours in substantive courses. In this instance, the school thought that they would rebalance the hours and put a much larger focus and
concentration on methodological courses. The curriculum is 36 hours, but with twenty-four hours of methods courses, and nine hours of substantive courses. The program builds on current courses and will not require additional courses or faculty. The program was created in response to the current political environment. The school’s research showed that there was demand for the program. Similar programs can be found across the European Union, and at Brown University. There will not be any overlap between NSM and JSOM. The most similar program in JSOM currently has over five hundred students, and JSOM feels the attrition rate to the new program EPPS would not be significant. Clint Peinhardt made a motion on the behalf of CEP to approve the new degree in Social Data Analytics and Research. The motion carried.

8. LEAP (LGBT Education, Advocacy, and Programming) Committee
No one was in attendance to present the item. Murray Leaf moved to postpone the presentation until the October 19, 2016, meeting. William Hefley seconded. The motion carried.

9. Amendments to UTD1019: Committee on Committees Charge – Tim Redman
The Committee on Committees’ charge had been updated in spring 2016 to allow for the Student Government President’s participation, and to remove a reference to a specific number of schools to be represented on the Committee, instead indicating that all schools will be represented. The policy was further amended following the 2016 Committee on Committees meeting to allow for the school of Interdisciplinary Studies to have representation on the committee. Richard Scotch moved to approve the amended charge. Karen Baynham seconded. The motion carried.

10. Resolution on Salary Compression and Inversion – Richard Scotch
The initial study was done in fall 2012. It was found that salaries for long-serving faculty members were less than for their recently-hired peers. A follow-up study was performed in 2015. The study showed there were persistent salary issues across the campus. Based off of their finding the Budget Advisory Committee made the following resolution.

"Whereas the Senate Budget Advisory Committee has conducted an analysis of salaries of tenured/tenure-track faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas, the results of which suggest the persistence of faculty salary compression and inversion across ranks in much of the University; and

Whereas salary compression and inversion may have adverse effects on faculty morale and retention;

The Academic Senate hereby urges the school deans and the senior university leadership to take steps to reduce salary compression and inversion by allocating significant funds in the coming years to enhance faculty salary equity."

President Benson agreed that is an issue that needs to be addressed but advised that funds are limited; however, he is willing to work with the faculty on this issue. Richard Scotch moved to have the Senate approve the resolution. Betsy Schlobohm seconded. The motion carried.

11. Recommendations for Replacement Committees Appointments - Tim Redman
Midori Kitagawa was recommended to replace Mike Kesden on the Advisory Committee on Research as chair. Yvo Desmedt was recommended to replace Eric Smith on the Academic Integrity Committee as chair. Matt Polze will replace Kenneth Smith as a member of the Academic Integrity Committee. Marilyn Kaplan will replace Fabiano Rodrigues as chair of the Core Curriculum Committee. Banks Miller will replace Denise Boots as a member of the Core Curriculum Committee. Natalie Ring will replace Peter Park, Mike Kesden will replace John Zweck, and Swati Biswas will replace Yuri Gerstein as members of the Committee on Educational Policy. Peter Assmann will remain on the committee. Douglas Dow will replace Adrienne as the Non-Science
Representative on the Animal Care and Use Committee. Ashiq Ali will replace Ozalp Ozer as a member of the Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel. Tonja Wissinger was suggested to replace Karen Prager as the Interdisciplinary studies replacement for the Committee on Educational Policy. Betsy Schlobohm moved to approve the appointment recommendations. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

12. Discussion: School Bylaws – Tim Redman
The discussion on School Bylaws was started by Murray Leaf a couple years ago. He recommended that all schools should have their own bylaws. In spring 2014 a template and letter were sent by the Provost's Office to each of the schools to encourage them to update and revise their bylaws to conform to the recent changes across the university. The mechanism for revision oversight and the mechanisms for their approval has not been put into place. The Speaker, Secretary, and two Vice-Speakers were encouraged to meet to create the mechanism. Speaker Redman noted it would most likely take the form of a very small sub-committee. Once the process is created it will be brought to Council, and on to Senate for approval before implementation.

13. Approval of Amendments to the School of Arts and Humanity School Bylaws - Tim Redman
Dean Kratz informed the senate that the School of Arts and Humanities (A&H) bylaws were revised in September-October in 2010. Recently the bylaws have been updated due to the post-partum complications of the School of Arts and Technology becoming their own school, and a clearly defined need to come into compliance with a provision of UTDPP 1088. A&H desires to better integrate the tenure track and non-tenure track faculty. Spring 2016 the faculty began work to make those changes. The changes were presented to the A&H faculty in early September 2016. At that meeting, the school passed the revised document with one amendment. Dean Kratz noted there were further amendments forthcoming; however, the current version of the bylaws brought before the senate will allow faculty full voting rights. The stated revisions also include the creation of the Associate Dean for the Arts. This will also allow the holder of that position to be on the Dean’s Executive Committee. Richard Scotch moved to approve the amended bylaws. Judd Bradbury. The motion carried unanimously. Murray Leaf noted the understanding of the Senate is that they will shortly receive further revisions to the A&H bylaws; the Senate agreed.

14. Approval of Amendments to the School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences School Bylaws- Tim Redman
Richard Scotch moved to approve the circulated bylaws. Betsy Schlobohm seconded. The motion carried.

15. Lecturer’s Handbook- Tim Redman
The handbook was written for Lecturers by the Center for Teaching and Learning. It will provide better resources for the part-time Lecturers. Murray Leaf moved to commend the Center for Teaching and Learning for their work on the Lectures Handbook. William Hefley seconded. The motion carried.

16. Adjournment
There being no further business, Murray Leaf moved to adjourn. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.
ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

APPROVED: Tim Redman
Speaker of the Faculty

DATE: 16.XI.16

ITEM #3
SACSCOC Brief Overview and QEP Update

Serenity Rose King
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Who/What is SACSCOC?

- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); one of six (seven if count Western as two) U.S. regional accreditors

- Regional accreditation agency for degree-granting higher education institutions in the eleven southern states
  - Alabama (54), Florida (76), Georgia (83), Kentucky (50), Louisiana (39), Mississippi (32), North Carolina (112), South Carolina (50), Tennessee (63), Texas (161), Virginia (72) and schools for U.S. students in Latin America (6) Total: 798

  - 481 Public, 304 Private Not-for-Profit, 13 Private for Profit

  - 269 two-year colleges, 119 Level VI universities (four or more doctoral programs)

- Peer-reviewed, self-regulated process; SACSCOC staff do not accredit institutions

Why is Accreditation Important?

- Affirms value and quality
- Heightens institutional self-awareness
- Alternative: federal government direct oversight
- Highest Public Sanction (Removal of Accreditation): We lose federal funding (cannot offer federal financial aid to students; faculty cannot obtain federal grants)
- Other Public Sanctions (Warning or Probation): Damage to our reputation

When is SACSCOC season?

- Every day. *96 Principles of Accreditation*
- SACSCOC conducts 5-year condensed (Fifth-Year Interim Report) and 10-year comprehensive (Reaffirmation) reviews of all institutions; *unscheduled reviews

2008 Last Reaffirmation
2013-2015 Monitoring*
2014 Fifth-Year Interim Report
2018 Reaffirmation Project
  Compliance Certification Report: *due September 11, 2017*
  SACSCOC Offsite Review: *November 7-10, 2017*
  Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): *due January 23, 2018*
  SACSCOC Onsite Review: *March 6-8, 2018*

- UT Dallas SACSCOC page
  - [https://sacscoc.utdallas.edu](https://sacscoc.utdallas.edu)
The QEP Selection Process

- Quality Enhancement Plan Webpage
  - [http://qep.utdallas.edu/](http://qep.utdallas.edu/)
- Our 2008 QEP: Gateways to Excellence in Math and Science (GEMS), now the Student Success Center
- Topic Selection Committee Reviewed QEP Proposals and University Data for Top 5 Topics

What is the QEP?

- QEP Topic: First Year at UT Dallas
  - Improve retention and success during and after students' first year at UT Dallas
  - Includes first-time-in-college, transfer, and graduate students
QEP Next Steps

• QEP Development Committee
  – Broad-based representation
  – Develop a proposed five-year plan during Fall 2016
• Pilot Spring/Fall 2017
• QEP Final Plan due January 2018
• SACSCOC Site Visit March 2018

Where Can I Find More Information?

• UT Dallas SACSCOC page
  – https://sacscoc.utdallas.edu/

• QEP
  – http://qep.utdallas.edu/

• SACSCOC website
  – http://www.sacscoc.org/