

## **Faculty Senate Minutes**

October 22, 2021

**Attended:** Ambrose, Bell, Brooks, Brown, Butler, Clark, Correa, Crosman, Denton, Fairweather-Leitch, Farren, Gill, Hoffman, Humphreys, Issa, Manfredi, Medlock, McCauley, Pinkham, Ramos Salazar, Spencer, Tarpley, Tyrer, Whaley, Yarbrough

**Absent:** Fairweather-Leitch

**Guest(s):** Raimy Doggett (for Fairweather-Leitch)

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The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by President Anne Medlock. Minutes of the October 8, 2021, meeting were approved.

- Motion to approve: Pinkham
- Second: Salazar
- Motion passed

### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

#### **Handbook Committee**

Brooks shared the proposed changes to the faculty handbook. It was noted that the term “Vice President” was no longer used. The verbiage was changed from vice president to president-elect wherever it occurred. A question arose whether we should account for issues that might arise in term limits; it was decided any issues encountered could be handled during elections. (Brooks, Butler, Medlock)

- Motion to approve the handbook changes as corrected: Humpherys
- Second: Manfredi
- Motion passed

#### **Joint Student/Faculty Committee on Academic Affairs**

Clark reported this joint committee met recently. Students reported they had already received over 500 responses to their survey on the change of class times. The student committee intends to resend the survey to solicit more comments and will then provide the committee with data gathered. What was included on the survey or how students were identified is unknown at this time. Preliminary results show a strong desire to maintain an open lunch hour with a willingness to hold 8:00 am classes and late afternoon organizational meetings. The administration seemed to indicate a possible willingness to begin classes at 1:00. The Dean’s Council minutes included a suggested change in class times of 8-9:15, 9:30-10:45, 11-12:15 with a break from 12:15 to 1:00. Several concerns were expressed on the issue of removing the lunch break including student access to services, tight scheduling on the Amarillo campus, potential traffic patterns for Aramark, etc. A question was raised concerning the need for the change. Clark explained that

funding and the ability to develop more resources is based in part on usage of campus classrooms and the change is designed to further use classrooms outside of the hours of 9:15-11:45 which are heavily scheduled. Additionally, it was pointed out that many large classes have not been accommodated due to fewer large-capacity classrooms.

The committee further discussed OER. Students expressed some concerns about the costs of lab manuals with the possibility that manual costs be included in fees to avoid disparities in access. The student body president is working with Amy Anderson on the OER committee. The Senate does not have an OER committee and Clark pointed out that the Senate is only polling students for comments on scheduling and textbooks. Senators with questions or comments on these issues should be sent to Clark. Students have expressed an interest in attending Senate meetings and a schedule is being arranged. (Clark, Crosman, Farren, Humpherys, Medlock, Pinkham, Tarpley)

### **Travel Equity Committee**

Farren reported that all departments have provided data on travel funding; some departments have conflated endowed travel funds with regular travel funds resulting in a broad range of funding. Additionally, Tyrer provided three lists of comparative institutions from which the committee intends to gather funding data. Committee members were confirmed as: Farren (chair), Butler, Fairweather-Leitch, Hoffman, Pinkham, Tyrer, and Yarbrough. The committee will convene and complete the following:

- Divide endowed travel from regular travel, reporting both.
- Choose 5 universities from each of the 3 peer lists to solicit travel funding data
- Report findings to the Senate

### **Confirm List of Senators**

Butler reported he had completed a list of Senators and the departments (or at large) represented. The completed list has been confirmed and will be emailed to Senators and passed on to next year's Senate.

### **Problems with hiring student workers for grading**

Medlock reported that she has emailed a list of individuals and concerns to Human Resources but has yet to hear back. Once the information is assessed, HR will try to address issues to avoid similar problems for the Spring 2022 semester.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Report from Texas Council of Faculty Senates**

Medlock reported that she and Butler had attended the virtual Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Both noted several issues. UTA shared web pages they have created for a library guide for OER:

<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=659232&p=7826774>

and a one-page Covid-19 Impact Statement form that faculty are allowed to put in their annual reviews. The form is available at:

<https://provost.utsa.edu/faculty-review/promotion-tenure/docs/covid-impact-checklist-2122.pdf>

At a roundtable discussion of issues of concern, WTAMU seemed to be faring well in comparison. Medlock noted that the University of North Texas does not allowed students to register as undeclared. She also informed the Senate of two working groups for which any university Senator may be included:

- Equitable Budgets Working Group – it was unclear if this referred to state budgets or individual budgets within colleges/departments, etc. Butler agreed to check the Council minutes and report to the Senate.
- Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Universities Working Group

Additionally, discussions were reported over the following issues:

- Faculty Service Credit – how is credit given for service and are partial administrative appointments for which faculty are compensated also allowed to be counted for service.
- Financial Literacy Courses – are these being taught as independent courses or part of other courses. Several Senators pointed out courses in which smart money concepts are taught including IDS courses and those available for independent study through Buff Smart. (Butler, Clark, Farren, Humphreys, Medlock, Pinkham, Tarpley)

### **Magister Optimus Guidelines**

The Senate has been asked to provide guidelines for how the Magister Optimus is selected each year. Tyrer volunteered to work with Clark, Humpherys, and Salazar to come to a consensus on the process and report to Senate at the 11/4/21 meeting.

### **Questions for Wendler/Terry meetings**

Medlock reminded Senators that Dr. Wendler will be joining the Senate on 11/5/21 and Dr. Terry will join the Senate on 11/19/21. Questions for either can be sent in advance to Medlock by 11/4/21 for Dr. Wendler's visit and by 11/18/21 for Dr. Terry's visit.

- Motion to adjourn: Issa
- Second: Bell
- Meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm

Respectfully,  
Pat Tyrer