

Dedman College Faculty Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2014

Dean Tsutsui opened the meeting and welcomed the faculty.

**Presentation of 2014 Dedman Outstanding Senior (Nina Schwartz).** Dr. Schwartz read the following: It is a pleasure to introduce Arnaud Zimmern, a President's Scholar quadruple major in Pure Mathematics, English, French, and German, as the 2013-14 Robert and Nancy Dedman Outstanding Senior Student. I have known Arnaud since his first year at SMU when he began to distinguish himself in a variety of ways: first, as the charming polymath in the Honors Program that everyone was talking about and dying to have in class; then as the young man who invited faculty to participate in the Mad Hatter's Tea Party events on Friday afternoons; and then, a bit later, as one of the founders and Editors-in-Chief of *Kairos*, SMU's new undergraduate research and literary journal. Arnaud is a member of the Hyer Society and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. Marlies Gaettens, Chair of World Languages and one of Arnaud's German teachers, tells me that Arnaud is a heritage speaker of French, and therefore quite fluent in that language. Nonetheless, he decided also to major in German, a much more challenging language for him because he had no familiarity with it. He has proven to be a devoted, excited, and exciting student.

Gordon Birrell, Arnaud's primary German instructor, wrote the following accolade: Arnaud is an extraordinary student, in so many ways. He learned the material of the first semester of German on his own, then took the second semester (GERM 1402), then in the following semester jumped over the second year altogether and enrolled in GERM 3330, 20<sup>th</sup>-century short narratives, where he outperformed every other student, including a number of graduating seniors and two native Germans. He was the only student who took up the challenge of narratology ('It's fascinating to lift the hood and see how the engine works'). He is the most brilliant student I have ever encountered, including the students I knew at Princeton back in the 1970's.

Arnaud received a Mayer Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Research and has just completed work on that project. Caroline Brettell told me that when the review committee met to choose the six Mayer Fellows, Arnaud's application was at the top of the list: his project, linking together Math and Literature, was, in Caroline's words "such an adventurous and challenging" one, that "everyone . . . felt that even if he came up empty . . . the project was worth doing because it was asking original questions." Caroline also told me that, "on a more personal note, Arnaud is one of the most intellectually curious students I have met. He just loves the world of ideas and he is not afraid to test them out. It is refreshing to be around him."

With regard to the project that Arnaud took on, I asked one of his Faculty Mentors, Brandilyn Stigler, for an account of it: Stigler says:

Arnaud initiated a project with me to analyze the evolution of characters' relationships in narratives using the mathematical area of knot theory. A long-term goal for Arnaud is to design a computational application for the digital humanities that will assist researchers in performing analyses such as determining equivalence among narratives or identifying important events in a story. Working towards a proof-of-concept, we are focusing on dialogue in the family of "Little Red Riding Hood" stories primarily from the 1800s.

Come fall, Arnaud will study philosophy and digital humanities in Lausanne. Please join me in congratulating Arnaud Zimmern.

**Presentation of Dedman Family Distinguished Professor (Dean Tsutsui).** Dean Tsutsui recognized former Dedman Outstanding Professors who were in attendance at the meeting. Dean Tsutsui then read the following: It is a great privilege and honor to present this to our colleague Santanu Roy, from the department of Economics. He has studied at the University of Delhi and received a Ph.D. from Cornell and taught in the Netherlands and in Florida before coming to SMU in 2003. He has won a number of awards, including the Gerald Ford Research Fellowship. Dr. Roy's research includes economic growth

with technological non-convexities and a variety of issues in industrial organization, including the dynamics of industry structure with indigenous heterogeneity. That is the professional Dr. Roy, but we all know him as an outstanding member of the faculty and someone who is always ready to serve Dedman College and the University. Most recently, I think we have all been tremendously impressed by his performance as president of the Faculty Senate. The University has had some wonderful faculty senate presidents from Dedman College, but from the ones I have worked with in the past four years it is Santanu who changed the conversation during his time and we all owe him a huge debt of gratitude for bringing doctoral education to the attention of not just the upper administration, but to the Board of Trustees as well, in a way that has been unprecedented in my years here. No Dean could have done that but he did and that is a huge accomplishment. Dr. Roy will also be serving as chair of the department of Economics for this coming year. Congratulations to Dr. Roy.

**Approval of Agenda.** Motion was made to approve the meeting agenda, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Approval of December 3, 2013 Minutes.** Motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Gambrell Motion.** Motion was made to approve, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Announcements (Dean Tsutsui).** Dean Tsutsui thanked the faculty for all of their support and help over the past 4 years. The faculty and school are in a very different, positive place than they were 4 years ago, and deserve the very best in a new dean. Additionally, Dean Tsutsui thanked Peter Moore for all of his work this year and continuing on as dean *ad interim*. Dean Tsutsui also thanked Caren Prothro for all of her work in support of Dedman College and in recognition of that, Dedman College has established the Caren Prothro Faculty Service Award. This award will be given annually to a full time faculty member of Dedman College for a record of exceptional service at SMU and the larger Dallas community as exemplified by Caren Prothro. One awardee will be selected annually from among nominees and applicants by a committee of three Dedman College faculty members, including prior award recipients, a member of the Dedman College Executive Board, a resident of the Dallas area and the Dean of Dedman College. The awardee will receive a one-time research fund of \$5,000 and be recognized at the meeting of the Dedman College Executive Board. The Caren Prothro Faculty Service Award was generously endowed by the co-chairs of the Dedman College Campaign Steering Committee, Kelly Compton and Fred Hegi, and current and past chairs of the Dedman College Executive Board, Liz Armstrong, Pierce Allman and Leighton Steward and the Dedman family in honor of Caren Prothro's profound commitment to SMU and Dallas and her enthusiastic support of Dedman College and its faculty. This was presented to Mrs. Prothro last evening at dinner. The donors have raised \$125,000 which will be given in perpetuity, with expendable funds to allow an award to be given for the first time next year.

**Campaign Update. (Caroline Brettell).** Dr. Brettell thanked the faculty and staff for their contributions which have now exceeded the original campaign goal. Dedman College faculty and staff contributions are now at 49%. Additionally, enough money was raised to fund a second Dedman Faculty and Staff Scholar, which will be named in honor of Dennis Cordell. Emails will be sent out to encourage faculty and staff to participate if they have not done so.

An SMU Good Citizen Award was presented to Jeff Engel from the SMU Police for his actions in February while witnessing a car accident and contacting the SMU police as to the driver's status and health.

**Devlin Prize (Nina Schwartz).** Dr. Schwartz read the following: The Laura Kesselman Devlin Instructorship is awarded for continuing excellence in the teaching of Written English, now known as Discernment and Discourse, as a course involving 1) the enhancement of students' skill in writing and thinking, and 2) the first-year student's introduction to the values of liberal education. Consideration is given to classroom accomplishment, as measured by appropriateness of goals and efforts toward their fulfillment; accessibility to students in conference and otherwise; collegiality and contributions to the quality of teaching in the Discernment and Discourse Program as a whole. The Instructorship recognizes the qualities of academic rigor, intellectual adventure, and human concern so fully embodied in Laura

Devlin's engagement with her students. Eligible faculty are those whose major teaching responsibility is in Discernment and Discourse.

Here are some of the student nominators' thoughts on the recipient of this year's award:

- 1) Because of my teacher, I have continued to succeed in my other classes that require written work. Even now, as the spring semester comes to a close, I find myself more at ease writing two 10-page-or-more papers. I have been confidently working on these papers, knowing they will get done because of the knowledge that [my teacher] taught me.
- 2) Before SMU, I never fully comprehended what students meant when they told me they had a personal relationship with their professors. [My teacher's] interest helped me to adjust to college life during my first semester. [My teacher] always makes me feel welcome. I know that I can go to her to ask questions.
- 3) Not only is [my teacher] a wonderful teacher, but she cares about her students very deeply.

The 2014-15 Laura Kesselman Devlin Instructor is Andrea Hamilton. While Dr. Hamilton deserves kudos for winning this award in her first year of teaching in the program, we cannot say we are surprised. Andrea has been providing excellent instruction in the writing and Honors programs, as well as in the History Department, for almost 20 years. We were thrilled for her to join us full-time this year, and this honor is richly deserved. Please join me in congratulating Andrea Hamilton.

Dean Tsutsui then turned over the meeting to Senior Associate Dean and Dean *ad interim* Peter Moore.

**Recognition of Retiring faculty.** The following faculty retirement citations were read into the minutes.

**LAWRENCE S. RUBEN.** Larry Ruben, Professor of Biological Sciences in Dedman College, came to SMU in 1986 as an Assistant Professor. He was educated at UC Berkeley, where he received an A.B. in Zoology in 1974, and at the University of Minnesota, where he received a PhD in Cell Biology in 1979. He received further training at Yale University, where he began work on the causative agent of African Sleeping Sickness, *Trypanosoma brucei*. Throughout his career his research was funded by the National Institutes of Health, and by other agencies. The focus of his research was to investigate fundamental biochemical and physiological processes of trypanosomes in order to develop therapeutic agents against them. He served as Departmental Chair for 6 years, and was known by students for teaching Cell Biology. For his service and teaching he has been honored with the "M" award, the United Methodist Church Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award, and as an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor. He retires as Professor *Emeritus* of Biological Sciences.

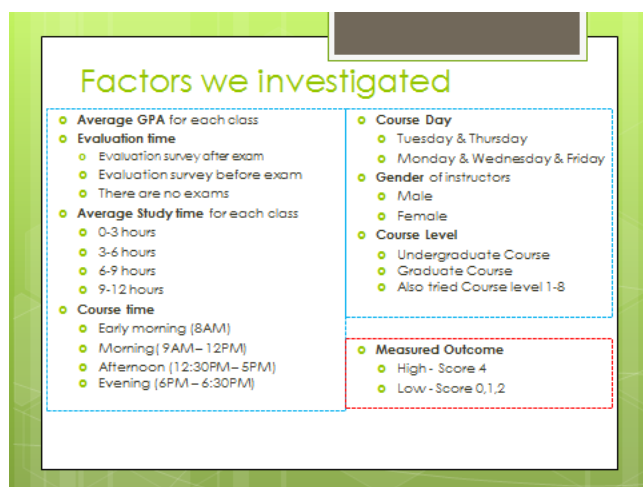
**DANIEL J. SLOTTJE.** Daniel J. Slottje, Professor of Economics in Dedman College, joined the SMU faculty in 1984 after earning his B. A. in Economics at Clemson University and his Ph.D. in Economics at Texas A&M University. Among his primary research areas were measuring economic inequality and applied econometrics. He is widely published with more than 135 published articles and fifteen books. His papers have appeared in the American Economic Review, the Journal of Econometrics, the Review of Economics and Statistics, the Journal of Applied Econometrics and the Journal of Business and Economics Statistics, among many others. In recognition of his numerous publications, Dr. Slottje was named a Fellow of the Journal of Econometrics in 2008. He was also a founding editor of the journals: Research in Economic Inequality and Journal of Economic Inequality. A leading practitioner of forensic economics, Dr. Slottje consulted for numerous companies and law firms. He retires Professor Emeritus of Economics.

**DAVID J. WILSON.** David J. Wilson, Associate Professor of Anthropology in Dedman College, joined the SMU faculty in 1985. He began his academic career with a B.A. in Political Science, followed by a two year stint in the Peace Corps working with Aymara groups in Bolivia. From that experience a lifelong interest in Latin American anthropology and archaeology was born. That led him to two M.A. degrees – in Spanish and Anthropology – and then a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Wilson's

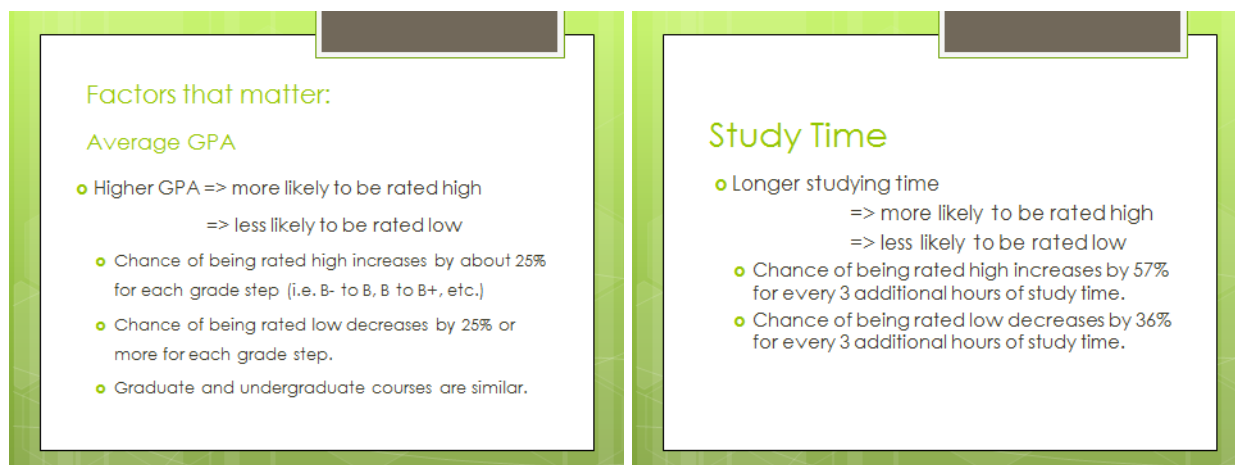
field research has focused on the late prehistory of Peru, where he has conducted extensive surveys of settlement patterns and ancient road systems, the former the subject of his Godbey Authors' Award-winning volume, Prehispanic Settlement Patterns in the Lower Santa Valley, Peru. But as per his broader anthropological interests, he has also published a well-received volume Indigenous South Americans of the Past and Present. A highly popular and award-winning teacher, his classes are routinely over-subscribed and include his own special flourishes, such as demonstrating the use of an Amazonian blowgun in his class on 'Warfare and violence.' Wilson has served as Undergraduate and Graduate advisor in the Department of Anthropology. He retires as Associate Professor Emeritus of Anthropology.

**Approval of Dedman College Committee Slates.** Dean Moore presented the slates for Advisory Committee for Promotion to Full Professor, Faculty Council, Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council for approval by the faculty. Motions to close the Slates for the Advisory Committee for Promotion to Full Professor for Divisions I and III, Divisions I, II and III of Faculty Council, Undergraduate and Graduate Councils were made, seconded and approved. Members of the Advisory Committees for Promotion to Associate Professor are appointed by the chairs and no vote is necessary.

**Student Evaluation Question Presentation.** In fall 2013 Dedman College used a new version of the course evaluation questionnaire which included new questions; the data was handed over to Dr. Lynn Stokes and her students in the Masters and Data Analytic degree to analyze. The data analysis indicated that the new questions have higher evaluation scores, than the old question. Next, the students evaluated factors that effected evaluation results:



The results were as follows:



### Class Time, Class Day

- 8:00 students are more appreciative!!!
  - Chance of being rated high increases
  - Chance of being rated low decreases
  - The other times of day don't matter much
- Tu. & Thur. class => less likely to be rated high  
=> more likely to be rated low
  - Chance of being rated high decreases
  - Chance of being rated low increases

### Evaluation Time, Gender

- Taking the evaluation after time of final
  - There is no effect on rating high
  - The chance of rating low decreases slightly.
- Female professors => More likely to be rated high  
=> less likely to be rated low

### The relative importance

#### For being rated high

- Longer study time
- Higher average GPA
- Early Morning Class
- MWF Class
- Female

#### For being rated low

- Shorter study time
- Low mean GPA
- Not early Morning Class
- TTH Class
- Male or Taking evaluation after final

The students were then asked to use text mining in an analysis of Questions 14 and 15. The results are as follows:

### Overview of the comments

- A mass of data:
  - Question 14: Aspects that enhanced learning
  - Question 15: Aspects that detracted from learning

Comment	Missing	Length <5	Length >=5
Comment14	32%	12.74%	55.26%
Comment15	33.67%	31.90%	34.45%

#### Question 14: Did any particular aspects of this course enhance your learning?

- Most frequently used words in comments for question 14 were:
  - Help : 1618 times
  - Learn : 899 times
  - Good : 625 times
  - Understand : 603 times
  - Interest : 456 times

The word 'enhance' elicits more positive responses in overall tone and word selection.

Question 15:  
**Did any particular aspects of this course detract from your learning?**

- Most frequently used words for comments in question 15 were:
  - Understand : 509 times
  - hard : 461 times
  - difficult : 437 times
  - good : 390 times
  - lack : 252 times
- The word 'detract' elicits slightly more negative responses in overall tone and word selection.

**Undergraduate and Graduate Council Reports (Renee McDonald).** The new Tower Center Scholars minor program was approved by the undergraduate council, an invitation only minor that involves a policy series of courses, paired with some applied experiences and internship placement. The graduate council did not approve any new programs, however, several were discussed. Peter Moore has developed an interdisciplinary program for graduate students, space has been allocated to accommodate them and a subcommittee of the graduate council has been formed to develop a program for doctoral students who would be interested in some interdisciplinary experiences in their graduate training. A request was made from the floor that the Women's and Graduate Studies Certificate Program be included in this discussion. The graduate council is also in discussions to apportion the funds currently being used to pay graduate students' health insurance to graduate student stipends. A subcommittee of the graduate council has been formed to look into this issue. Dr. McDonald also announced that Caren Prothro and Dean Tsutsui have worked very hard to establish collaboration among North Texas institutions to form an Albert Schweitzer fellowship program here at SMU. SMU will be the home institution, however, students from Texas Women's, Baylor School of Nursing, TCU, UTA, UTD and UT Southwestern. Students' applications will contain proposals for a year-long community service project. The program will also provide mentoring and leadership development on how to do a community based service project.

**2014 Dean's Research Council Awards.** Drs. John Wise and Nicolay V. Tsarevsky were awarded a grant for a joint interdisciplinary proposal. Dr. Hervé Tchumkam was awarded The Rebecca and Patrick DePole Humanities Award. Due to the generosity of donors, the humanities award next year will be \$10,000. Continued work is being done in order to raise more funds to award more faculty grants.

**Final Exams/Posting and Grading.** . Because diplomas are handed out to seniors at May Commencement, it is most important to make sure grades for seniors are posted timely, at the latest 48 hours after the final exam.

**Recognition of Retiring Staff.** Dean Moore recognized Randy Phillips for his many years of service upon his retirement from SMU. His retirement party will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30 in the Miller Event Center.

**OE2C Initiative (Bain).** As a member of the steering committee for the initiative, Dean Moore invited faculty members with further questions to stop by his office. It is his understanding that savings from this initiative will be put into academic enterprises, before any debt is covered, with the first half million put into graduate stipends, and the next into high performance computing.

**Announcement of Perrine Prize (Dr. Bonnie Wheeler).** The Phi Beta Kappa Perrine Prize is awarded annually to a member of the undergraduate faculty in liberal studies at SMU, who embodies the ideals of Phi Beta Kappa the "life of the mind," in the traditions of excellence fostered by the professor of English, Lawrence Perrine. Dr. Wheeler then asked Brandon Bub to present the faculty award to Dr. Thomas Knock.

Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Fomby then presented Dean Tsutsui with a gift from Phi Beta Kappa in appreciation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.