

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West

Present: Daniel Buraczeski, Rajat Deb, Dennis foster, Ed Fox, *Robert Buck Hampson, Kevin Hanlon, Michael Harris, *Robert Howell, *Leanne Ketterlin-Geller, Tom Knock, Elfi Kraka, John Lamoreaux, Matt Lockard, *Jody Magliolo, Luigi Manzetti, Cheryl Mendenhall, Brian Molanphy, Tim Rosedale, *Douglas Reinelt, presiding, Dan Reynolds, Meghan Ryan, Susanne Scholz, *Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, Heather Stobaugh, *Joshua Tate, Halit Uster, Pia Vogel, Jessica Dixon-Weaver, Steve Weisenburger, Matthew Wilson

Absent: Sabri Ates, Karen Baker-Fletcher, Neil Bhattacharya, Alan Brown, *Jennifer Dworak, Usama El Shamy, Betty Gilmore, Donna Gober, LiGuo Huang, *Debora Hunter, Susanne Johnson, Choon Sae Lee, Bill Maxwell, Abigail Pruitt, Thomas Ritz,

Ex Officio:

Visitors: Linda Eads, Ian Harris, Kathleen Tibbitts, Peter Moore, Paul Rogers, Christen Limbaugh

1. The meeting was called to order by President Doug Reinelt at 3:10 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on Nov. 4, 2015 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on Oct. 28, 2015 were presented.
3. Professor Ian Harris reported to the Senate on behalf of the Calendar Committee regarding the proposed calendar for Academic Year 2017-2018. There are various mandatory constraints with respect to the calendar, including the lengths of the semesters and the fact that graduation must be on a Saturday, no later than Dec. 23 in the fall and no later than the third Saturday of May in the spring. The Committee was able to accommodate all of those constraints in the proposed AY 2017-18 calendar. In addition, there are a number of concerns and practices that are taken into consideration.

In response to suggestions by the President's Executive Council, the Calendar Committee considered the possibility of adding additional constraints regarding possible conflicts between January Term and Rush, or between Spring AARO events and Rush, but ultimately decided not to include those in the list of mandatory constraints. The Committee has recommended that the 2017 J-term begin on Monday, January 9, as originally agreed on by the Faculty Senate. At the request of the Taos office, the Committee is recommending that the June term in 2017 start earlier so that students can leave before July 4 and so that the staff are not required to work over July 4.

The Senate voted to approve the Committee's recommended calendar for AY 2017-18. President Reinelt thanked Professor Harris for his work.

4. Professor Paul Rogers, the SMU Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA, gave a presentation to the Senate regarding the University's efforts to ensure NCAA compliance and then answered questions. In the opinion of Professor Rogers, some of the sanctions recently imposed are either too harsh and/or were imposed in an arbitrary manner, and SMU is appealing those sanctions. However, Professor Rogers and the Faculty Senate Athletics Committee have had limited opportunities to provide input with regard to key decisions. Senators expressed frustration not only with the extraordinary number of sanctions that have been imposed on SMU in the history of our athletics program, but also with the tone of the University's response to those sanctions. President Reinelt thanked Professor Rogers for meeting with the Senate.
5. President Reinelt updated the Senate regarding the Strategic Plan for Improving the Black Student Experience recently proposed by concerned members of the Black committee at SMU. The Senate voted to table a proposed resolution on diversity and inclusion until the next Senate meeting.
6. Professor Robert Howell reported to the Senate on behalf of the Academic Policies Committee. Professor Howell outlined the various changes in terminology and grouping in University Curriculum 2016, and also noted several significant changes, including a reduced number of credits and decreased second language requirement, new requirements in language and literature and technology and math, and new or revised rules regarding double counting, AP courses, and the "ways of knowing" requirement.

The Academic Policies Committee has expressed concern at the number of changes to the curriculum that have happened over the years without elected faculty representation. Associate Dean Peter Moore has been very responsive to the Committee's concerns and deserves our thanks for the work he has done to improve the university curriculum. However, the Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate vote on (1) a resolution to adopt UC 2016, and (2) a separate resolution encouraging the incoming Provost to lead the faculty in a review of the curriculum and the development of a new one. President Reinelt explained that a vote will be taken on both resolutions at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate on January 27, 2016.

7. The Faculty Senate discussed the recently enacted "campus carry" legislation and a proposed resolution to recommend that SMU opt out of the campus carry provision of Texas Senate Bill 11:

Faculty Senate Resolution on Campus Carry

Whereas at the end of their recent legislative session, Texas lawmakers passed Senate Bill 11, which is known as "campus carry," and the final version of the legislation allows private Texas colleges and universities to opt out of its

requirement and continue to ban weapons, in consultation with their campus communities (Message from President R. Gerald Turner, June 5, 2015), and

Whereas to the fullest extent of Federal and Texas law, Southern Methodist University prohibits the possession of firearms on all University property (University Policy 10.5), now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate supports continuing the current policy of a weapons free campus as specified in Policy 10.5 and recommends to the administration that SMU opt out of the campus carry provision of Texas Senate Bill 11 so that concealed firearms are not allowed on any SMU campus.

President Reinelt updated the Senate regarding a student debate held on Dec. 1 on the campus carry issue.

The Senate voted to take the campus carry resolution off the table and consider a broader proposed resolution on campus safety. Following discussion, the Senate voted against the broader campus safety resolution. The Senate voted to adopt the resolution on campus carry.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Tate