

**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West**

**Present:** Sabri Ates; Karen Baker-Fletcher; Neil Bhattacharya; Alan Brown; Daniel Buraczeski; Rajat Deb; Darryl Dickson-Carr; Dennis Foster, Ed Fox; Robert “Buck” Hampson; Kevin Hanlon; Michael Harris; Michael Hawn; \*Robert Howell; LiGuo Huang; \*Debra Hunter; Susanne Johnson; \*Leanne Ketterlin-Geller; Tom Knock; Elfi Kraka; Matt Lockard; Luigi Manzetti; Cheryl Mendenhall; Brian Molanphy; Abigail Pruitt; Tim Rosendale; \*Douglas Reinelt, presiding; Dan Reynolds; Canan Savaskan-Ebert; Susanne Scholz; \*Joshua Tate; Halit Uster; Jessica Dixon Weaver; Matthew Wilson

**Absent:** \*Jennifer Dworak; Usama El Shamy; Betty Gilmore; Donna Gober; John Lamoreaux; Choon Sae Lee; \*Jody Magliolo; Bill Maxwell; Thomas Ritz; Meghan Ryan; \*Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner; Heather Stobaugh; Pia Vogel; Steven Weisenburger

**Ex Officio:**

**Visitors:** Julie Forrester; Lisa O'Donnell; Kathleen Tibbets; Sheri Starkey, Helen Regan, Ashley Mason

1. The meeting was called to order by President Doug Reinelt at 3:10 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on Sept. 2, 2015 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on Aug. 20, 2015 were presented.
3. President Reinelt announced that, in his role as Faculty Senate President, he has been appointed as a member of the OE2C Executive Committee.
4. Sheri Starkey, Director of Total Compensation at SMU, and Ashley Mason, Vice President at Holmes Murphy, gave a presentation regarding benefit updates for the 2016 plan year. Each year, projections are made for the upcoming fiscal year based on the prior fiscal year's claims. For the first time in many years, the university has not made a change to faculty and staff premiums in the health plan. Most of the costs that had been predicted to arise from the Affordable Care Act have been accounted for in the budget. SMU is self-insured. In response to a question about the \$300 co-pay for emergency room visits, Ms. Mason explained that the average cost for an emergency room visit is around \$5,000, and, according to BlueCross/Blue Shield, the average emergency room co-pay for self-funded businesses is about \$500. For specialist visits, some employers are requiring employees to meet their deductible first rather than offering a co-pay. There are a lot of features of the different plans that will be explained during the open enrollment period. President Reinelt thanked Ms. Starkey and Ms. Mason for their presentation.
5. Deans David Chard of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Marc Christensen of the Lyle School of Engineering, and Thomas DiPiero of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences offered a presentation regarding the SMU Strategic Plan for the next ten years. Dean Chard began by explaining that the Strategic Plan for 2016-2025 is one of several university-wide initiatives currently underway. The SMU deans are

collaborating to go beyond standard goals and objectives and provide specific academic grounding for the new plan. Taking into account new funding expected to result from OE2C, the deans want to assure academic and fiscal sustainability while pursuing a bold academic vision for the future of SMU that will involve the entire university. The goal is to articulate a shared vision that captures the imagination and creativity of SMU's faculty and students, engages academic horsepower all across campus, and positions SMU as a leading participant in important global and national conversations.

Noting that North Texas is especially well situated to play a significant role in solving the world's future problems, Dean DiPiero outlined a new "Cities of the Future Initiative" that will take advantage of some of those opportunities and turn our growing megacity into the kind of place that people will want to live in. This initiative will include partnering with the North Texas region to understand what makes cities successful; developing methods to jumpstart economic and infrastructure improvements; devising tools to build "smart" cities; building healthy neighborhoods, expanding the arts, and incubating entrepreneurship; analyzing the educational and technological advances for active and meaningful participation in public life; and examining the laws and ethics in an environment that will pursue justice and human rights for all people. The initiative will allow SMU to involve undergraduate and graduate students in research projects; conceive courses that use North Texas and other sites around the world as their laboratories; deliver instruction with immediate application of theoretical models; strengthen its relationship with the local community; engage local experts for collaborative teaching with SMU faculty; and partner with cities across the globe to solve problems of the future.

Dean Chard noted that ethics and human development is a second area of emphasis for SMU in the coming decade. This initiative will focus on the formation of values as a fundamental aspect of human development; build on SMU's heritage combining the material resources of a major city and the philosophical and ethical resources of a mainstream religion; and address formative questions of human life and development, questions at the very core of who we are and how we make decisions. The deans hope that the initiative will identify, highlight, and reward the shared values of SMU as part of the strategic plan; monitor and measure the effort put behind programs that reinforce these values; help our students develop values that will transform the way discernment occurs; and link existing institutes to campus resources and advance human values as a fundamental university commitment.

Dean Christensen identified a third element of emphasis: engagement in innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. This initiative focuses on differentiating qualities that make people and programs distinctive in every discipline or profession; fosters a culture where these qualities take root and thrive in our faculty and students; and builds on the strides made in these areas on campus to engage in innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. The initiative offers SMU the opportunity to nurture novel ideas that can

be realized in the real world; develop students and faculty who will be recognized nationally and internationally as innovation fellows; and impact North Texas and its economy by creating a hotbed of innovation.

Dean Christensen emphasized that each of the deans is excited by these initiatives and how they can impact the different schools of the university. SMU is of a scale and size that can permit interdisciplinary collaboration of this type. The deans want to overcome artificial boundaries, whether within SMU separating departments and schools, or around SMU isolating us from the wider world. Dean Chard explained that the Strategic Plan was written by the Board of Trustees, not by the deans; however, the deans are working to shape the academic aspects of the Plan. The goals and their articulation may be edited, and the deans encouraged the faculty to send comments to our individual deans, or to the Faculty Senate President, offering any suggestions regarding the Plan. The Strategic Plan will be finalized at the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, and so more substantive changes need to be proposed soon in order to be incorporated. The deans also invite metrics for assessing success in order to assess funding needs. The Plan will be a broadly distributed and public document, which will set the stage for the next campaign.

6. The Senate voted to go into executive session.
7. Professor Howell gave an update on behalf of the Academic Policies Committee regarding the University Curriculum, suggesting that the Faculty Senate should consider whether we want to hold a vote on changes to the University Curriculum, although the approval of the Senate is not required. President Reinelt will ask President Turner whether faculty members could be given access to the University Bylaws, which are currently available to the Board of Trustees.
8. The Faculty Senate discussed the recent report from the NCAA Committee on Infractions regarding alleged violations in the SMU Department of Athletics dating to 2013.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Tate