

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

Present: Sabri Ates; Karen Baker-Fletcher; Dan Buraczkeski; Alan Brown; Rajat Deb; Darryl Dickson-Carr; Dennis Foster; Ed Fox; Betty Gilmore; Robert “Buck” Hampson; Kevin Hanlon; Michael Harris; Michael Hawn; *Robert Howell; LiGuo Huang; Susanne Johnson; *Leanne Ketterlin-Geller; Tom Knock; Elfi Kraka; John Lamoreaux; Matt Lockard; *Joseph Magliolo; Luigi Manzetti; Ceryl Mendenhall; Brian Molanphy; Abigail Pruitt; Tim Rosendale; *Doug Reinelt, presiding; Thomas Ritz; Meghan Ryan; Susanne Scholz; *Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner; Neil Tabor; *Joshua Tate; Halit Uster; Pia Vogel
Absent: Neil Bhattacharya; Usama El Shamy; Donna Gober; *Debra Hunter; Choon Sae Lee; Bill Maxwell; Dan Reynolds; Canan Savaskan-Ebert; Heather Stobaugh; Jessica Dixon Weaver; Steve Weisenburger; Matthew Wilson.

Ex Officio:

Visitors: Julie Wiksten; Julie Forester; Lisa O’Donnell; Kathleen Tibbets.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Doug Reinelt at 3:10 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on May 6, 2015 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on July 21, 2015 were presented.
3. President Reinelt introduced the Executive Committee and new Senators.
4. Associate Provost Julie Forrester and Associate Vice President Julie Wiksten gave an update on Project SMU: Operational Excellence for the Second Century (OE2C). In recent months, OE2C has moved from the initial diagnostic and design phases to the implementation phase, including the Organization Design and Shared Services initiatives. The goal is to achieve \$25 to \$35 million in total annual operational savings. To date, \$10.9 million has been swept from budgets for ultimate reallocation to academics. On the procurement side, there have been changes regarding printing that have affected faculty. Office supplies are now ordered through Staples, which offers discounts on shipping. Shannon Brown has been hired as the new university director for procurement. The IT initiative is focusing on repurposing of staff rather than reductions.

Academic investments include financial assistance to twelve Ph.D. fellows in ten different doctoral programs; stipends awarded to three students in SMU’s Biostatistics Ph.D. program, which is offered in partnership with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; and funding to support and enhance the university’s high performance computing and academic computing. Later this month, a financial tracker will be added to the OE2C website to allow faculty to track how much savings are being put toward these and other purposes. Faculty can offer suggestions to their deans, to Associate Provost Forrester, to Provost *ad interim* Harold Stanley, or to President Reinelt. Alternatively, faculty can send comments through the OE2C website and will receive a

reply from Associate Vice President Wiksten. Using the OE2C website will allow the OE2C leadership to keep track of trends as problems arise.

Senators asked several questions and raised concerns regarding the process by which OE2C decisions are made and the impact of those decisions on the various schools and departments. President Reinelt thanked Associate Provost Forrester and Associate Vice President Wiksten for their report.

5. President Reinelt introduced a resolution in commemoration of the centennial of the opening of Southern Methodist University. Following a few friendly amendments, the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote:

*Faculty Senate Resolution in Commemoration of the Centennial of the
Opening of SMU*

Whereas one hundred years ago Southern Methodist University opened as Dallas' university with two permanent buildings, 456 students, 37 faculty members, and a curriculum focused on liberal arts, theology, and music; and,

Whereas the founding of the University in 1911 was the result of a fruitful collaboration between the citizens of Dallas and the leadership of the Methodist Church, the commitment of both continuing to the present day; and

Whereas Dr. Robert Stewart Hyer, a research scientist and educator and SMU's founding president, had the vision to build Dallas Hall and embrace a broad perspective on education; and

Whereas the first core faculty to the current faculty has dedicated itself to providing academic programs of the highest quality in the classroom, laboratory, and other educational settings; and,

Whereas through a partnership among faculty, administration, and the local community, SMU has developed into an institution of high national ranking.

Therefore be it resolved, that on the occasion of the centennial of the opening of Southern Methodist University the Faculty Senate hereby commends all students, faculty, administrators, staff, alumnae/i, and other supporters for their notable achievement in developing SMU into the strong institution it is today.

6. Professor Robert Howell introduced a resolution regarding OE2C leadership. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote:

Faculty Senate Resolution on OE2C Leadership

Whereas the President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, has retained the firm of Bain & Company to assist with “Project SMU: Operational Excellence for the 2nd Century (OE2C)” (President Turner’s letter to SMU Faculty and Staff, March 21, 2014), and

Whereas the goals of OE2C include realigning the operational resources of the University and increasing revenue “where appropriate opportunities exist” in order to “deliver high-quality support to our faculty and students as we continue to improve our programs” (President Turner’s letter to SMU Faculty and Staff, March 21, 2014), and

Whereas the OE2C office is committed to ensuring “that the OE2C project reallocates the greatest amount of administrative savings possible to SMU’s academic mission by overseeing initiative committees, managing continuous improvement opportunities, collecting data to support decision-making and measure progress, and communicating with SMU campus stakeholders.” (OE2C Office, Mission Statement), and

Whereas the University is in the midst of a transition to “Shared Services Centers in the areas of finance, information technology, and facilities.” (Letter from President Turner, July 23, 2015), and

Whereas “the move to Shared Services necessitates changing the way we have traditionally operated in these critical service areas” (Letter from President Turner and Ad Interim Provost Harold Stanley, August 19, 2015), and

Whereas in the transition to Shared Services, “employees’ positions have been eliminated, and over time, additional positions in Finance, IT and Facilities will be eliminated as processes are streamlined.” (Letter from President Turner and Ad Interim Provost Harold Stanley, August 19, 2015), and

Whereas current OE2C initiatives have a significant impact on the faculty, including changing the way faculty travel is scheduled and reimbursed, contracts are processed, supplies are purchased and the temperature of the buildings is maintained (Letter from President Turner and Ad Interim Provost Harold Stanley, August 19, 2015), and

Whereas the faculty is particularly well positioned to know how changes to university policy will affect their responsibilities as teachers, researchers and administrators, and

Whereas the President of the University is “responsible for a plan of internal shared governance which rests on the principle that an institution's ability to solve educational problems is enhanced when the constituencies of the University share, in varying degrees, in the decision-making.” (University Bylaws, Article 4.12.i), and

Whereas The General Faculty of the University, shall be responsible to the Board of Trustees through the President for

- a. Leadership to achieve and maintain a high quality of intellectual life for the University.
- b. The professional growth and behavior of the members of the University faculties.

(SMU Bylaws, Article 5.10), and

Whereas the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University bears the responsibility of speaking and acting for the General Faculty in matters affecting the University as a whole (Faculty Senate Constitution, preamble) now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University requests that the President of the University appoint the President of the Faculty Senate as a voting member of the OE2C executive committee.

- 7. The Senate went into executive session to approve the committee policy charges and memberships. The charges and memberships were approved.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Tate