

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West

Present: Adriana Aceves, *Sabri Ates, Karen Baker-Fletcher, Dick Barr, Rhonda Blair, Michael Braun, Alan Brown, Daniel Buraczeski, Rajat Deb, Dennis Foster, Sean Griffin, Michael Hawn, LiGuo Huang, Susanne Johnson, Francesca Jones, Leanne Ketterlin-Geller, Tom Knock, Elfi Kraka, *Paul Krueger, John Lamoreaux, Cheryl Mendenhall, *Brian Molanphy, Pavel Nadolsky, Dan Reynolds, Tim Rosendale, Elizabeth Russ, Meghan Ryan, Canan Savaskan-Ebert, Susana Solera Sdoboe, *Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, presiding, *Joshua Tate, Halit Uster, *Pia Vogel, Steve Weisenburger, Matthew Wilson

Absent: Neil Bhattacharya, Betty Gilmore, Kevin Hanlon, Choon Lee, Tamara Lewis, Matt Lockard, Joseph Magliolo, Luigi Manzetti, *Abigail “Abby” Pruitt, Andrew Quicksall, *Thomas Ritz, Susanne Scholz, Heather Stobaugh

Ex Officio:

Visitors: Doug Reinelt, Nicki Fletcher, Blake Rainey, Robert Howell, Kathleen Tibbets, Russell Martin, Gillian McCombs

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner at 3:10 PM.
2. The Senate held a moment of silence in memory of the late Dr. Pamela Anthony.
3. President Stevenson-Moessner introduced Blake Rainey and Nicki Fletcher, President and Vice President of the SMU Student Senate. Mr. Rainey thanked the Faculty Senate for attending the joint reception last year, which the students hope will become at least an annual tradition. Mr. Rainey reported on scholarships distributed to students by the Senate, and discussed the possibility of a commemorative gift in honor of Dr. Anthony. Ms. Fletcher reported on a campus-wide campaign to support Not On My Campus, an organization that addresses the problem of sexual violence. Mr. Rainey thanked Professor Robert Howell, chair of the Academic Policies Committee, for his assistance with regard to issues that have arisen concerning the add-drop deadline. Mr. Rainey and Ms. Fletcher encouraged the faculty to bring any issues that may concern students to the Student Senate, which represents all students on campus. President Stevenson-Moessner thanked Mr. Rainey and Ms. Fletcher for visiting the Faculty Senate.
4. The minutes of the Senate meeting on Dec. 7, 2016 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on Nov. 30, 2016 and Dec. 12, 2016 were reviewed.
5. President Stevenson-Moessner introduced two new senators, Rhonda Blair and Sean Griffin from the Meadows School of the Arts. Professor Tamara Lewis of the Perkins School of Theology will also be joining the Senate this year.

6. The Faculty Senate discussed a proposed resolution regarding President Trump's recent Executive Order on immigration. After discussion and amendments, the following resolution was approved by a vote of 34 to 2 with one abstention:

*Faculty Senate Resolution on President Trump's Executive Order on
Immigration*

Whereas, it is the duty of the SMU Faculty Senate to "[e]xercise leadership to achieve and maintain a high quality of intellectual life for the University" (Faculty Senate Constitution, Art. V, sec. 2(a)); and

Whereas, SMU's campus must be a place in which students, faculty and staff feel safe and unthreatened by discrimination, whether that discrimination comes from within the campus or from sources external to the campus; and

Whereas, SMU is an academic enterprise that benefits from talented men and women from around the world and from a diverse set of religious backgrounds; and

Whereas, Southern Methodist University (SMU) will not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, education activity, or admissions on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status (SMU Statement of Nondiscrimination); and

Whereas, on January 27, 2017, the President of the United States issued an Executive Order that restricts entry into the United States by people from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen for ninety days, suspends entry by Syrian nationals indefinitely, and reduces entry by refugees thereafter (White House Executive Order, Jan. 27, 2017); and

Whereas, President Gerald Turner has indicated that SMU will look for ways to support any of its international students whose families may have been affected by this executive order (A message to the SMU community from President Turner, January 29, 2017); and

Whereas, SMU faculty, staff, and students, and their families face undeserved hardship and discrimination as a result of this executive order; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of SMU condemns the Executive Order of January 27, 2017 as antithetical to the values of Southern Methodist University for unreasonably restricting entry to the United States based on national origin and religion; and be it further

Resolved, that, unless legally compelled to do otherwise, SMU should respect the privacy of its faculty, staff, and students by not sharing their immigration status; and be it further

Resolved, that the faculty and administration of SMU should do whatever possible to embrace and support its international faculty, staff, and students as equal members of our outstanding community.

7. Professor Rajat Deb, Chair of the Subcommittee on Libraries, introduced a proposed resolution regarding increased support for CUL Libraries. Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director of Central University Libraries, explained some of the costs that would be associated with joining the Association of Research Libraries. Associate Provost Doug Reinelt noted that increased financial support for the libraries would reduce the funding available for other academic initiatives. Dean McCombs acknowledged that there are other priorities on campus, and emphasized that the faculty's support will be critical going forward. The last two years have seen the CUL cut so that the gap becomes harder to bridge. Associate Provost Reinelt noted that there is a research task force underway that will be considering how to allocate funds for academic initiatives.

Following discussion and amendment, the Senate unanimously approved the following resolution:

Resolution on Increased Support for SMU Libraries

Whereas, the archive of accumulated knowledge, ideas, and information is the foundation of scholarly activity, and access to it through the Central University Libraries is vital to SMU faculty and students in pursuing their scholarly activities;

Whereas, the CUL has lost needed staff as a part of the OE2C initiative, and recent library budgets have failed to keep up with the rate of inflation, thus impinging on its ability to maintain its physical and electronic collections and provide essential services to its users;

Whereas, the University has resolved to allocate savings from the OE2C initiatives to promote academic pursuits at the university;

Whereas, the SMU Strategic Plan states that “a university is measured by the quality of its faculty, students, alumni, libraries, and facilities. These are – and always will be – the primary areas where qualitative growth and development are essential” (Goal 1);

Whereas, said Plan declares (Goal 1, Objective 6) the University's need and intention to “strengthen the Meadows Museum and University library system by expanding collections and enhancing the digital research infrastructure”;

Whereas, significant resources will be necessary to enhance the academic standing of SMU and to keep up with investments made by our peer and aspirant institutions, many of whom invest more heavily in their libraries than SMU and are members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL—the association of top North American academic libraries); now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate strongly supports significantly increased funding for the CUL in AY 2017-2018 and beyond to meet the needs of acquisitions and staffing with the goal of meeting the requirements of joining the ARL in the next five years.

President Stevenson-Moessner thanked Dean McCombs and Professor Deb and the Subcommittee on Libraries for their work.

8. Professor Howell updated the Senate on the revision of the University Curriculum. The UC Taskforce has solicited opinions from the faculty about UC 2012 and UC 2016 as well as recommendations about a future curriculum. The taskforce will be studying several areas to determine whether changes would be beneficial, including Discernment and Discourse, Quantitative Foundations, and Personal Responsibility and Wellness. The taskforce is discussing ways to get more depth in the curriculum so that, in addition to the foundations, students are exposed to more than just a smattering of material in a diverse set of areas. The UC taskforce is leaning against having students opt to take several “clusters” of courses on a particular topic. The taskforce is about to discuss the possibility of requiring students to minor in an area substantially different from their major. This has only been briefly discussed, but clearly has pros and cons.
9. President Stevenson-Moessner introduced a resolution honoring the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Pamela Anthony. The Senate unanimously approved the following resolution:

Resolution Honoring the Extraordinary Leadership of Dr. Pamela Anthony

Whereas, on February 1, 2016, Dr. Pamela D. Anthony was named Vice President for Student Affairs at Southern Methodist University, and

Whereas, Dr. Pamela D. Anthony oversaw the Office of the Dean of Student Life, Multicultural Student Affairs, Women and LGBT Center, student activities, campus ministries, career services, volunteer and leadership programs, residence life, student conduct, Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports, volunteer and leadership programs, and the Hughes-Trigg Student Center, and

Whereas, Dr. Pamela D. Anthony undertook all her responsibilities both with passion for the tasks and with compassion for the students and staff, and

Whereas, Dr. Pamela D. Anthony became a model of integrity, excellence, and discipline while serving as a mentor to many, and

Whereas, Dr. Pamela D. Anthony in the short 11 months she was with us, tapped into the “heart and soul of this community,” in no small way through the actions, letters, and words of respect in interpersonal relationships (President of the Faculty Senate Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, General Faculty meeting, January 25, 2017), and

Whereas, Dr. Pamela D. Anthony demonstrated: “The quality of interaction between teacher and student forms the heart and soul of our university.” (SMU President R. Gerald Turner, *Dallas Morning News*, August 27, 1998), and

Whereas Dr. Pamela D. Anthony was a valued colleague of the Faculty Senate; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University, on this day February 1, 2017, exactly one year after Dr. Anthony began on this campus, honors the memory of her leadership and legacy and expresses gratitude for each day she lived and loved among us.

10. The Faculty Senate went into executive session to discuss a recommendation of the Honorary Degrees Committee to grant an honorary degree to a specific individual. The recommendation was unanimously approved.
11. President Stevenson-Moessner mentioned possible ways the Senate could help to honor Dr. Anthony in cooperation with the Student Senate.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Tate