

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West

Present: *Sabri Ates; Dick Barr, *Amit Basu, Rhonda Blair, Michael Braun, Daniel Buraczski, Rajat Deb, Dennis Foster, Sean Griffin, Michael Hawn; Grant Hayden, LiGuo Huang; Tom Knock, John Lamoreaux, Tamara Lewis, Matt Lockard, *Paul Krueger, Cheryl Mendenhall, Luigi Manzetti, *Brian Molanphy, *Abigail “Abby” Pruitt, Dan Reynolds, * Thomas Ritz, Meghan Ryan, Canan Savaskan-Ebert, Susanne Scholz, Susana Solera Adoboe, *Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, presiding; *Joshua Tate

Absent: Adriana Aceves; Karen Baker-Fletcher; Neil Bhattacharya; Alan Brown; Betty Gilmore; Kevin Hanlon; Susanne Johnson; Francesca Jones; Leanne Ketterlin-Geller; Elfi Kraka; Choon Lee; Jody Magliolo; Pavel Nadolsky; Andrew Quicksall; Tim Rosendale; Elizabeth Russ; Halit Uster; Pia Vogel;

ExOfficio:

Visitors: Doug Reinelt; Christopher Dolder; Kathleen Tibbets

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner at 3:11 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on Apr. 5, 2017 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on Mar. 29, 2017 were reviewed.
3. President Stevenson-Moessner introduced Professor Tamara Lewis as a new member of the Senate. The Senate held a moment of silence for the memory of Dieter Cremer, Professor of Chemistry, who passed away suddenly on April 13, 2017. President Stevenson-Moessner updated the Senate on some of her recent meetings. Provost Currall is committed to start a task force to address issues relating to graduate education across the University. President Stevenson-Moessner and President-Elect Paul Krueger met together with President Turner. She asked President Turner to clarify the appropriate destination for each of the recently adopted Faculty Senate resolutions. The Faculty Senate Resolution on the proposed abolition of the NEH and NEA has been sent to Mike Boone, chair of the Board of Trustees.

President Stevenson-Moessner explained the connection between the Faculty Senate and the Athletics Council. The Chair of the Athletics Council is supposed to be chosen by the President from the faculty after consultation with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. The Council should include six faculty members

chosen annually by the Faculty Senate and appointed by the President. The Chair, in consultation with the Faculty Athletic Representative, is supposed to appoint a Vice-Chair annually from among that group of six faculty members. Professor Dennis Foster, chair of the Athletics Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate, explained that President Turner communicates directly with the Chair of the Athletics Council.

Another important group is the Incident Planning Committee, and President Stevenson-Moessner and President-Elect Paul Krueger are going to make sure that one or the other of them is always in attendance at meetings of that committee.

4. President-Elect Paul Krueger reported to the Senate on nominations from the Faculty Senate to committees on the Board of Trustees. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the slate of nominees.
5. Associate Provost Doug Reinelt presented to the Faculty Senate on the Stella Porter Russell Fund, which is now to be called the Stella Porter and Lester A. Russell Fund, in keeping with the original purpose of the endowment. The will of Stella Porter Russell states that “[t]he net income derived from my estate by Southern Methodist University shall be used for the purpose of supplementing the salaries paid to members of the teaching staff of the University.” The difficult issue is how to define “teaching staff.”

Currently, full-time permanent teaching faculty and faculty administrators that teach at least six credit hours as part of their normal teaching load during the current academic year (not calendar year) are eligible for the award. Courses taught for extra compensation are not counted toward the six credit hours. Faculty teaching fewer than six credit hours as part of their normal teaching load do not receive the award. This includes faculty on leave of absence, paid or unpaid, that teach fewer than six credit hours during the nine month academic year. Part-time faculty, visiting faculty (teaching or research), research faculty, and staff are not eligible for the award.

After consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Associate Provost Reinelt has proposed to modify the requirements, so that full-time permanent teaching faculty on leave of absence (research, medical, maternity) will continue to receive the bonus as long as part of their academic year salary is paid with SMU funds and they intend to return to the full-teaching faculty at the conclusion of their leave. Faculty on unpaid leave for the entire nine month academic year or faculty with a full-time job in government or at another institution would not receive the bonus. Under these new eligibility requirements, last year’s \$1900 bonus would be reduced to approximately \$1700.

There is general agreement that there is more transparency about how the Russell bonus is distributed. Associate Provost Reinelt said that there will be a website that provides this information. If a change is made, it will state “At the request of the Faculty Senate, the Provost has agreed to [specific changes].” Since the Faculty Senate will have responsibility for making a change and decreasing the bonus amount, the Executive Committee has requested the support of the Faculty Senate before we move forward with any changes. It is not expected that there will be any additional changes to the eligibility requirements in the near future.

The Faculty Senate discussed the implications of the proposed changes, including the possibility of disparate impact on women faculty, and issues of fairness with regard to lecturers and faculty administrators.

A motion was made and seconded that it be regarded as the sense of the Senate that the changes proposed by Associate Provost Reinelt should be adopted. The motion passed with nineteen senators in favor, three opposed, and six abstaining. President Stevenson-Moessner thanked Associate Provost Reinelt for his work.

6. Professor Christopher Dolder reported to the Senate on behalf of the Student Policies Committee, which includes Professors Adriana Aceves, Alan Brown, and Abby Pruitt. The first charge of the Committee for this academic year was to monitor and assist in implementation of the recommendations emerging from the President’s Task Force on Sexual Misconduct. The Student Policies Committee recommends that faculty be provided with a required or recommended statement about sexual misconduct to be added to all syllabi, and that faculty be reminded by the Provost each semester that it is important to go through all of the policy statements included on syllabi with our students.

The Committee’s second charge was to comprehensively examine the problems faced by doctoral and other graduate students. The predominant challenge in that area is continued low stipends. Graduate chairs mention that the teaching assistant budget has not been raised in over 10 years. The various graduate colleges are aware of this and have worked to address it, but no improvement has been made. Given that there are various regulatory issues involved in providing 100% health insurance, the two areas in which SMU may compensate are (a) improving assistance with low-cost housing and (b) raising the teaching assistant stipends to offset housing and/or health insurance costs.

The third charge to the Committee was to document key problems faced by international students, particularly graduate international students, on campus, and to examine the role of International Students/Scholars Office in this regard. Problems include fluency in English and cultural differences. The Office of

International Students addresses some of these issues in their orientation with some degree of success, but the issues are very difficult to handle in one session. The recent travel ban has added new complications. On the other hand, everyone contacted by the committee that has had any opportunity to work with the International Students/Scholars Office has had a very positive view of what they do. The Committee recommends that the University continue to fully fund and support the Office of International Students, which is a very effective office with a highly committed staff.

The Committee's fourth charge was to coordinate with the Committee on Research and Graduate Studies to study the health care plans offered to graduate students and their families. Professor Rebekah Miles, the Chair of that committee, gave a report to the Faculty Senate meeting on April 5th recommending the formation of a Provost's Task Force on PhD Education. The Student Policies Committee fully supports the recommendations of the Committee on Research and Graduate Studies. Regarding the fifth charge—to coordinate with the Athletics Policies Committee in monitoring the academic performance of student athletes—the Student Policies Committee has no current recommendations beyond those presented by Professor Dennis Foster on April 5.

The Committee's sixth and seventh charges were to examine the impact of various recent changes in student housing and to evaluate the impact of the new Residential Commons on campus life. The Committee recommends that the University immediately reinvigorate the support for the 5-year plan for the Residence Commons that was developed in 2015 and is an impressive and thoroughly detailed plan of action. Unfortunately, this document appears to have inadvertently disappeared from the radar, most likely due to administrative turnover. Going forward, the Committee intends to work with Associate Provost Peter Moore, and Adam Cebulski, Director of Assessment and Strategic Initiatives, to monitor the success of the Residence Commons experience.

The Committee's final charge was to examine student safety on and around campus, including but not limited to (1) continued assessment and improvement of campus lighting; (2) adequacy of current escort services; and (3) adequacy of measures to ensure safety in University spaces in the event of a shooting or other violence. The Student Policies Committee recommends that the University ensure that the outdoor lighting at the Dedman School of Law is deemed safe by any and all faculty/staff/students and that one or more GiddyUp vehicles and drivers be added. In addition, the Committee recommends that funds be dedicated towards a collaborative film project between the SMU Police Department and students in the

Film and Media Studies program at Meadows to create an educational video that may then be shown during AARO, Residential Commons events, and be posted with a link so that all SMU students, faculty and staff may have easy access.

Members asked for minor clarifications about the recommendations of the Student Policies Committee. President Stevenson-Moessner thanked Professor Dolder for his report.

7. President Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner asked Senators to contact her or Julie Maynard if they would like to discuss President Turner's letter regarding study abroad in the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting on May 3, 2017. She congratulated the winners of the recent Faculty Senate elections, and announced that the Staff Awards will be presented at the May 3 meeting. She also reminded the Senate that a Safety Walk will be held on Friday, April 21, led by Josh Tate.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Tate