



REPORT FROM THE FACULTY SENATE

“THIS ONE DAY”

Professor Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner
President of the Faculty Senate
2016-2017

THIS ONE DAY

President Turner, Provost Currall, Chaplain Rankin, Deans of the Schools and members of the faculty, it is an honor to serve as the President of the Faculty Senate for this academic year.

My first responsibility today is to call your attention to the minutes. Booklet. Motion to approve. Second.

As a prelude to my remarks, I would like to tell a story:

In the *Talmud*, Honi, the Wise One, was attentive to puzzling things.¹ Honi would ask questions to unravel the mystery and find the surprise. One day he noticed a woman planting a carob tree. He asked the woman: “*How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?*” The woman said: “*Seventy years.*” Honi queried: “*Why not plant apple trees or peaches? It takes too long for carob trees to bear fruit. Do you think you will live 70 years and eat the fruit of this tree?!*”

The woman replied: “*Perhaps not. However, when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my mother and my grandmothers. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees.*”

Leaving a legacy is to plant seeds.

I have always liked this story until I became Faculty Senate President. 70 years is a very long time!!!

¹ *Talmud [Ta'anit 23a]*,

Lest the image of a **carob seed** be an impediment to those of you who prefer much faster growth, be assured that the Senate has other images in mind as well. May we take heart from the eastern cottonwood whose growth is 10-15 feet per year or the Giant Sequoia trees with 4-6 feet per year or the cherry tree which matures in one year with fruit!

Let us never forget the constructive and fertile work of our predecessors. SMU has just celebrated a Centennial where we did look back at all the advances made in the last 100 years. We honored alumnae, alumni, Trustees, faculty, and staff whose investment in this institution has borne fruit for all of us. Looking back, SMU completed two **high-yielding** major gift campaigns: 1.) The Campaign for SMU: A Time to Lead (1997-2002) “which raised \$542 million for operations, capital projects, and endowments.” 2.) SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign (2008-2015) which yielded a crop of more than \$1 billion for faculty and academic excellence, scholarships, and the campus experience.”²

² Launching SMU’s Second Century: Shaping Leaders for a Changing World, (SMU Office of Public Affairs, 2015), p.5.

Now looking back to 2015-2016, you will find in your booklet Doug Reinelt's synopsis of this past year for the Faculty Senate. You will find many issues that we addressed and will continue to pursue. I would like to highlight two **collaborative** accomplishments: First, in the area of Tenure and Promotion. The Ethics and Tenure Committee of the Faculty Senate with the Deans of all schools have pushed for greater clarity in criteria for the promotion and tenure process. Thank you to Michael Hawn who led this push from the Senate side, and to Bill Bridge who covered for Michael on his research leave. Second, the Child Development Center. When word came that the SMU Child Care and Preschool Center would be closed, the Faculty Senate joined with the President's Commission on the Status of Women to advocate for its continuance. Compared to the decades when most of us where students in colleges and universities, there has been a major paradigm shift across university campuses. For today's faculty, family is as important as work if not more so. How fortunate when our vocation can embrace both. You cannot place a dollar amount on being in close proximity to your child's preschool – whether in happy times like a Valentine's party or unhappy times like illness. If there ever was an illustration of my opening story of planting carob seeds, this is one. Keeping and upgrading the Child Care and Preschool Center honored a 43-year history, prevented an impending crisis of discontinuity for children and their families, and resulted in a commitment for a new facility, a Child Development

Center, with capacity for almost three times as many children. I want to personally thank President Turner for sharing and promoting our vision.

Looking back on this summer: The Executive Committee has met throughout the summer months. Senators have been involved with the pre-planning of the UC2020. We thank Provost Currall for acting so quickly on the Senate's resolution to develop a new or revised curriculum and for heavily involving the Chair of our Academic Policies committee, Robert Howell. Thank you, Associate Dean Peter Moore, for your untiring efforts. The Operational Excellence Executive Committee has proposed a user-satisfaction survey from faculty and staff regarding Shared Services; Senators Amit Basu and Paul Kreuger have been on the front end of the preparations. [Please look for this survey on September 26th.] This summer, Jody Magliolo attended a Human Resources meeting to apprise us of any changes in our benefits. Rebekah Miles, Paul Kreuger, and I attended a webinar: "[Spotlight on Graduate Students: Affordable Care Act, Intellectual Property and Unionization](#)" presented by the National Association of Colleges and University Attorneys." We have kept busy this summer, tilling the ground for this academic year.

[powerpoint]

Ask Executive Committee to stand, remain standing, hold applause

Julie Maynard, Coordinator for the Faculty Senate - historian, keeper of continuity,
fount of wisdom

Introduce incoming President

Introduce our reps on the Board of Trustees Committees

Ask all Committee Chairs to stand; all Senators who will inevitably be on these
committees

[Every effort has been made to represent all schools at SMU in the committees.

Please refer to your booklet for all names and committees.]

Leaving a legacy is not only to sow but also to reap.

Looking forward: We now look forward to the next phase of strategic planning,
Launching SMU's Second Century (2016-2025), to guide SMU's advancement in
the next 10 years. To quote from this strategic plan: "As it enters the decade
encompassed by Launching SMU's Second Century, the University enjoys
unprecedented opportunities to continue to elevate its quality as well as its national
and global visibility."³ The number one goal: "to enhance the academic quality and
stature of the university." The number one objective: "strengthen the University's
ability to recruit, appoint, promote, and retain a distinguished, gifted, and diverse

³ *Launching*, op. cit., p.5.

faculty.”⁴ Objective two: “enhance the University’s ability to recruit, retain, and graduate academically and creatively gifted undergraduate and graduate students from diverse backgrounds.”⁵

At the Senate’s last meeting in spring semester, 2016, I asked for written responses to the question: In preparation for the next academic year, what would you list as your top three priorities/issues for our Faculty Senate involvement in 2016-2017?

Please remember goal one and the first two objectives under that goal of *Launching SMU’s Second Century* as I give you the concerns of the senators. The top three issues which emerged were as follows: increase faculty research and travel money (URC) along with bridge funds for grants; invest strategically in our graduate students especially with competitive fellowships and affordable health insurance; update and upgrade security measures on campus with special attention to classroom safety in the event of an active shooter and with greater progress in better campus lighting. I had never understood this last issue, that of campus safety, as a matter of calling until President Turner linked the roles of effective teachers and committed police officers like Mark McCullers at McCullers Memorial

⁴ Ibid., p.13.

⁵ Ibid.

Service on July 28th, 2016. Speaking of both effective teachers and committed police officers, President Turner remarked: “The best have a calling, and those who answer it know they will not get rich, but they will uphold an American legacy of service to their fellow citizens.”⁶ We faculty likely share with Mark McCullers the calling to keep this campus safe. The Faculty Senate will continue Marks’ legacy of trying to find better ways to do this.

Other extremely high priorities of Senators are these: the athletic budget deficit and the new salary raise pool policy. There is opposition to the new policy not only with the absence of criteria for the raise pool policy but for the compounded effects of the policy on salaries and benefits over time. The new salary raise pool policy is the opposite example or antithesis of my opening illustration of planting carob trees: the effect over time can be a significant difference in salaries. Other Senatorial concerns: a need for a stronger network of faculty governance; the shortage of faculty and student diversity; improvement of support for faculty who are minorities; the need for mentoring and support structures for non-tenure and associate professors moving to full; and the creation of a sustainable budget for the maintenance of older and new buildings on campus.

In my report this afternoon, we have looked back, and we are looking forward.

⁶ President Gerald Turner, address on the occasion of “Memorial Service for Mark McCullers,” McFarlin Auditorium, July 28, 2016, p. 2.

But the present moment is all that any of us have – even this moment, as you hear me speak.

If there is anything I have learned in the last two years, it is this: The only guarantee that we have is the gift of **this one day**.

Therefore, let us begin to plant **now**. **Long-range planting**, “yes.” **Short-range yield**, “yes.” We will work diligently - for our only surety is the “endowment” of this one day.

Some of us tend to dwell in the past, some of us live more into the future. With 50 Senators gathered around a table each month, we shall do both. But make no mistake. We will dwell in this moment, in this phase of SMU’s implementation of Operational Excellence and in the allocation of the savings from Operational Excellence, and we shall live with intensity. It would be wise for all faculty to subscribe to the OE2C website! There you will find charts and metrics of the allocations of early savings to the academic mission of SMU! [slides]

Many of us have been attached to the television for the last two weeks, inspired by the Rio Olympics. It takes incredible talent to go to the Olympics. In addition, each athlete must have steady support, money to train, money to improve through competition, and considerable resources and equipment. To compete in **our** academic arenas – locally, nationally, internationally - **we faculty need the same**. Many of us faculty do not have enough of an annual travel fund to pay for even

one international airlines ticket., much less the ticket and conference fees plus room and board. We cannot be the world-changers we aspire to be without adequate funding for yearly participation in regional, national, and international competition.

There is evident passion at SMU for our student athletes to compete at the highest level possible. You have returned to campus to the news of a master plan in the works to include an indoor performance center for athletes, an outdoor natural-grass football practice field, a soccer stadium, and athletic facilities to serve 17 sports. Phase 1 is expected to cost \$50 million. This is in the wake of 120 million in athletic upgrades: a new tennis complex, the renovation of Moody Stadium, the Miller Events Center, a short-game course at Dallas Athletic club, the new aquatics center, Ford Stadium upgrades, and SMU's part of the Trinity Forest Golf Club.

For the football team to reach the Big 12, there has already been a tremendous show of support. As Rick Hart, SMU athletic director has said: "Whether it is the Big 12 or the American Athletic Conference, or another conference down the road, you have to invest constantly at the highest level possible. That's the path to national recognition and championships. It never ends. If you want to be a part of that nationally relevant group, you can't wait for it to happen. This is what it takes,

and the process is constant.”⁷ Back in 1995, President Turner gave the challenge to aim for the Big 50, the schools ranked highest in the US News and World Report. We the Faculty Senate are continuing the challenge and pushing for our entrance into the Big 50 for which we will continue to ask for support, financial resources, equipment, library holdings, and “an indoor performance” research building.

What can you do to help? First, get to know the senators representing your school. Attend our Senate meetings. Follow the agenda and schedules posted on our Faculty Senate website.

To make your participation easier we have initiated two features. The first is **AAS: ask a senator**. Ask a senator to take you to lunch. At our September 7th meeting, each senator will be given a gift card for three complimentary meals in the ULC. These cards are for a senator to treat you to lunch as you discuss issues that are important to you. The second measure for greater visibility are lapel pins which feature SMU’s team of Mustangs. At university events, you should be able to spot us more easily.

⁷ Editorial, *The Dallas Morning News*, “Dallas’ university, SMU, has a case for Big 12 membership,” August 3, 2016.

In his analysis of the crisis that led to SMU facing the NCAA death penalty on February 25, 1987, author David Whitford referred to the SMU faculty as “**strident, but impotent...**”⁸

That will not be said of this year’s Senate as we address a number of issues. We shall be **dynamic and potent**. Above all, it shall be said that we lived into the **gift of this one day**.

⁸ David Whitford, A Payroll to Meet: A Story of Greed, Corruption, and Football at SMU (New York: MacMillan, 1989), p.85.

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, Theology
- Present-Elect Paul Kreuger, Lyle
- Joshua Tate, Law
- Sabri Ates, Dedman I
- Abigail Pruitt, Education, Simmons
- Amit Basu, Cox
- Brian Molanphy, Meadows
- Thomas Ritz, Dedman II
- Pia Vogel, Dedman III

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS Faculty Representatives 2016-2017

- COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
 - Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Professor, Pastoral Care/Theology, Senate President 2016-2017)
 - Paul Krueger (Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Lyle, Senate President-Elect, 2017-2018)
- ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
 - Meghan J. Ryan (Professor, Law)
 - Dennis Foster (Professor, English)
- AUDIT COMMITTEE
 - Jody Magliolo (Professor, Accounting, Cox, Senate Past President, 2014-2015)
- BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE
 - Leanne Ketterlin-Geller (Professor, Leadership, School Education, Simmons)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS Faculty Representatives 2016-2017

- EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
 - Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Professor, Pastoral Care/Theology, Senate President)
- DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - Mark Chancey (Professor, Religious Studies)
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 - Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Professor, Pastoral Care/Theology, Senate President)
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
 - Santanu Roy (Santanu Roy, University Distinguished Professor, Chair of the Department of Economics, Past Senate President 2013-2014)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS Faculty Representatives 2016-2017

- INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
 - Kumar Venkataraman (Professor, Finance, Cox)
- COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
 - Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Professor, Pastoral Care/Theology, Perkins, Senate President)
- STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 - Darryl Dickson-Carr (Professor, English)
- TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE
 - Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Professor, Pastoral Care/Theology, Perkins, Senate President)

LAUNCHING SMU'S SECOND CENTURY (2016-2025)

“As it enters the decade encompassed by Launching SMU's Second Century, the University enjoys unprecedented opportunities to continue to elevate its quality as well as its national and global visibility.” (p.5)

NUMBER ONE GOAL

“to enhance the academic quality and stature of the university.”

OBJECTIVES

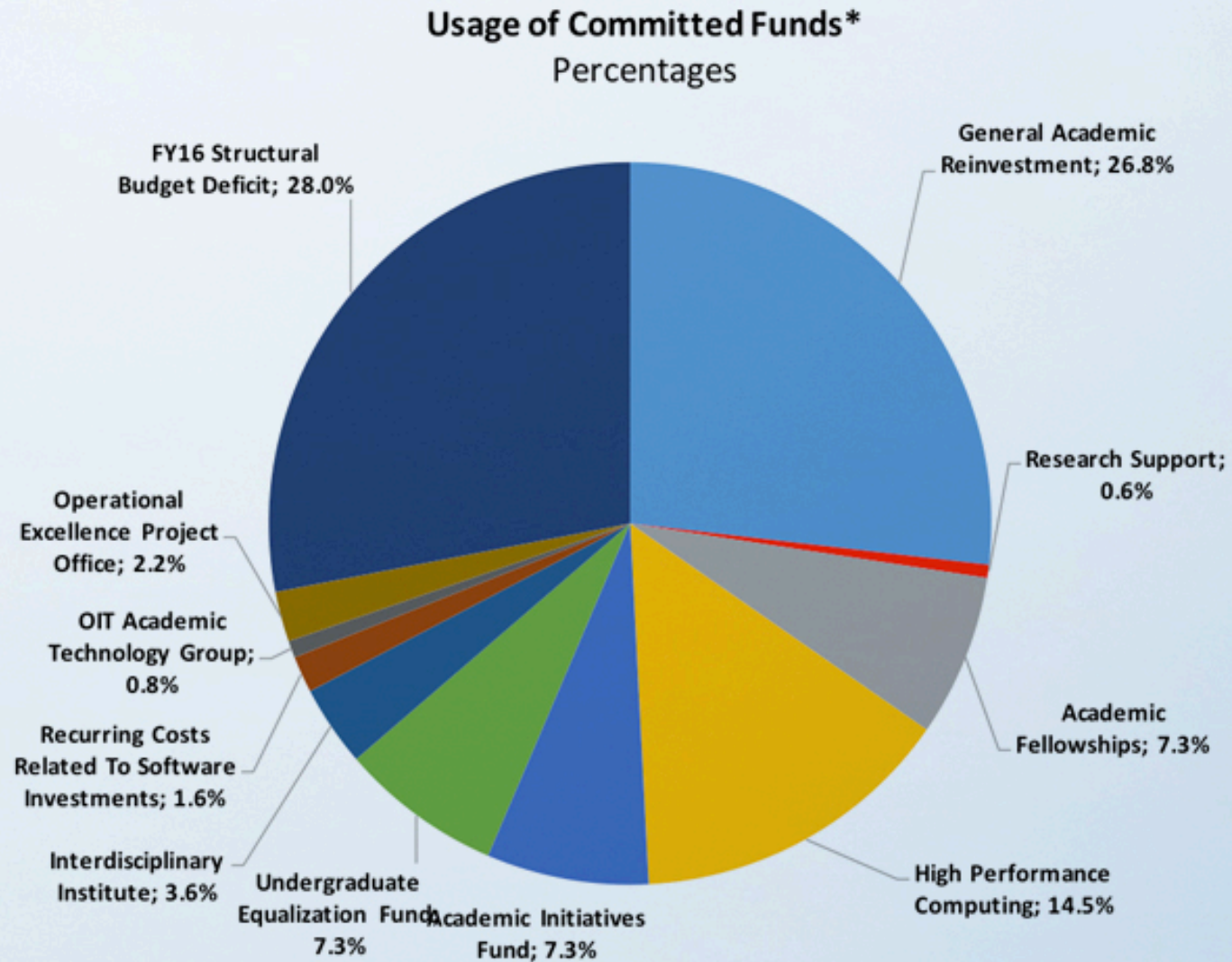
#1

“strengthen the University’s ability to recruit, appoint, promote, and retain a distinguished, gifted, and diverse faculty.” (p.13)

#2

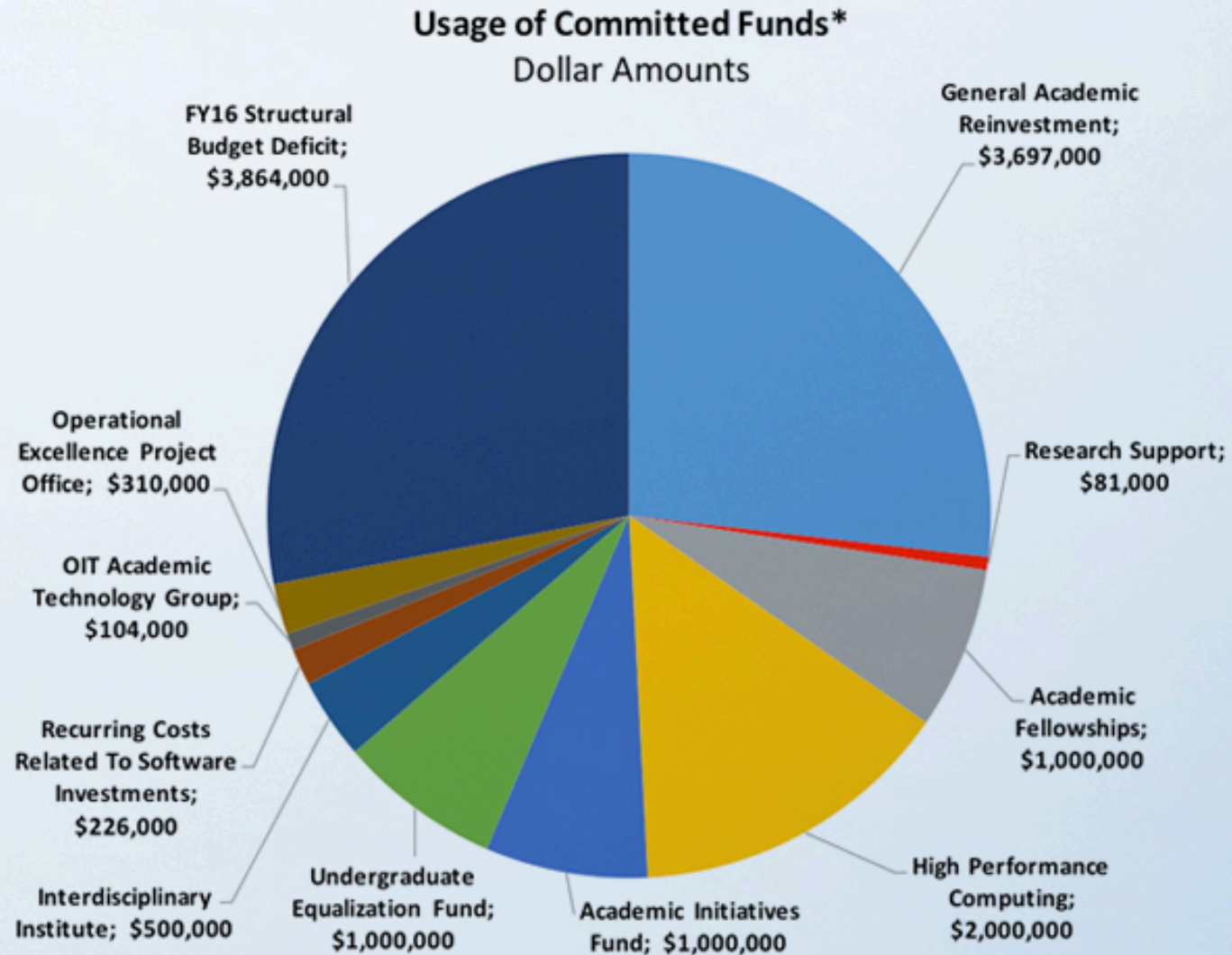
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OE2C INITIATIVES: USE OF FUNDS



*Committed funds total is currently 13.78 million

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