**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West**

**Present:** Adrianna Aceves; Sabri Ates; Karen Baker-Fletcher; Dick Barr; \*Sreekumar Bhaskaran; Neil Bhattacharya; Rhonda Blair; Michael Braun; Richard Briesch; Rajat Deb; Dennis Foster; Sean Griffin; Kevin Hanlon; Grant Hayden; LiGuo Huang; Susanne Johnson; Francesca Jones; Robert Kehoe; Leanne Ketterlin-Geller; \*Paul Krueger, presiding; John Lamoreaux; Matt Lockard; Luigi Manzetti; Stan Markov; Cheryl Mendenhall; \*Brian Molanphy; Beth Newman; \*Dayna Oscherwitz; Saltuk Ozerturk; \*Victoria Palacios; John Potter; \*Abigail “Abby” Pruitt; Dan Reynolds; Elizabeth Russ; Susanne Scholz; Susana Solera Adoboe; \*Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner; Joshua Tate; Aurelie Thiele; Halit Uster; \*Pia Vogel; Candace Walkington; \*Matthew Wilson; John Wise

**Absent:** Daniel Buraczeski; Carlos Davila; Tamara Lewis; Andrew Quicksall; Steve Weisenburger

**Ex Officio:** R. Gerald Turner

**Visitors:** Lindsay Koch; Creston Lynch; Ashley Mason; Helen Regan; Harold Stanley; Steve Edwards; Kathleen Tibbetts; Doug Reinelt

1. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Krueger at 3:10 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on September 6, 2017 were amended and approved.
3. Lindsey Koch from student affairs requested that senators and other faculty provide feedback on a campus-wide survey to be released next week. The data collected will be incorporated into a strategic plan.
4. President Krueger shared the following announcements:
   1. Dr. Anthony’s Paver has been placed in the Laura Bush promenade.
   2. The first-year repeat policy, a resolution passed by the Senate last fall, was approved by Provost Currall and will go into effect in Spring 2018.
   3. President Krueger discussed Senate resolutions that involve academic issues with Peter Moore and Provost Currall to clarify APC/EPC roles in the process.
   4. The Faculty Handbook Revision committee is working on revising the handbook.
   5. A Facilities Planning and Management survey of services to collect information about faculty experiences will be released soon.
   6. The Student Senate reported updates on campus shared bike rentals and travel funding through the Student Senate Finance Committee.
5. President Turner opened with an update about last night’s electrical outage. He addressed the Senate and answered the following three questions compiled by Senators.
6. What specific requirements must be met to move from the 2% raise pool + 1% bonus pool merit reward system back to the 3% raise pool system? What timeline is envisioned for returning to the 3% raise pool?

President Turner explained that it will depend on funding sources. He discussed potential funding from future online and other continuing education led by recently hired administrative staff. Changes in SMU’s endowment could and grant funding will be a factor as well. However, President Turner warned that until there is a change in the national trend based on the belief that higher education is too expensive, there will be no increase in percentage. The timeline is as soon as possible and he is hopeful that there will be a national change in how education is funded.

1. What advantages do you see to increasing the number of Board of Trustees members who have had careers in academia? What steps are you taking to seek candidates with this perspective?

The trustee committee has appointed a member who has had a faculty and administrative position in the past. The committee sought to recruit another candidate with these credentials in the last round but it was a challenge. The board will continue to look for a member that fits that role in the next appointments.

1. What is your vision for what SMU will look like in coming years as it aspires to become a “global research university with a liberal arts tradition”? What will this look like in terms of the day-to-day activities of the faculty?

The Provost created three task forces to examine research needs. The Provost is working on the final draft of the task force reports, and then the information will be shared with the faculty. President Turner discussed the origins of SMU’s undergraduate and professional educational programs. Across the University, SMU goals have changed to improve graduate programs and sponsored research. Doctoral and other graduate programs have been developed and the University has increased the level of scholarship and sponsored research. It is also important to honor the origin of strong teaching university with undergraduate programs taught by faculty. The administration aims to develop as a global research university by funding projects, such as the proposed research center that increase our academic stature in addition to maintaining our strong undergraduate programs.

1. President Turner answered further questions posed by Senators about the raise pool, emergency planning, the Senate Resolution on Blinded Faculty Data, faculty and staff morale (and feelings of austerity), administrative transparency, and transition to a shared services model. Senators thanked President Turner for his recent, powerful communications to the SMU community about issues of diversity and freedom of speech.

*At the faculty Senate meeting on November 1, 2017, a Senator requested that the following notes be added to these minutes.* Regarding returning to the 3% raise pool, a Senator asked President Turner, why not restructure the raise pool so that the entire raise is subject to the benefits of compounding, even if the total percentage must be reduced in order to achieve this end? President Turner said that the intention was to make it possible for faculty members to “feel” the increase, analogous to the Stella Porter Russell bonuses.

1. Helen Regan and Ashley Mason from HR discussed benefit updates for 2018. The health plan offerings are all the same except for a $100 raise in the $2,600 deductible to $2,700 (required by the IRS) and a 2% increase in premiums (which Regan said was well below the national trend increase). Ms. Mason described a new Virtual Visits benefit and the Surgery Plus benefit that was introduced into the program in July 2017.
2. Senators discussed the Joint Task Force of Faculty Salary Equity.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Pruitt