**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West**

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

**Absent:** Sabri Ates; Susanne Johnson; Francesca Jones; Tamara Lewis; Stan Markov; John Potter; Andrew Quicksall; Halit Uster; Steve Weisenburger

Ex Officio:

**Visitors**: Doug Reinelt; Darryl Dickson-Carr; Dean Quick; Reva Pollack; Nathan Balke; Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Krueger at 3:11 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on October 4, 2017 were discussed. A potential amendment will be voted on in the next meeting. A request was made that potential changes to the agenda and the minutes be sent to the President and Secretary ahead of the Senate meeting whenever possible.
3. The Senate discussed President Turner’s October 6th response to the Senate Resolution on Faculty Salary Data. President Turner believes that a joint task force with the Provost’s office would be the best way to collect these data. He does not see a benefit to creating a separate Senate Committee to analyze the data. Some Senators expressed that they felt that this response indicates that President Turner has rejected the resolution. A motion to create a written response to President Turner asking for an official response to the Resolution Requesting Access to Blinded Faculty Salary Data was passed.
4. The Senate discussed the Joint Task Force on Analysis of Faculty Salary Equity. Senators voted on recommendations for Senator nominations to this task force. The Executive Committee put forward three names: Dr. Nathan Balke, Chair of the All University Finance Committee, Dr. Tom Coan, Chair of the Subcommittee on The Economic Status of the Faculty and Dr. Aurelie Thiele. The Senate voted to nominate these representatives.
5. The Senate discussed a budget proposal on providing health insurance for qualifying graduate students. The total cost would be 1.5 million for 2018-2019 for Ph.D., S.J.D. and M.F.A. Senators discussed the benefits and costs of providing graduate student health insurance. Senators expressed the importance of financially supporting graduate students to build a stronger research institution. Some graduate students were promised health insurance when they applied but do not have the benefit. Senators pointed out that if these funds are used for graduate health insurance, the funds would not be available for other costs such as faculty salaries and classroom repairs. The budget proposal was passed.
6. President Krueger introduced a proposal which would allow emeriti faculty to compete for funding from the University Research Council (URC). The proposal would allow emeriti faculty to submit proposals for evaluation in the URC Research and Travel Grant Program. Associate Provost Doug Reinelt discussed a two-year initiative to provide additional funding to retired faculty who are continuing their research and need support. A motion to support the two-year trial out of the Provost’s office was passed.
7. Dr. Nathan Balke, Chair of the All University Finance Committee, provided a report on the current financial health of the university which included the proposed budget for FY 2018, trends in enrollments, tuition, salaries and the endowment. Senators asked for clarification on the differences between the budget and actual revenue. They discussed the athletic budget and the use of surplus funds. Academic units oftentimes keep their surpluses. Dr. Balke believes that the raise pool will be decided by competition. He recommends gathering data on “market” salaries across the disciplines.
8. The Senate convened executive session to discuss the nominees for honorary degrees.
9. There was a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.
10. Dr. Jim Quick, Associate VP for Research & Dean of Graduate Studies and Dr. Reva Pollack, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies provided a report from the Office of Research and Graduate Students based on questions posed by senators in advance. They reported on data SMU graduate students, interdisciplinary research, and academic excellence.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Pruitt