

Meeting of the Faculty
Dedman College
October 21, 2002

1. The minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2002, were approved as posted on the Dedman College web site.
2. Dean Jasper Neel observed that the modest refreshments now served at meetings reflected investment in more pressing needs of the faculty, such as upgraded computers.
3. Dean Neel solicited a nomination of a new secretary of the faculty. Professor Steven Daniels nominated David Freidel, seconded by Professor James Hopkins.
4. Dean Neel called for a vote by acclamation on a sense of the faculty resolution thanking Professor Nina Schwartz for her three years of service as secretary of the faculty. The motion was warmly and unanimously approved.
5. Dean Neel called for the recognition of new faculty. With salient details regarding their educational experiences, achievements, and intellectual interests, the following new faculty were introduced by the following colleagues in their departments:

Carolyn Smith-Morris, Assistant Professor, Anthropology Caroline Brettell

Pia Vogel, Assistant Professor, Biology Larry Ruben
Robert Harrod, Assistant Professor, Biology Larry Ruben

Pedro Amaral, Assistant Professor, Economics Nathan Balke

Timothy Rosendale, Assistant Professor, English Steven Daniels

Dayna Oscherwitz, Assistant Professor, Foreign Lang. Gordon Birrell
David Aldstadt, Assistant Professor, Foreign Lang. Gordon Birrell
Richard Gordon, Assistant Professor, Foreign Lang. Gordon Birrell

Ben Johnson, Assistant Professor, History James Hopkins

Robert Howell, Assistant Professor, Philosophy Dean Jasper Neel
(Professor Howell and his colleagues could not attend the meeting)

Patrick Schmidt, Assistant Professor, Political Science Brad Carter

Serge Frolov, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies Rick Cogley

Monnie McGee, Assistant Professor, Statistics William Schucany
Tony Ng, Assistant Professor, Statistics William Schucany

Dean Neel observed that our new colleagues are a remarkable and impressive group and that we are proud to welcome them to the Dedman College community.

Dean Neel made an offer to pay for lunch at the faculty club for existing Dedman faculty to take a newly appointed colleague. He said that this offer would be good for up to three luncheons. He elaborated the offer to the effect that tenured faculty could invite non-tenured faculty to lunch at the faculty club and the college would pay the bill.

6. Dean Neel congratulated the following faculty who were promoted and/or awarded tenure in the 2001-2002 academic year:

Division I: Rajani Sudan, tenured (already an Associate Professor)
Shuquin Cui, Foreign Languages

Division II: Michael McCullough, Psychology
Christopher Eckhardt, Psychology
Neil Mulligan, Psychology

Division III: David Son, Chemistry
Thomas Carr, Math

Dean Neel further congratulated the following colleagues for promotion to Full Professor:

Kathleen Wellman, History
Peter Moore, Math
John Chen, Math

Faculty in attendance warmly applauded these achievements

7. Dean Neel went on to congratulate new appointed and reappointed departmental chairs:

Dennis Foster, English	renewed 3 year, chair since 1996
Doug Reinhelt, Math	renewed 3 year, chair since 1999
Mark Heller, Philosophy	new 3 year appointment
William Barnard, Religious Studies	new 1 year appointment

The Dean thanked Doug Ehring, chair of Philosophy since 1993, and Rick Cogley, chair of Religious Studies since 1999.

8. Dean Neel introduced Tricia Barnett, the new Dedman College Development Officer. Ms. Barnett has worked in development at SMU since 1993, most recently as Major Gift Officer during the *Campaign for SMU: A Time to Lead*. The Dean noted her many achievements, and the faculty welcomed her warmly to the College.
9. The Dean then announced that Kathleen Hugely-Cook is now Associate Dean of Students, responsible for Academic Advising. Lisa Johnston has assumed new duties as Assistant Dean for Student records. Dr. Johnston is now responsible for transfer evaluation, degree audit, and other such activities. In the context of these announcements, Dean Neel observed that it is very important for faculty to get to know the advising staff and to keep them informed about their course offerings.
10. The Dean announced that Dorothy Friedlander is now Director of External Relations for the College, and that Paige Weiskittel Santini is Assistant to the Director of External Relations. This office is responsible for the Godbey Lecture Series, now in its twentieth year, and the Collegium da Vinci. The Dean noted that the Godbey Lecture Series, through its fund for faculty excellence, enables many members of the College faculty to travel to professional meetings during the course of the year.
11. Dean Neel then turned to the matter of the College Class ring. He noted that all members of the faculty would be receiving an email message outlining an opportunity for faculty tenured before 2001 to purchase a College ring at a significant discount, resulting from a manufacturer's discount and a subvention by the College. The men's ring costs \$100 and the woman's ring \$75. This offer is only good until December 2. After that time, rings may still be purchased by tenured faculty, but at the

market rate. Dean Neel encouraged faculty to consider this offer as a matter of College spirit, and hoped that the ceremony of reversing the seal of the ring on the occasion of commencement would become integral to the College. He passed his own College ring around the faculty to show its handsome appearance. He circulated copies of the brochure about the ring to attending faculty.

12. Dean Neel discussed the new Gerald Ford Early Career Fellowships and Ford Research Fellowships. Members of the faculty received an October 11, 2002, memo from Provost Ross Murfin concerning this matter. Dean Neel underscored that the Early Career Fellowships will serve a valuable purpose in recruiting outstanding new faculty. He gave the break down of the numbers in the nomination process for the Ford Research Fellowships, noting that there will be 64 nominations per year across the University. All together, members of the Dedman College faculty, including the Dean, will have the opportunity to make 26 of these nominations. Dean Naryan Bhat's Research Council will then pass on 8 nominations to the Provost. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2002.
13. Referring to an overhead transparency comparing final Fall 2002 enrollment in the College to Fall 2001 enrollment, Dean Neel discussed the trends in the numbers. The size of the entering Class continues to hover in the mid 1300s, which is placing a strain on classroom space and on the size of classes across the College. Generally, the trends are good. The number of students in Dedman II, which reflects the number of declared majors in the College, is up about 10 percent. At the present time, the College faculty is responsible for about 47 percent of the course hours taken by undergraduates in the University. The Dean is aiming for 50 percent of the course hours taken by undergraduates in the University, at a one percent increase per year over the next four years. Relevant to this discussion, the Dean observed that the "tax" on the College imposed by the University has increased in recent years at an alarming pace. The "tax" is the difference between the tuition and fees charged per student course hour, and the funds returned to the College by the University. The Dean hopes to persuade the Provost to work on reducing this financial burden on the College in order to allow initiatives in faculty and program development to flourish.
14. Dean Neel announced the impending renovation of Fondren Science Hall. The good news is that the renovation will be substantial, with an eight million dollar investment. The funds will be primarily allocated to installing new fume hoods in the laboratories. This work will greatly facilitate research and instruction in Fondren Science. The bad news is that the building will be closed to classes beginning in mid-May of 2003 and will remain off-line through the summer semesters. The building will be available for classes at a very reduced capacity during the coming academic year and will go completely off-line again during the summer of 2004. Faculty who regularly teach in Fondren Science were alerted to expect difficulties in scheduling rooms during the coming year and to prepare to teach at unpopular hours in order to accommodate the problem. Professor Caroline Brettell asked if it might be possible to negotiate space on a temporary basis in Florence Hall. The Dean was not sanguine about such prospects. The Dean expressed hopes that plans to renovate Hyer Hall, beginning with the basement, might be implemented in the not too distant future.

The Dean thanked the faculty in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Freidel
Secretary to the Faculty