

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West

Present: Arzhang Alimoradi; Maureen Armour; Karen Baker-Fletcher; Hal Barkley; Alan Brown; Jill DeTemple; Darryl Dickson-Carr; Melissa Dowling; Jennifer Dworak; Ed Fox; Donna Gober; Andrew Graybill; Robert “Buck” Hampson; *Michael Harris; Michael Hawn; Barbara Hill-Moore; *Robert Howell; Debora Hunter; David Karp; John Lamoreaux; *Joseph Magliolo; David Matula; Bill Maxwell; Cheryl Mendenhall; Brittany Ransom; *Santanu Roy, presiding; Timothy Salmon; Carolyn Smith-Morris; *Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner; *Joshua Tate; Jeff Tian; *Wei Tong; *Steven Vik; Paige Ware; Matthew Wilson

Absent: Vladimir Ajaev; *Steve Edwards; Susanne Johnson; Luis Maldonado; Bill Maxwell; Tom Mayo; Tony Ng; Thomas Ritz; Susanne Scholz; Jacquelyn Thomas; Glenn Voss; Steve Weisenburger; Jingbo Ye

Ex Officio: Paul Ludden

Visitors: José Bowen, Kevin Hofeditz, Ramon Trespacios, Jaywin Singh Malhi, Lisa O’Donnell, Harold Stanley, Elfi Kraka, Fred Olness, Gillian McCombs, other faculty

1. The meeting was called to order by President Santanu Roy at 3:12 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on November 6, 2013 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on October 30, 2013 were presented. President Roy reported on his meeting with Brad Cheves, Vice President for Development and External Affairs, regarding the coming Year of the Faculty, to occur during the Centennial Campaign in 2014. He also reported that he has met with President Turner, and discussed fund raising ideas for support of doctoral programs.
3. Provost Paul Ludden reported to the Senate on Academic Revenues and Expenses. His presentation was an updated version of a presentation given to the Board of Trustees on September 23, 2013, and it will be posted on the Provost website (http://smu.edu/provost/pdf/FacSenateDec2013_2.pdf). He showed revenues and expenses, both budgeted and actual, over the period 2007-08 to 2013-14. The numbers indicate that Academic Programs at SMU have had a steady, net positive impact, financially. Both academic expenses and revenue generated from Academic Programs have been steady over this time. Revenue generated per FTE has increased steadily over time. The second part of his talk was devoted to admissions, and the quality of the incoming class. Royall & Company was hired several years ago to increase the size of the applicant pool, and to increase the quality and the diversity of the incoming class. The average SAT score of the incoming class has now reached 1302. The applicant pool increased to about 14,000 last year, with about 12,000 completed applications. The admission rate declined to about 50%. Only about 30 of the incoming students have an SAT score below 1100. In the

future it will be difficult to continue to increase the average score, since there are relatively few students with scores above 1400. In the future, increases in tuition, class size, and rate of retention are key components. Recent increases in tuition have not decreased the applicant pool, so apparently students continue to see value in attending SMU. We are still not among the 100 most expensive private universities. Enrollment goals include about 300 transfer students annually. In general, recruiting students is facilitated by the beautiful campus, and an accessible faculty during applicant visits.

4. Meeting with Leaders of the Student Body: President Ramon Trespalacios and Vice-President Jaywin Singh Malhi. They described their work in the Student Senate, and listed a number of issues that they are working on. These include providing transportation to athletic events, a campaign to increase reporting of sexual assaults, parking issues, renovation of Hughes-Trigg, extension of the add-drop dates at the beginning of the semester to 10 days, a policy allowing the movement of one final exam if three are scheduled on the same day, and an increase in the break between classes to 15 minutes.
5. As part of the Senate focus on Doctoral Programs this year, Dean José Bowen of the Meadows School of the Arts was a guest speaker. Also attending was Associate Dean Kevin Hofeditz. In the arts the MFA is a common terminal degree, rather than the PhD. The Meadows School designed the PhD program in Art History to compete for a top 20 rating by the National Research Council. Using the parameters of successful programs as a guide, they offer tuition benefits and stipends to all students. They raised 10 million dollars to endow 2 chairs in Art History. They increased the faculty of the department to 10, but that is still much below the average of 23 for top 20 programs. They sold the program to donors as a benefit to all of SMU to have a top 20 PhD program. The search committee for the endowed chairs included outside scholars and others outside the university.
6. The Senate considered an Amendment to University Policy Manual on Faculty Leave. This policy change had been worked on over many years, but had not previously been acted on by the Senate. It allows faculty leave for any scholarly activity, including teaching, which was excluded in the earlier policy. Some Senators raised questions about the current policy related to sick leave. President Roy urged the Senate to approve the current changes, and to have the Academic Policies Committee look into other changes related to medical leaves. The policy changes were then approved by the Senate, and will be sent to the Legal office for analysis, in particular, for financial impact.
7. The Senate discussed a Resolution on Resource Mobilization for Doctoral Programs. After several small revisions were made, the resolution was approved by the Senate. The resolution asks the SMU administration to support doctoral students and the educational and research missions of the university by increasing the number of stipends for doctoral students.

The resolution is included:

Faculty Senate Resolution on Doctoral Programs

Whereas, doctoral students act as pillars of high quality undergraduate education in their role as skilled laboratory, research and teaching assistants under faculty supervision, and complement the faculty in providing individualized tutoring and enhanced learning opportunities outside the classroom, and

Whereas, the national ranking of SMU (for instance, as measured by the US News and World Report) is strongly influenced by the reputation, placement and research output of SMU doctorates that shape the subjective evaluation of SMU by peers in other universities, and

Whereas, our ability to attract and retain top quality researchers and scholars in academic positions (such as the chaired professorships endowed through the Centennial campaign) often depends on the availability of doctoral students who can act as research assistants, form the base for bringing in research grants, and make it possible for the faculty members to enhance their professional standing by supervising high quality doctorates and placing them in reputable positions, and

Whereas, doctoral students play a crucial role in engaging and interfacing with undergraduate students in faculty research projects that in turn helps us recruit high quality undergraduates and raise the academic quality of the incoming class (as measured for instance by their average SAT score), and

Whereas, doctoral students are the future leaders of research, innovation and scientific progress, of creative enterprise and arts, and of great scholarship, all of which are some of the longest lasting contributions and legacies that SMU can make to the local economy and community, and

Whereas, SMU doctorates are increasingly placed in prestigious academic and non-academic research institutions, and

Whereas, the impressive progress in national ranking and reputation of our doctoral programs indicates high returns on investment in these programs and strong potential for future growth,

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University, on December 4, 2013, strongly urges the SMU Administration to undertake measures including fundraising in order to

1. Create funds for improvement of the quality of undergraduate education through increased employment of doctoral students as skilled laboratory, research and teaching assistants,

2. Increase the resources available for providing competitive stipends to adequate numbers of doctoral students, and
3. Create university-wide fellowships to attract top quality doctoral students.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vik