

Dedman College Faculty Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2012

Dean Tsutsui called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made to approve the meeting agenda, seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of August 27, 2012 Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded and passed unanimously.

Gambrell Motion: Motion was made to approve, seconded and passed unanimously.

Jasper Neel announced to the faculty that cash gifts were no longer allowed to be given to Francine Patterson, who manages the faculty dining room at Umphrey Lee, due to Aramark policy.

A drawing was held for an SMU jigsaw puzzle and chocolates appropriated from SMU for faculty members who attended the meeting.

Assessments: Dr. Cordell introduced Patty Alvey who is now serving as Director of Assessment and Accreditation for the University in an effort to bring some uniformity and help to the assessment process. Dr. Alvey's office will be developing efficient and simpler systems for the university to do a better job with assessment, in order to finish the accreditation process on the University Curriculum as mandated by SACS. This website <http://smu.edu/uc/assessment/index.asp> contains forms, etc. that faculty will need in assessing the UC.

State of the College: (Dean Tsutsui). The Dean gave a recap of what has been happening in the College this semester. Faculty members were sent today copies of the task force report from Peter Moore on the subjects of publishing in the tenure process. Dr. Moore's other task force report on teaching loads is currently being reviewed by Faculty Council and Dedman College chairs and should be released to faculty sometime in the first part of next year. Additionally, the task force on student evaluations is in the process of finalizing their report to be submitted to Faculty Council and Dedman College chairs. It is anticipated that a faculty vote on these evaluation questions will take place at the spring 2013 faculty meeting. Last spring, a Departmental Distinction Committee was convened, chaired by David Doyle. This committee was charged with developing guidelines to make it possible for any student in Dedman College of sufficient achievement to pursue a distinction project or coursework for recognition. The report has been shared with Dedman College chairs and the chairs have been asked to develop departmental distinction options for students to be approved by their departments and subsequently posted on the department's website by the end of the spring 2013 semester. Copies of the committee's report will be shared with all faculty this week.

The Dean thanked Dr. Caroline Brettell and all faculty members who have been working on programming (faculty seminars, research clusters and the Impact Symposium) for the Interdisciplinary Institute this fall. The Dean encouraged faculty to continue to think of ways to participate in the Institute on projects and programs that span the departments, the disciplines and the schools.

An update on space issues was given to the faculty. Over the next few months, there will be several moves. The university has provided funds to update the 13th floor of Expressway Tower, where the Psychology Department will move (possibly early next year). As this will free up space in Hyer Hall, Randy Phillips and the Dean are currently reviewing proposals on how to best utilize this space. The University is reclaiming space in McFarlin Auditorium currently occupied by Dedman College faculty. In order to relocate those faculty members to Clements Hall, the Advising Center will move to the Blanton Building. The Dean thanked Randy Phillips and those departments involved in these moves, especially Psychology, for their cooperation and flexibility.

There have been a series of meetings at the university level about the development of an urban studies program or center for the study of Dallas at SMU. This relates in many ways to the economic impact statement that was released last year that described the impact that SMU has on the Dallas community. The new unit would be an umbrella organization where community groups can approach SMU and then be connected with existing SMU resources. These groups would gain some academic perspectives and expertise on issues at hand, such as economic development, community building, etc. In putting this proposal together, a similar center at Vanderbilt serving the city of Nashville has been often mentioned, but, in actuality, after reviewing the website, this might not be a model SMU should choose to follow. The Provost has asked all of the colleges to make urban studies a priority down the road, but there will be no funding from the university in order to accomplish this goal.

The Provost has also asked the colleges when submitting hiring requests for 2014-2015 to consider three university-wide priorities: (1) urban studies; (2) high performance computing; and (3) the Interdisciplinary Institute. Chairs were asked to frame their position requests this year to fit within these broad categories that the Provost is asking for; however we should be aware that resources for these positions are not "falling off trees."

With the opening of the Bush Presidential Center as well as the impending fiscal changes in the tax codes, current or potential donors are hesitant to commit large gifts at this time. Nevertheless, the College is continuing to work on specific proposals for high priority projects going forward. It is anticipated that there will be a re-launch of the campaign after the Bush Center opening in the spring, and the College expects to have a full range of donor possibilities in what is expected to be an intense end to the campaign. The university will be continuing to drive the expectation that it will not only meet the campaign goal of \$750 million, but to exceed it and Dedman College believes the way to achieve this is to have specific goals and priorities tied to our strategic plan, particularly interdisciplinary endowed professorships and chairs. These interdisciplinary professorships can be broader, spanning multiple departments, even schools, to promote more collaborative programs, as opposed to the current structure of endowed chairs which are tied to a specific department with a fairly narrow definition. The Dean mentioned that he is hopeful that he will have some good news on fundraising for the College this week after the SMU Board of Trustees meeting.

In light of the pressure to keep tuition increases down across higher education, the Dean announced that President Turner has put together a plan that would continue a 3% salary increase for faculty and staff, with an overall tuition increase of 4.7% (currently less than TCU and Baylor). In addition to the 3% merit pool, there will also be an additional 1% pool for faculty based on special merit, ultimately decided by the Provost, based on recommendations by the Dean and department chairs. The standards that the Provost will use for awarding these special merit raises have not been decided upon as yet, but will be communicated by the Dean to department chairs, once this has been clarified by the Provost's office.

Faculty Council has been asked by the Dean to conduct an anonymous and confidential third-year review of his performance in the spring. Faculty Council will be collecting information from Dedman faculty about the Dean's performance as well as what he needs to concentrate on in the next couple of years. It is hoped that not only constructive criticism will come out of this process, but perhaps some innovative ideas and proposals as well. The Dean encouraged all faculty members to respond and be honest in their responses.

The Dean thanked the faculty for all of their good work this semester. The Dean also thanked those members of the Dean's office staff, members of Dedman College Records and Advising Center, along with Dennis Cordell and his staff, for their continued work and commitment to the college. The Dean introduced new staff members in the Dean's office: Margi Evans, Courtney Corwin's new administrative assistant and Katie Nickles, who is working with Jennifer Dickerson in marketing.

The floor was then opened for questions. A question was posed as to how Dedman College's relationship is developing with the Bush Institute. The College is in the process of making its first concurrent appointment with the Bush Institute, Dr. Eric Bing. He is the head of the global health initiative at the Bush Institute and was considered for an appointment this fall by the Department of Anthropology.

Concurrent appointments present many challenges; however, in this case, the department worked together to effect compromises and the case was sent forward positively by it, as well by the College. Dr. Bing's appointment would be split between Dedman College, the Bush Institute, and the Simmons School of Education. The Dean emphasized that the governing procedures in Dr. Bing's case were followed scrupulously, to make sure that in the future, the College has all of the necessary checks and balances in place to provide concurrent appointments only to those highly qualified people from the Institute. It is hoped that with quality concurrent appointments for the College that Dedman would have a stronger voice in the direction of the Institute. The Dean believes that the Presidential Center and the Institute can be positive for Dedman College; however, the College needs to be vigilant that the Institute's mission and our mission go hand in hand. A question was posed about how the funding was to occur for Dr. Bing's appointment. The Dean responded that he did not know the details, but it was not coming out of the College's budget. As to the Bush Institute itself, many people are waiting to see what direction the Institute will go in after the opening in April. A question was posed about whether the extra money generated from the Bush Center endowment that is coming to the Provost (\$2 million) might come to Dedman College. The Dean responded that he does not know, but the College should line up in advance projects to be funded by any extra monies.

The Dean invited all faculty members to the Dean's suite for the annual Stella Porter Russell reception.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.