**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

**Ex Officio:**

**Visitors:**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Krueger at 3:12 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on October 4, 2017 and November 1, 2017 were discussed and approved.
3. Student Senate President David Shirzad reported on initiatives taken on by the Student Senate regarding campus activities, student affairs, and undergraduate research. The Student Senate conducted a student survey on undergraduate programs and research and intends to examine research and study abroad opportunities in the spring.
4. Reverend Steve Rankin, University Chaplain, discussed the role and mission of the Chaplain’s office on Campus. He invited faculty and staff to seek support from the Chaplain and members of his team. Reverend Rankin answered Senators’ questions about counseling, campus outreach, and campus activities. Senators asked how the Chaplain’s office supports other faith groups and activities. Reverend Rankin identified examples and invited Senators to follow up with him for more information.
5. Ellen Shew Holland, Associate Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, and Rick Shafer, Chief of the SMU Police Department along with Chris Regis, Vice President for Business and Finance, provided a security update from the Office of Risk Management (ORM). They discussed the preparedness, response, recovery and resumption processes of the Resilience and Crisis Management Policy 3.12. SMU works with local authorities and community partners to help prepare for various emergencies. The ORM cooperates with intelligence agencies in coordinating protective intelligences. The ORM recommends faculty watch *Run, Hide, Fight* a training video to help prepare for a shooter on campus. Senators asked questions about independent training and SMU’s decision to opt out of the Texas Campus Carry Policy.
6. President Krueger invited questions on President Turner’s response to the Resolution on Faculty Salary Data.
7. President Krueger announced an open forum with Provost Currall on Thursday, December 14th from 3PM to 4PM.
8. President Krueger discussed a memo from Dean James E. Quick, Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies about potential tax code changes relevant to the university community.
9. President Krueger thanked Dr. Vicki Palacios for representing the Dedman School of Law in the Faculty Senate and serving in the Senate Executive Committee Senate this semester. The Senate voted to appoint Dr. Grant Hayden to the Executive Committee starting in January.
10. Dr. Ian Harris, Chair of the Calendar Committee, provided a report on the academic calendar for AY 2019-2020.
11. Dr. Vicki Palacios introduced a proposal for a resolution on policies relating to sexual misconduct covered under Title IX. The Senate discussed the resolution and it passed unanimously.
12. Dr. Eli Olinick, Chair of the Subcommittee on Admissions and Financial Aid (SAFA), provided a report about a sub-committee task force on TOEFL requirements. The task force found that the TOEFL is a demanding test and recommended increasing SMU’s minimum TOEFL score from 80 to 90, and further setting minimum requirements for each subsection of the exam. The Provost instructed the Dean of Admissions to implement these changes. The task force also recommended requiring English language learners to take a placement exam before students register for classes at SMU.

The SAFA examined a pilot test optional, dual-admit policy in some programs in Meadows. The committee found that diversity based on Pell Grants increased under the test-optional policy and that there was general satisfaction with the policy after the first year.

Dr. Olinick reported that the SAFA would like to see more faculty input on the SMU Areas of Study webpage. The task force was concerned about the potential consequences of the categories New, Popular, and Distinctive and felt that career outcomes should come earlier in the page.

Dr. Olinick presented Fall 2017 FY Class standardized test scores. Senators discussed the role of standardized testing in SMU admissions.

1. Dr. Ken Hamilton, Chair of the Athletics Policy Committee, invited questions about a report about changes in NCAA polices, the indoor football practice facility, and the athletics budget. Dr. Hamilton announced that Coach Morris has taken another position and there will be a search for a new SMU football coach.

Professor Hamilton and the Faculty Senate discussed SMU athletics funding and SMU student athletes’ academic programs and opportunities. Senators discussed the importance of setting goals and creating a strategic plan to reduce the athletics debt.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Pruitt