**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West**

**Present:** Adriana Aceves; Sabri Ates; Dick Barr; Rhonda Blair; \*Michael Braun; Marcus Butts; James Coleman; Frank Coyle; Carlos Davila; Rajat Deb; Dennis Foster; Amar Gande; Kevin Hanlon; \*Grant Hayden; \*Paul Krueger; \*James Lee; Steven Lindquist; Luigi Manzetti; Cheryl Mendenhall; \*Brian Molanphy; Beth Newman; \*Dayna Oscherwitz, presiding; Saltuk Ozerturk; John Potter; \*Abby Pruitt; Meredith Richards; \*Tim Rosendale; Elizabeth Russ; Susana Solera Adoboe; Herve Tchumkam; Aurelie Thiele; \*Pia Vogel; Candace Walkington; \*Matthew Wilson; John Wise; Yunkai Zhou

**Ex Officio:**

**Visitors:** Chris Regis, Ernie Barry, Melanie Morgan Gomez

1. The meeting was called to order by President Dayna Oscherwitz at 3:11 PM.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on December 5, 2018 were approved.
4. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of December 12, 2018 were reviewed.
5. Dr. Melanie Morgan Gómez, Director of the AP Higher Education Outreach program presented to the Faculty Senate. She introduced the AP (Advanced Placement) program, its mission and goals. She explained that College Board is a non-profit membership organization, whose mission is to expand access to higher education. Dr. Morgan Gómez provided detailed information regarding:
   1. The framework for curricular development
   2. Committees on curricular development
   3. Correspondence between AP scores and letter grades
   4. Data on access and participation for underrepresented and minority students
   5. Data on college course outcomes for students who transfer AP credits
   6. New direction:
      1. balancing the breadth and depth,
      2. questions redesigned to include critical thinking and centered on skills

Faculty Senators posted questions about:

1. A study was conducted comparing grades for AP students in the biology department, and the results showed a disadvantage for students who transferred AP credit, so it was recommended that students planning on majoring take the SMU course. Dr. Morgan commented that was probably before the exam was redesigned.
2. Faculty Senate members commented on the wide range of competence in a 3 score, while students with a 4 or 5 seemed to be prepared and able to succeed, students with a 3 score are not as well prepared, and might struggle.
3. Questions about the validity of the placement and the control for grade, Dr. Morgan provided data regarding this issue.
4. President Oscherwitz provided updates about:
   1. Representation for Guildhall in the Faculty Senate had been requested, and Executive Committee has been deliberating about the best option and procedure to grant this request. A revision of the bylaws has been recommended and this proposal will be circulated for 30 days before bringing it to the Senate floor for discussion.
   2. Monthly meetings with representatives from the Student Senate and the SMU Office of Facilities Planning and Management are ongoing, please bring any issues to the attention of President Oscherwitz or Professor Paul Krueger. These meetings have gotten attention to parts of the University that desperately needed it.
   3. Because of the expansion of the 11 day term pilot and the concerns about academic rigor, and the need to determine an entity and procedure to vet these courses, President Oscherwitz invited senators to participate in the upcoming Town-hall meeting on March 27th.
5. Vice President Christine (Chris) Regis, University’s chief business and financial officer presented information about the University budget. She explained the budget planning process, the officials and units involved, the procedures, time table and decision making. She provided more detailed information about:
   1. The incremental budget model
   2. The tuition increment for Academic year 2019/2020 is 3.8%
   3. The difference between general and by school expenses
   4. The difference between undergraduate and graduate revenue
   5. Constriction of endowments

Faculty Senators posted questions about:

1. *“What constitutes a local school expenditure?”* . Vice president Regis responded that initiatives not included in the budget are considered responsibility of the school, such as SMU Cox Executive Education.
2. General health of School expenses and reserve balance were discussed.
3. A possible criticism to an incremental budget model is that it doesn´t incentivize innovative change, VICE PRESIDENT Regis related hat the model gives enough flexibility to Deans to promote change and innovation.
4. *“How the tuition increase compares to other institutions?”* It is lower than the peer and aspirant institutions, but the dollar amount is still higher, she responded.
5. *“Is it possible for a School to budget a profit?”*  Yes, it is possible, Vice President Regis asserted.
6. *“What is the projected expense for mental health for students?”* A total of one million a year has been expended, and no increase has been planned, was the answer.
7. *“Is the OE2C information available on the SMU website accurate?”*  Yes, the data and metrics are live and updated, Vice President Regis responded.
8. Discussion regarding OE2C followed, more information was provided regarding the monetary savings, actual and projected. Questions were posted regrading the sacrifice requested to faculty and the critical changes to material labor conditions. Vice President Regis acknowledged this and stated that the mission was to refocus the University on its academic and research mission. This came with a great deal of discussion and transparency, between the administration and the Deans, and that she hoped that this opportunity had been given to the faculty as well.
9. Questions were posted about the Endowment spending formula, and the steps that the University has taken to free some of the constrains on the endowments.
10. The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susana Solera Adoboe