

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting

Present:

Absent:

Ex Officio:

Visitors: Wes Waggoner; Matt Wilson; James Quick; Paige Ware; Elizabeth Lobo; KC Mmje

1. President Aurelie Thiele called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on November 4, 2020 were approved.
4. The minutes of the Executive Committee on November 18, 2020 were reviewed
5. Wes Waggoner reported on Admissions and Financial Aid. Focusing on attracting talent and diversity.
 - a. Enrollment report:
 - i. Enrollment management: three elements>net tuition revenue, academic profile and diversity
 - b. Admissions report:
 - i. Specific enrollment goals and benchmarks:
 1. First year retention 2025 goal is 94%. Pre-COVID retention, on 2019 was 91.5%, post-COVID on 2020 is 90.3%
 2. Four-year graduation: 75% on Fall 2020, it was 74.7% on Fall 2019
 3. University enrollment Fall 2020 was 12,385
 4. First year most diverse class in SMU history:
 - a. 1531 students
 - b. 31% ethnically/racially diverse
 - c. 40% from Texas
 - d. 3% international
 - e. Average ACT 31 (95th national percentile)
 - f. 9.4% Pell Grant eligible
 5. Transfer-Largest cohort since 2013
 - a. 297 students
 - b. 45% ethnically/racially diverse
 - c. 7% international

- d. 53% from 2-year schools
 - e. 30.6% Pell Grant eligible
- c. Financial aid: funding a college education is a partnership between the student, the family and SMU:
 - i. Financial assistance comes from federal, state, private, and institutional funds
 - ii. SMU helps through gifts, endowment earnings as well as financial aid and scholarships.
 - iii. Demonstrated financial need is the cost of attendance minus estimated family contribution.
 - iv. Financial aid: different scholarships based on merit and talent, additional funding through work study, loans and outside scholarships.
- d. Changes in aid packages is due to:
 - i. Increase in family income
 - ii. Moving off-campus
 - iii. Parents get divorced or remarried
 - iv. FAFSA changes
 - v. Change in major
 - vi. GPA falls below minimum requirement
- e. Scholarship renewal study findings:
- f. How can the Faculty Senate help:
 - i. Emphasize desire use school/department aid to meet financial need in collaboration with the Office of Financial Aid
 - ii. Broaden conversation about academic quality of new students to include more than just the test score. Be cautious to use test scores beyond admission.
 - iii. Continue building academic support for underrepresented students to retain scholarships.
 - iv. Ensure we have seats in popular majors and reduce barriers to declaring those majors.
 - v. Always consider the impact of curriculum decisions on transfer students and those with transfer credits.
- g. He answered questions regarding:
 - i. Plan to attract diversity in first year students.
 - ii. Strategy to expand the number of applicants from 14,000 to 20,000 to broaden the list of students to choose from.
 - iii. How to avoid the impact of raising tuition, \$100,000 projected for 2031:
 - 1. Increase the perceived value of the education received
 - 2. Faculty as a critical element to retain value and perceived value

6. Professor Matthew Wilson, chair of the Academic Policies Committee (APC), spoke about two pressing issues:
 - a. Students request to extend the deadline to petition for up to two (2) courses as Pass/Fail. Provost Lobo and Dr. Mmje didn't support this request, and they solicited a vote from the Faculty Senate. After thoughtful debate, Faculty Senate voted opposing the students' initiative and the extension of the Pass/Fail policy (33 against, 4 in favor)
 - b. Associate Provost Paige Ware in collaboration with Faculty, Department chairs and staff have developed a document to articulate attendance policies to increase accountability. This document is comprised of a set of general rules to be adopted by all faculty and menu of different policies that faculty can choose from depending on their discipline and pedagogy. Senators requested additions and amendments, and the Faculty Senate voted unanimously to support this document with the proposed amendments.
7. Dean Jim Quick reported on the Path to R1 and the Moody School:
 - a. What is R1 and its importance:
 - i. The Carnegie Classification of Research Universities:
 1. Does not involve qualitative peer or expert assessments.
 2. Utilizes only publicly available data reported to federal agencies.
 3. Measures research activity across a wide range of disciplines.
 4. Has become the standard for comparing university research activity.
 - ii. R1 Classification of universities with the highest research activity
 - iii. It is important because:
 1. SMU is a research university
 2. R1 status elevates SMU's stature
 3. It is achievable with the engagements of ALL of SMU's schools
 4. Consistent with SMU faculty desire to invest in research and graduate education.
 - b. SMU's historical advance toward R1:
 - i. Since 2005, SMU has advanced steadily toward R1, passing 55 institutions
 - c. The path forward:
 - i. To reach R1, SMU must pass about 50 institutions
 - ii. It is important there be contributions from every school, PhDs in humanities are critical to SMU's advancement.
 - d. Role of the Moody School:
 - i. Moody Hall
 - ii. Moody Endowed Deanship
 - iii. Moody Endowed Graduate Fellowship fund
 - iv. Moody Endowed Faculty Fellowship fund
 - v. Moody research incubator
 - vi. Moody academic initiatives

8. Due to time constraints, Dr. KC Mmje's report on Student Affairs was postponed until February. He briefly addressed the Faculty Senate:
 - a. New State of Texas weekly testing recommendations are being considered by EOC and the administration.
 - b. Student Affairs and Faculty collaboration through:
 - i. CCC reports
 - ii. Pledge to Protect
 - iii. Continue effort to connect students with the appropriate resources.
9. The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susana Solera Adoboe