**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**

**237, Dedman Life Sciences Building**

**Present:** Santanu Roy, presiding; Michael Harris; Robert Howell; Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner; Joshua Tate; Wei Tong; Steven Vik

**Absent:** Steve Edwards; Jody Magliolo

**Guests:** Dennis Foster

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by President Roy.
2. Members of the Executive Committee for the 2013-2014 year introduced themselves.

1. Susanne Scholz, Perkins, was approved by the Executive Committee as the chair of the Committee on Committees. President Roy announced that they are seeking chairs that will be interested in the particular committees. Chairs need not be Senators. The assignments are expected to be made by mid-summer.
2. The 2013-14 schedule for the Senate will include four meetings in the Fall, and six in the Spring. Meetings will be held at 3:00 PM in the Ballroom of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center, pending availability. The schedules for the Senate, and for the Executive Committee meetings will be released soon. This summer two meetings of the Executive Committee are anticipated: one in June and one in August.
3. Nominations are being solicited for the Provost’s Promotion & Tenure Committee. Candidates are needed from the Meadows School, the Law School, and from Perkins. Members from those schools are asked to submit names of willing candidates to President Roy within a few days.
4. Dennis Foster, Chair of Athletics Policy presented a short report regarding a situation that developed this year. A coach had informed one or more students that their scholarships would not be renewed. Since the students were international, and the time was short, they had few options for continuing their education. They felt intimidated, and did not know their rights. Through faculty members that learned of the situation, Athletic Director Rick Hart was informed of the situation. After his investigation, the students were permitted to stay at SMU. In the future it would be helpful if both student-athletes and faculty were more knowledgeable about the rights of students, and the procedures to follow. An ombudsman might be very effective in such situations, but questions remain, such as where such a person would be housed.

It was decided that Rick Hart would be invited to a meeting of the Executive Committee in the coming year.

1. President Roy announced that one focus item of the 2013-14 year would be Doctoral Programs at SMU and our plan of action to strengthen them. Currently the situation is one of de-centralization, and great differences among the different schools. One approach is to educate the Board members by highlighting, or celebrating the current programs. Dean Tsutsui has already been invited to attend a Senate meeting to discuss doctoral programs, and their current problems. His visit should be followed by the Dean of the Engineering School. Another suggestion is to invite Associate Vice-President for Research Jim Quick. Finally, an *ad hoc* committee could be appointed to compile comparisons with peer schools.
2. A second focus item in the coming year will be the status of Non-tenured & Adjunct Faculty. One question is whether the numbers of such positions have been increasing in recent years. Another question is whether they should have Senate representation. It is possible that the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty could find some information on such positions from peer institutions.
3. Several issues exist related to Benefits: Retirement plans, hidden fees & fiduciary advice. Starting this year we will be represented by a Senate member during the summer while certain key decisions are made.
4. President Roy will meet with Associate Provost Linda Eads about the recently announced online courses, and the SMU-affiliated campus in Lugano, Switzerland.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vik