**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 21, 2013**

**237 Dedman Life Sciences Building**

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

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** none

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by President Roy. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on May 15 and July 19 were approved.

2. President Roy provided a summary of his meetings with Provost Ludden, and President Turner. Both emphasized that the budget will be very tight this year. Provost Ludden discussed prospects for supporting PhD programs. He is also interested in analyzing how much teaching is done by adjuncts, both here and elsewhere. President Turner said that the Board of Trustees is interested in increasing the endowment. He said that dependents of SMU faculty and staff appear to be shifting to the SMU medical plan, and this will place stress on our system He also discussed some of the problems associated with sexual misconduct cases.

3. President Roy reported on meetings with Dean Mark Christensen of the Lyle School and Dean Jim Quick, Associate Vice-President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. Dean Christensen explained that while the Lyle School obtains external funding for graduate students, if the students are not already admitted, and on campus, the funds can lie unused. The school operates a leadership institute for advanced grad students. This plan might work in other schools also. Dean Quick welcomes a resolution from Senate in support of graduate programs as central to our mission. He also advocates allocation of teaching assistant funds according to student enrollment in relevant classes.

4. A lengthy discussion was held concerning the recently opened Online Courses through an initiative by the Provost. These courses are offered by other universities through a consortium. He has organized a task force to advise him on the future of online courses at SMU. The Executive Committee was concerned about a proper mechanism to ensure that all courses offered online be evaluated first by an appropriate body. In this way, courses can be approved for departmental credit, or general education credit, before the enrollment period begins, as is customary for all other courses. Online course that do not meet such approval, could then be offered as free electives, or be rejected. It was decided that a resolution would be offered that asked for such a process to be in place before new online courses become available. The wording of the resolution will be worked on through email, and be made available at a later meeting.

5. The appointment of new members of the Committtee on Committees was approved. Chair Susanne Scholz (Perkins), Members to 2014: Santanu Roy (Dedman II), Mary Spector (Law), Suzanne Johnson (Perkins). Members to 2016: Susanne Scholz (Perkins), Ulrike Schultze (Cox), José Lage (Lyle)

6. The charges for Standing Committees were reviewed, and amended. The following Executive Committee liaisons were appointed: Academic Policies Committee: Robert Howell (Dedman I); All-University Finance Committee: Santanu Roy (Dedman II); Athletics Policies Committee: Michael Harris (Simmons); Faculty Ethics and Tenure Committee: Steven Edwards (Meadows); Student Policies Committee: Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Perkins); Committee on Research: Wei Tong (Lyle).

7. The agenda for September 4 meeting of the full Senate was discussed: Welcome and introduction of new senators. Approval of the committees, including executive session. Visit by Dean Tsutsui of Dedman College to discuss graduate programs. Introduction of the resolution regarding a process for approval of online courses. A visit from the Human Resources department regarding benefits.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven B. Vik