**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Vladimir Ajaev, Hal Barkley, Christine Buchanan, Melissa Dowling, \*Steve Edwards, presiding, Dennis Foster, Andrew Graybill, Michael Hawn, Susanne Johnson, David Karp, \*José Lage, Jody Magliolo, David Matula, Dinesh Rajan, \*Thomas Ritz, \*Santanu Roy, Timothy Salmon, Carolyn Smith-Morris, Mary Spector, Jeanne Stevenson Moessner, Jay Sullivan, Jeff Tian, Wei Tong, \*Steven Vik, \*Paige Ware

**Absent:** Maureen Armour, Richard Bozorth, Alan Brown, Michael Corris, Jill DeTemple, Deborah Diffily, Christopher Dolder, Ping Gui, Ian Harris, Barbara Hill-Moore, Luis Maldonado, \*Tom May, Nancy V. Montgomery, Francisco Moran, Tony Ng, \*Susanne Scholz, \*Ulrike Schultze, Jacquelyn Thomas, Glenn Voss, Jingbo Ye

**Ex Officio:** Paul Ludden

**Visitors:** Linda Eads, Lisa O’Donnell, Harold Stanley, Kathleen Tibbets, Carole Harris, Stephanie Murray, Carolyn Harrod, Margaux Montgomery, Charee Stewart, Rick Jones, Rob Harrod, Eva Oberdoester, Ursula Davison, Melissa Keene, Scot Montague, Pam Henderson, Alan Wagner, Anna Kormilitsea, Ray Deb

1. The meeting was called to order by President Edwards at 1:07 PM. The agenda was approved.

2. The minutes of the Senate meeting on April 17, 2013 were approved. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on April 24, 2013 were presented.

3. President Edwards welcomed the newly elected Senators. He announced that a run-off election for President is necessary because of a tie vote. After some discussion, it was settled that the election will run from Thursday until Monday, May 6 at 5:00 PM. This will give faculty members adequate time to vote, while allowing the election to be settled before the next Board of Trustees meeting, where the new president will be introduced.

4. The following Staff members were recognized for their service, and presented with the Faculty Senate Outstanding Staff Award. Recipients were photographed receiving their awards from President Edwards: Carolyn Harrod, Biology; Margaux Montgomery, Economics; Stephanie Murray, Mechanical Engineering; Carole Harris, Meadows Music; Charee Stewart, Philosophy.

5. A written and oral report from the Subcommittee on Admissions and Financial Aid was presented by Christine Buchanan, Chair. Since May 1 is the deadline for undergraduate students to accept, the size and characteristics of the next class are nearly set now. The number of President’s Scholars and Hunt Scholars are close to the target numbers. The projected size of the class of 2017 is close to 1400. The SAT average score of accepted students is currently above last year’s number, but is subject to change until next August. A second issue was highlighted: The use of Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland for delayed admission of certain students to SMU. This is an American-accredited school. Some students are able to enroll there for one semester, and upon satisfactory performance, are allowed to transfer to SMU in the spring semester. The students are considered qualified and highly motivated to attend SMU, but are below our current standards for admission. The program was jointly designed by Franklin College and SMU. It is limited to 15-20 students. The program will be reviewed in subsequent years.

6. Provost Paul Ludden spoke about our recent affiliation with the Semesteronline (<http://semesteronline.org>) program offered by the 2u (<http://2u.com>) consortium. A limited number of undergraduates will be permitted to enroll in undergraduate courses online offered by Emory, UNC-Chapel Hill, Boston College, Northwestern, Notre Dame, and Washington University. The students will pay SMU tuition and receive SMU residence credit. The consortium will charge SMU tuition for the students enrolled, and their tuition is slightly higher than ours. That will be the only cost to SMU for this affiliation. This experience will allow us to learn about online courses, with little investment. Questions were raised by several senators about the quality and usefulness of such courses. It was pointed out that Departments will have the normal control over whether courses can be applied toward majors or minors. There is already a task force investigating online learning, under the leadership of Beth Thornburg and the Center for Teaching Excellence.

7. A written and oral report from the Ethics and Tenure Committee was given by Michael Hawn, Chair of the Committee. He recognized Mary Spector, a Senator with 12 years of service on the Committee. He noted that there were no complaints this year arising from the tenure process. One inquiry was from a full-time instructor about the process of contract renewal. This might be an issue for future study by the Senate, in light of the nation-wide and local trend of increasing numbers of non-tenured faculty. The committee also had a special charge, to investigate the practices for the tenure process across the university. They analyzed the information according to templates used by AAUP or SACS. In the report they identified best practices in each of the categories, as used by some of the schools. One suggestion might be for uniformity with respect to dates. Policies and practices for the mentoring of untenured faculty were not always spelled out, but were followed to some extent. Associate Provost Linda Eads noted the lack of standardization of dossiers among the schools.

8. From a suggestion made by Thomas Ritz, President Edwards suggested that the faculty might want to contribute through United Way to the victims of the explosion in West, Texas. He will gather more information and send a link to the faculty for contributions. Two further suggestions were made, to learn more about how the United Way would use the funds, and to see if SMU had any summer programs that could give admission to children from that area.

9. For their service, President Edwards recognized the Executive Committee members, past President José Lage, incoming President Santanu Roy, Chairs of all the Senate Committees, and those Senators that have completed their terms.

10. A proposal to extend the term of Faculty Senate President was made by President Edwards. He proposed that the term be extended to two years, and that a vice-president be elected at the same time. Possible benefits include strengthening the President’s ability to deal with the administration. A possible problem is that it might be more difficult to find candidates willing to commit to a two year term. It was suggested that a constitutional committee be formed to examine the issue and report to the Senate in the Fall.

11. President Edwards presented a gavel and medallion to Santanu Roy as incoming President. Santanu Roy presented a gift to Steve Edwards for his service.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vik