

**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 4, 2019 – 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hughes-Trigg Ballroom West**

**Present:** Khaled Abdelghany; Adriana Aceves; David Bertrand; Neil Bhattacharya; Elena Borzova; Greg Brownderville; Jing Cao; Michael Chmielewski; James Coleman; Frank Coyle; Carlos Davila; Rajat Deb; Dennis Foster; Robert Frank; Kathleen Gallagher; Amar Gande; Xin Lin Gao; Michael Harris; Stacey Jacobsen; \*James Lee; \*Luigi Manzetti; Rebekah Miles; \*Brian Molanphy; Lourdes Molina; Sid Muralidharan; Saltuk Ozerturk; John Potter; Meredith Richards; Luke Robinson; \*Tim Rosendale, presiding; Susanne Scholz; \*Susana Solera Adoboe; \*Tom Tan; \*Aurelie Thiele; \*Pia Vogel; Candace Walkington; Kathleen Wellman; John Wise; Steve Woods; Yunkai Zhou;

**Absent:** Sabri Ates; Michael Connolly; \*Grant Hayden (on leave); Susanne Johnson; Robert Kehoe; Steven Lindquist; Abigail “Abby” Pruitt; Canan Savaskan-Ebert;

**Ex Officio:** Peter Moore

**Visitors:** Sheri Kunovich; Holly Jeffcoat; Doug Reinelt

1. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Rosendale at 3:11 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on May 1, 2019 were amended and approved.
4. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on May 22, 2019 were reviewed.
5. President Rosendale introduced new and returning senators.
6. President Rosendale presented the summer updates:
  - a. President Turner and Interim Provost Moore have both expressed support and endorsement for President Rosendale’s initiative to reaffirm SMU’s commitment to freedom of speech, possibly adopting the Chicago Statement. Finding a way to model civil disagreement is of critical importance, given the divisiveness in our society right now. Conversations are ongoing to find a way to shape such an initiative, and they have provided interesting suggestions; soon a working group will be formed to address this issue.
  - b. President Rosendale reported on the meeting with Dean Jeffcoat and on the status of the strategic plan for the library, and how fund raising is a priority.
  - c. After several meetings, campus security is a priority. Michael Molina is trying to find solutions to the lack of basic security features in the classrooms, such as locks.
  - d. DASS accommodations are still an issue, with faculty members having to provide accommodations. A solution to this issue is needed.
  - e. The Ad Hoc Committee on Conflict of Interest appears to be a balanced committee, and it has started meeting regularly. Report is due October 31<sup>st</sup>.

- f. Vice President of student affairs KC Mmeje and Interim Provost Moore have agreed to reform the Honor Council, redefining the compositions of the panels to require two faculty members, and closing loopholes exploited by students. President Rosendale encouraged all members of the Faculty Senate to attend the Honor Council training sessions. A group session can be arranged if people want one.
  - g. A committee, composed mainly of faculty, is working on the analysis and interpretation of the data obtained by The Colonial Group Survey. A question was posed about the availability of the data and/or the analysis. The report will be available once the group finishes with the analysis.
  - h. An Ombudsman position was requested, and an Ad Hoc Committee will be formed to write a proposal, with the goal of creating this position by fall of 2020.
  - i. The Faculty Senate website is in dire need of work and updates.
7. Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success reported to the Faculty Senate on:
- a. Associate Provost Kunovich has been charged with the optimization of student success and increased retention and created the Student Academic Engagement and Success office (SAES). This office works with:
    - i. Academic Support: University Advising Center, Student Success and Retention, Students Awards and Fellowships and Student Academic Support (ALEC and ACE, DASS, Student Athlete Academic Support, Academic Development of Student Athletes and Students Probation)
    - ii. Academic Engagement: Honors Program, Hilltop Program, Rotunda Scholars, President and Hunts Scholars, Office of Engage Learning.
    - iii. University Committees: Hyer Society, Faculty Athletics Admissions Subcommittee (FAAS Committee) , Quality Enhancement Plan 2020, and Students Success and Retention.
  - b. She presented information regarding retention and graduation goals:
    - i. First year retention is 91%, the strategic plan goal is 94%, and peer and aspirant institutions goal for the first year is 95%. Retention is crucial because:
      - 1. It's the right thing to do,
      - 2. Low retention increases pressure to admit more students,
      - 3. Financial implications,
      - 4. Effects on rankings (US News and World report, Forbes and Wall Street Journal)
    - ii. Institutions with dramatic improvements in retention are Northeastern and Tulane. Study of these institutions determined that these improvements were due to data analytics, increased investment in advising, tracked advising

interactions using advising notes, coordinated information sharing, and stricter expectations for students.

- iii. Key factors for improving outcomes at SMU are:
  - 1. Investing in People (Advising)
  - 2. Streamlining and digitizing processes
  - 3. Aligning practices with goals
  - 4. Strong academic policies: clear, transparent, and consistent.
  - 5. Investing in technological solutions and data sharing
- c. Student Success is more than Graduation. Other important elements are academic engagement in the classroom, participation in enhanced academic experiences, and social integration and connection to campus community.
- d. AY 2018 2019 Initiatives were:
  - i. Student Academic Support Programs: Ace Center, Rotunda Scholars, DASS, Accommodate, and the insufficient space to meet student needs, HDEV
  - ii. Student Success and retention, EPR/MPR analysis, Understanding first year retention outcomes
  - iii. Engaged Learning
- e. The factors that affect retention are:
  - i. Academic upward mobility: students who aspire to a “higher” ranked school.
  - ii. Academic and social fit: students who realize we don’t have the major they want, find that student culture is not aligned with their preferences and values, conclude SMU is not worth the cost.
  - iii. “Fresh Start”: Students who should take time away due to family responsibilities, academic struggle or mental health.
- f. The goals for Fall 2019 are:
  - i. Office of Student Success and Retention (director and success counselor) is working on communication and outreach with campus partners, as well as data sharing analytics.
  - ii. QEP 2020, Student Success: Early academic alert system and interventions, defining expectations for maintaining good standing.
  - iii. University advising and academic support network
  - iv. Scholars programs and Engaged Learning
- g. Associate Provost Kunovich seeks to work with the Faculty Senate on the following:
  - i. Review of Academic Policies: Residency requirements for first year and transfer students, 6 course repeat policy, Pass-fail course options, leaves, returns, and enrollment cancellation
  - ii. New student experience: Redesign of AARO, Stampede and First Five
  - iii. Advising: UAC and Majors Advisors.
- h. Associate Provost Kunovich addressed the DASS situation. Demand has increased considerably. 838 students needed accommodations during AY 2018/2019, this

number was not manageable in the current space. Loyd has increased its capacity from 15 to 25, but this is still not enough to accommodate all students. Discussion are ongoing to find a solution. Some suggestions are using Express Tower, decentralizing by School or using the Health Center.

8. Dean of Libraries Holly Jeffcoat reported to the Faculty Senate.
  - a. She thanked President Rosendale for making the Library funding a priority for this year.
  - b. Dean Jeffcoat was charged with bringing the SMU libraries together.
  - c. She presented: “SMU Libraries by the numbers”
    - i. The acquisitions budget from FY2016 to FY2020
    - ii. Aspirant institutions expenditure comparison.
    - iii. Peer institutions expenditure comparison.
    - iv. Texas institutions expenditure comparison.
  - d. Strategic Plan Process:
    - v. Stakeholder feedback: MISO survey, interviews, meetings and documents
    - vi. Staff Input: Opportunities and themes.
    - vii. The Strategic Plan has 6 focus areas:
      1. Research, Impact and Productivity
      2. Collections and Cultural Heritage
      3. Student Success
      4. Community
      5. Library and Discovery
      6. Organizational Coherence.
  - e. Opportunities and Challenges:
    - viii. Opportunities: New organization, Space planning for strategic directions, ARL membership. She answered that work on digital scholarship and digital humanities are important areas to work on to be eligible for ARL
    - ix. Challenges: New organization, fundraising, collection inflation.
9. Senate Committee rosters and chairpersons were approved.
10. Senate Committee charges were reviewed and approved.
11. The Senate went into *Executive Session* to approve the Honorary Degrees Committee membership, which it did.
12. Professor Pia Vogel expressed concern regarding parking situation on campus. She said this issue needs to be addressed urgently, because it’s causing class cancellation, and

systematic tardiness of students. She suggested revising the parking regulations, to optimize parking spaces, as a cost-free solution. This concern was seconded by several other senators.

13. The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susana Solera Adoboe