Dedman College Faculty Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2011

Dean Tsutsui called the meeting to order.

Presentation of Staff Service Award: Ray Rafidi, staff member in Dedman Records was presented with his 3 year staff service award.

Presentation of Faculty Award: Jodi Cooley-Sekula was presented with the 2011 Ralph E. Powell Award in Physical Sciences.

Election of Secretary: Mark Chancey was elected by acclimation.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made to approve the meeting agenda, seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of April 25, 2011 Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded and passed unanimously.

Introduction of new faculty members in Dedman College: The Dean called for recognition of new faculty. The following were introduced by their colleagues with details of their educational experiences, achievements, and scholarly research:

Brian Zoltowski, Assistant Professor in Chemistry — Elfi Kraka
Matt Hornbach, Associate Professor in Earth Sciences — John Ubelaker
Timothy Salmon, Professor in Economics — Nathan Balke
Omer Ozak, Assistant Professor in Economics — Nathan Balke
Stephanie Amsel, Lecturer in English — Diana Grumbles
Andrew Graybill, Associate Professor in History and Director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies — Kathleen Wellman
Andrea Barreiro, Assistant Professor in Mathematics — Doug Reinelt
Benno Rumpf, Assistant Professor in Mathematics — Doug Reinelt
Pamela Corley, Assistant Professor in Political Science — Dennis Ippolito
Christina Kouros, Assistant Professor in Psychology — Ernest Jouriles

Denise DuPont, Chair of World Languages indicated that the department had made several Lecturer hires in Chinese, German, Spanish and French.

Recognition of newly tenured and promoted faculty members: The College congratulates the following faculty members who were promoted to tenure as Associate Professor and/or full professor this past academic year:

Alicia Meuret – Psychology
Jing Cao – Statistics
Alberto Pastor – World Languages
Gabriella Vokic – World Languages

Research (Renee McDonald): Dean Tsutsui introduced Renee McDonald, Associate Dean for Research. Dr. McDonald spoke to the faculty on opportunities for external research and how she will be assisting Dedman College faculty, not only in sponsored large funded research but also in facilitating research to promote Dedman faculty as well as assisting junior faculty in starting their research careers. The College is focusing on multi-disciplinarity. The Provost and Dean provided seed funding for a new Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery that brings together faculty from Biology and Chemistry. Collaborative projects between Biology and Psychology are also underway. Dr. McDonald is working

with Dean Quick's office and the office of fellowships in order to facilitate communication. Announcements for Dean's Research Council grants are going out this week. Last year $40,000 was awarded to professors in Psychology, Math and English. There are some changes in eligibility requirements, so please read the email carefully. Dr. McDonald then presented an overview of research in Dedman College. The College constitutes approximately one half of the University's sponsored funded research. Last year, 98 proposals were submitted for a total of $44 million, and the College received 91 awards; however, not all of these awards are included in the 98 submitted. Dr. McDonald encouraged faculty who are writing for individual fellowships to submit them through the office of fellowships and grants, so that the College is able to track them. If faculty have concerns about research, please set up a meeting to see Dr. McDonald.

Implementation of University Curriculum (Dennis Cordell). Dr. Cordell indicated that as part of the reaffirmation process from SACS, all of the issues have been dealt with, with the exception of two: consortium agreements, which are being handled through the office of Legal Affairs, and the General Education Curriculum, which involves coordinating assessments results over 4 schools and many departments. SACS reviewed the GEC report from last August and asked for an additional report for the fall semester. This report was completed and sent to SACS; however, they have now asked for a report for the spring semester. The spring semester report has been completed and will be sent to SACS this week. Dr. Cordell mentioned that of all the schools, Dedman College has the best data in this report. It is possible that SACS could reaccredit the University, but still ask for more data. Dr. Cordell thanked everyone who responded and provided data. The new curriculum will be launched in Fall 2012 for first time, first year students. Transfer students will not be fitted into the new curriculum at that time, but possibly by spring semester. Courses for the new curriculum need to be in the course catalogue by February 2012, including foundation (including Ways of Knowing), first level of pillars courses, discernment and discourse, personal responsibility and wellness and quantitative foundations. Currently Dr. Cordell has received approximately 150 proposals. Once proposals are received and reviewed by Dr. Cordell, they are then circulated to all of the steering/pillar committees for review. Once the committees have reviewed the proposals, they will then be sent to the Council on General Education for final approval. The recent call for proposals that are due on September 26th, includes substantial incentives for Ways of Knowing courses and less substantial ones for proficiencies. Each time there is a call for proposals, Dr. Cordell is hopeful to continue to provide incentives. There are many exciting proposals, with departments looking at possibilities for majors, double majoring and removing firewalls between the GEC and departments. Dr. Cordell indicated that Access.smu is able to attach different learning outcomes to different sections of courses taught by different professors and the registrar's office is looking into ways to make this work.

State of the College (Dean Tsutsui). The College has a final draft of the strategic plan and will launch publically to the SMU Board of Trustees on September 9th. On September 8th, Dean Tsutsui will make a presentation on the main points of the plan to the CAPPM committee. Shortly thereafter, copies of the plan will go to all Dedman College faculty and staff, and will be posted on the website. The main points of the plan are as follows:

1. Enhancing Undergraduate Education: The College has made some progress in this regard, by now having a full recruiting team and are looking forward to a good year in recruiting high quality students. A new director for the Dedman College Records office has been hired, Jay Orenduff, who comes to SMU from Columbia University. Dean Tsutsui thanked Pamela Chiu for her work as interim director and announced that Pamela will stay on in Records as an Associate Director. The Board of Trustees at its September meeting will be approving a major in Human Rights, which is only one of two freestanding majors in Human Rights in America. Dean Tsutsui thanked Rick Halperin and Pat Davis for their work on this endeavor. The College is also in the process of searching for the Director of the University Advising Center and hopes to have that person hired in the near term. We are also in the process of assessing and reworking on how undergraduate scholarships are awarded, in order to attract the very top students to Dedman College.

2. Strengthening Graduate Programs. There has been less forward momentum in this as the College is waiting on Dean Quick's committee, which is looking at the place of graduate students on campus. It is unclear where this committee is in the process at this time. This will be one of the biggest hills the College has to climb, but it vital to research and growth of the College.

3. Supporting a faculty of excellence: The College has done very well this year in bringing high quality faculty to SMU. The College is also fortunate in having another good group of searches this year, at a time when most institutions are not able to hire. Dean Tsutsui hopes that the College will have better luck this year in recruiting senior faculty positions. The College is working on a joint appointment with the Bush Institute and the Department of Economics, which will set a pattern for collaboration between the Institute and the University. The College has an offer out on a target of opportunity hire to increase gender diversity and research strength in Earth Sciences. It is hoped that the College can continue incremental growth through the Bush Institute and target of opportunity hires.

4. Advancing funded research. The appointment of Renee McDonald as Associate Dean for Research, as well as adoption of a space policy,, are important steps in furthering research needs in the College. The Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery, which was the brainchild of Pia Vogel and other faculty in Biology and Chemistry, is being sent to the Provost tomorrow to be approved as a center. This is very exciting and creates good potential down the road for research-oriented centers developing in the college. In terms of space, the College is using space in Expressway Tower as flexible space, however, it is anticipated that this will turn into research space as our faculty grows.

5. Promoting interdisciplinary culture in the College. At the beginning of the summer a task force was convened to develop a plan for a new interdisciplinary institute with Caroline Brettell as chair and consisting of representatives from all divisions, Meadows, and outside constituents. The committee was charged with creating a blueprint for a new institute that can span the disciplines of the College by the end of December of this year. The committee has been busy visiting other institutes and universities across the country in their fact gathering. The College will be hosting a visit late in September by Susan Roth who is the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies at Duke University. While here, Dr. Roth will be visiting with the committee, faculty and various trustees and supporters, as well as giving a public presentation on how an interdisciplinary center can boost a university. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact Caroline Brettell. The Dean hopes that this will be a broadly based initiative that can serve the College generally, so the more people involved at this early stage, the better. The Dean hopes to establish a task force over the next few weeks for international and area studies in order to bring a cohesive vision to these areas.

6. Improving Marketing and Community Engagement in Dedman College. Over the summer a brand study of the College was conducted by the Richards Group, interviewing 28 constituents of Dedman College consisting of faculty, administrators, staff, students, alumni, faculty, staff, current students, supporters in the community and members of the Board of Trustees to talk about what the image of Dedman College should be in the community. Before the start of classes, a seminar was conducted by the Richards Group involving a number of faculty and staff from the College and members of the marketing team from central administration, where the findings of the study were used to craft an identity that the College can use to shape its marketing program. This identity statement is being shown to key supporters to get feedback and comments will be returned to the Richards Group in order to create marketing materials. The College started searching for a Director of Marketing last: spring candidates were brought to campus, but were not at the level of excellence necessary for Dedman College. Another candidate is being brought in next week, however, if this person is not right for the position, we will keep looking until we find the right person. This is such an important position, as this person will translate what comes out of the brand study into the products that will be used to tell our story, such as a revised website, rethinking the Dedman

College newsletter and departmental newsletters and working with the upper administration in order to build our identity and community and alumni interest in the College.

Dean Tsutsui indicated that his key priorities for this year are (1) implementation of University Curriculum, and doing it right. The Dean thanked Peter Moore, Dennis Cordell and all of the faculty for their work in this regard. (2) this academic year is critical in the capital campaign for the College, as there are some major asks and initiatives planned with central development and Courtney Corwin and Sharon Gambulos have been doing a wonderful job teeing up prospects and generating new interest in Dedman College. With the strategic plan completed and a sense of focus on Dedman College at the University level, there will hopefully be some success with the large asks in the works. (3) interdisciplinary initiatives will be a main focus this year, as well as improving marketing, improving research, growing faculty and space on campus wherever and however possible. The Dean hopes to have a very successful hiring season this year. Dean Tsutsui mentioned some of the initiatives that Peter Moore is involved in this year; the first is forming a task force on the mentoring of Associate Professors and on standardizing practices for promotion. Members of this task force are Dennis Ippolito, Elizabeth Russ, Lynn Stokes, Ross Murfin and Thomas Osang. The formation of this committee was motivated by inquiries made by the SMU Committee on the Status of Women, about the procedures by which associate professors are mentored and encouraged to come up to full, as well as a memo from Dr. Turner asking for the individual schools' procedures. In surveying Dedman College, it was found that there were no standardized procedures across the board and information was hard to come by about how the promotion process took place. The Committee will be meeting over the fall semester and Dean Tsutsui looks forward to their recommendations, on how the College can do a better job of keeping faculty moving in their careers. Peter will be in charge of forming another task force this academic year on the changing landscape of scholarly publishing and its impact on the promotion and tenure process. Membership has not been finalized yet, but the task force will be largely seeking members from Division I, in looking at how the changes in the publishing industry are affecting scholarship and the evaluation of faculty members for tenure and promotion. With all the changes in the publishing industry, it is not the right time to change our tenure standards, but rather take a step back and get a sense of what other institutions are doing, how are they responding to the changes, what do the changes look like, what direction might we be going in in electronic publishing, etc. It is envisioned that the committee might hold a symposium and/or present a position paper.

Mark Chancey 11/29/11 10:51 AM
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Mark Chancey 11/29/11 10:51 AM
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The Dean opened the floor for questions. A question was posed about the rapid rise in SAT scores in admitted students this year. The university hired a firm that has been used by other major universities, making much better use of electronic and direct mailing to attract top students. In addition, the rise in the US News rankings certainly did not hurt the university. Although SAT numbers are up, the numbers of admitted minority candidates are slightly down, so the University is going to have to work hard in order to maintain diversity. A question was posed about providing a companion document to give guidance to faculty about target grade point averages in the new curriculum going forward. The Dean invited the faculty member to come to faculty council and present the issue. A question was posed about further problems with graduate education. One of the problems is funding, as three graduate students would equal one assistant professor salary. Hopefully collaboration with Dean Quick's office and other schools very invested in graduate education (especially Lyle) will provide new strategies for progress. A question was posed about the space issue. The Dean indicated that the best opportunity is Expressway Tower at this time. When the Bush people move out of Expressway Tower, there should be more inexpensive space available. The main issue with Expressway Tower is that not all faculty could be appropriately housed there and there aren't that many support units that the College could move in that direction. It is hoped that once the Bush Library opens and the sophomore commons open that the center of the campus will shift in that direction. One of the things that came out of the Richards Group study is that Dedman College needs a sense of space, as Meadows and Cox have. The Dean has been talking to trustees about this issue. We need to do more to create a sense of space and create an attractive place for people to gather. A question was posed about Diversified. The Dean responded that when this situation was explained at the Council of Dean's level, it was less frightening and made sense in light of the current IRS policies.

The Dean hoped that everyone would have a good fall semester and please sign up for lunch. Currently the Dean has had lunch with 168 people and has about 100 to go.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.