

## Dedman College Faculty Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 5, 2008

**Welcome:** Dean Cordelia Candelaria called the meeting to order at 3:00 and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. As Elizabeth Wheaton was not in attendance, the Dean asked for a volunteer to take the minutes of the meeting. Glenn Linden, an Associate Professor in History offered to take minutes for the meeting. The Dean thanked Cindy Havens, Alma Alvarez-Smith, Kathleen Sullivan Porter, Cal Jillson, Rick Fethke, and Randy Phillips for their work and assistance during the Fall 2008 semester. In addition, the Dean thanked the faculty for the end of a successful semester.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2008 faculty meeting which was previously sent to all faculty. The motion was seconded and the ayes carried. The minutes were approved without correction.

Final Exam Schedule: Schedules for final exams were posted. The faculty was encouraged to adhere to this schedule.

**Grade Posting Policies:** The faculty was reminded about posting grades no later than 48 hours after the final exam was given. Discussion ensued about faculty members who continue to abuse the system as well as those instances (i.e. class size and/or exam type) precludes a faculty member from posting grades timely. For those exceptions, notification should be sent to the Dean and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Comment was made that access.smu now allows professors to post "partial" grades for to accommodate those graduating seniors.

Dr. Bonnie Wheeler asked to add a discussion of Latin Honors to "Other Business" if time allowed.

**Dean's Announcements:** Dean Candelaria announced Dedman Sí ! (for Sí, as in "yes!"). The Dean added that Sí stands for Spirit of Innovation and Impact. The Dean indicated that in order to raise the profile of Dedman College, the College would need to tell the stories itself, through news release and special stories in the local media, and not depend solely upon the University media affairs office. Highlights of this year's accomplishments include: the Quarknet project from the Physics Department in which professors brought physics to the high school classroom, Sam Taylor Fellowship Award winners Ben Johnson (History), Nia Parson (Anthropology) and Gabriella Vokic (Foreign Languages), and Brent Sumerlin (Chemistry) for winning the NSF's prestigious Young Investigator Award, a three-year grant. Please let the Dean know of faculty accomplishments as the College wants to celebrate them.

Additionally, Dedman College is the largest recipient of grants at the University. To that end, to continue to expand the College's research capacity and rankings, Drs. Alma Alvarez-Smith and Kathleen Sullivan Porter are each leading grant development working groups. The College is also supporting a series of grant writing workshops for faculty, and the Dean thanked the distinguished panel participants of the first workshop for their wisdom and insight: Drs. Ezra Greenspan (English), Ernie Jouriles (Psychology), and Bill Orr (Chemistry).

Dedman College's first "Sneaker Tour" was launched this semester which allowed the public and potential donors into classrooms and labs. This first tour was for the benefit of the Dedman College Campaign Steering Committee Co-Chairs.

Other announcements included: the new Dedman College web site is under development, the Godbey Lecture Series and Collegium da Vinci had good attendance, and the Fall Faculty Spotlight were well attended.

**Other Business:** Dr. Bonnie Wheeler (English) introduced the subject of changes for commencement procedure and issuing diplomas at the spring ceremonies. The proposed change was recommended by The decision was made due to logistics as well as the SMU Task Force for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse wanting to tighten the calendar after finals and before graduation. Additionally, Dr. Wheeler indicated that the diplomas given to Latin Honors students only contain grade point averages through the Fall of their senior year.

Bonnie Wheeler made a formal motion that the Dedman College Faculty would like for diplomas to be approved and given eight semesters of full Latin honors at the graduation ceremony. The motion was seconded by Prof Countryman. Associate Dean Cal Jillson moved that the motion receive a vote and reminded the faculty that this was an advisory motion only and more than likely would not be accepted by the Provost. Dr. Jillson suggested that faculty approach the university calendar committee if they want to see any real change in the calendar.

The motion passed with a majority of ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

**Addendum by Dr. Wheeler:** Professor Wheeler moved that Dedman College official diplomas continue to be available for distribution at May graduation as they have in the past, and that Latin honors continue to be based on the student's complete undergraduate record.

Dean Candelaria indicated that although the motion was passed at the Dedman College level, if upper administration enforces the no diploma policy then the College is in violation of its own motion. The Dean indicated that she would pass along faculty concerns to the provost on this issue.

**Academic Affairs:** Associate Dean Cal Jillson announced that the Administration of the University has officially adopted a new Probation, Suspension, Reinstatement, and Dismissal policy.

**Gabrell Motion:** The Gambrell Motion along with the list of December graduates was posted. The faculty seconded the motion and accepted it by acclamation.

The Dean invited the faculty and staff to adjourn to the first annual Faculty/Staff Dedman College Holiday Party in the Rotunda.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m