

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2007

## **Attendance:**

Dan Formanowicz – Chairman	Raymond Eve – Sociology
John Priest – Engineering (Chair Elect)	Joe Kongevick - Theatre
Toni Sol - MODL (Secretary)	Lewis Baker – Philosophy
Tom Ingram – Communication (Parliamentarian)	Paul Chippindale - Biology
Peggy Swanson – Finance/Real Estate	Rasika Dias - Chemistry
Ken Price – Management	Michaela Vancliff - Mathematics
Jaramilio, Jorge – Marketing	David Jorgensen – Mathematics
Ryan Sikora – Information Systems	Suresh Sharma - Physics
Kamesh Subbarao – Aerospace Engineering	Joe Guy - Architecture
Sia Ardekani – Civil Engineering	Jim Fox – Education
Ishfaq Ahman – Computer Science	Jennifer Blevins – Kinesiology
Rhonda Dobbs – Criminology & CJ	Mary Weber – Nursing
Chyng-Yang Jang - Communication	Cheryl Anderson – Nursing
Johanna Smith - English	Marilee Schmelzer - Nursing
Joyce Goldberg – History	Sharon Judkins – Nursing
Mark Quелlette – Linguistics	Maria Martinez-Cosio – Urban/Public Affairs
Aimee Israel-Pelletier – Modern Language	Collins Watson - Student Congress
Samuel Savage – Music	Gerald Saxon – Library (Ex Officio)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m. by Senate Chair Dan Formanowicz.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion and second was made to approve the minutes from the 9-12-07 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Remarks by the President:** Ron and I are happy to be with you again this month. I have just two things that I want to share with you. There was an article in the Shorthorn about a week ago on diversity at the University. I have written a response that will be published on Friday. I will hand this out. The other handout that I will send around concerns a revised website on natural gas drilling on campus that includes an updated frequently asked questions. It has the latest information as we know it.

**Remarks by the Provost:** The first item I want to report to you is the issue of having access to the faculty listserv. I have spoken with Michael Moore and he sees no problem with that. He would like to work with you and your Executive Committee on that. The only request is that access to that listserv be used for Faculty Senate business. The second item that was discussed concerns possibly instituting reviews of non-academic programs on our campus. For example, programs like Community Service Learning, Center for Mexican-American Studies, Women's Studies, The Africa Program, etc. I had discussions with several of the Program Directors and discussed it with our staff in the Provost Office. We would ask the Faculty Senate and the appropriate Faculty Senate committee to begin looking at crafting policy. How we would distinguish between these programs and others like ARRI or other research active

centers which we already have procedures in place in our Handbook of Operating Procedures. We welcome your further input and guidance on how we can institute the policy.

### **Questions for the President & Provost:**

Questions were asked about the gas drilling, its location and other issues. The president explained that the drilling site was situated adjacent to the Continuing Education building on the southeast part of the campus and the site was surrounded by trees. There were still technical issues. And he stated that “We are not going to drill on any more sites until we have had a chance to totally examine and assess the value of our experience on the first site.” In response to a question about the attention that the UTA drilling has generated when there are hundreds of these projects all over Tarrant county, President Spaniolo stated, “We want to make sure that everyone knows what we know and also knows that we are committed to do this in the safest, most responsible way. Some people have said the University is more interested in money than safety. That is not true at all. It is important to understand that the potential royalties, over an extended period of time, for natural gas underneath this campus is truly significant.”

The discussion then moved on to the provost search. The committee had been constituted and the job listing posted.

With regard to last meetings discussion on the distribution of faculty parking stickers, the provost stated that he had contacted the appropriate people and the issue was being looked at, worked on, and it should be relatively simple to fix.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Senate Chair Formanowicz:**

Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluations – That committee has met and talked about some of the options that we will be proposing to the Senate. You will get a proposal for possible replacement of the current teaching evaluations. The committee has talked about a couple of different things. It is in the interest of this campus to replace the instrument currently being used. I am going to do is forward a draft proposal to members of the Senate including a link to the instrument that the committee has decided to recommend. We see this as sort of a two tiered process. We see the student evaluation as part of the process. It will come at some cost to the University. I would like some feedback before our next meeting so that we can vote on this at the next meeting. It is something that needs to be done. There is another aspect that we talked about that I will put in the proposal. It has to do with, possibly, instituting a regularized peer evaluation system. It is not going to be in every course, every year, for every faculty. We are talking about peer evaluation for those who are coming up for tenure rank. I will put this in detail in the proposal. Please get back to me before the next meeting.

Dr. Lamas and Dr. Andrews are here to talk to us today about the Behavioral Intervention Team.

### **Dr. Frank Lamas & Dr. Lisa Andrews – Behavioral Intervention Team**

Dr. Lamas and Dr. Andrews explained the reason for the establishment of this type of service and well as its methods and goals.

“The overall mission of the BIT is to review behavioral incidents and ensure a systematic response to students whose behavior may be disruptive/harmful to themselves and/or to the UT Arlington Community. The aim to coordinate the resources of the UT Arlington Community to

address the needs of students and assist in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the students and members of the UT Arlington community and support student success.”

The aim to “promote the welfare and safety of students and the UT Arlington Community” by “Preventing crises before they occur” through “outreach and educational programming, consultation, referrals” and intervention when requested in addition to forming a post-crises response team. There is also a data collection and sharing component so that incidents that may seem isolated but in reality form a pattern of behavior can be identified and steps taken.

The departments represented in the endeavor are the UT Arlington Police, the VP and AVP for Student Affairs, Counseling Services, Mental Health Services, Apartment and Residence Life, University Advising Center, Judicial Affairs, Office for Students with Disabilities, Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention, and Faculty and Staff member and OCC as needed.

The common behaviors added through BIT are Suicidal ideation or attempts, Self-injurious behavior, eating disorders, mental health disturbances and disruptive behaviors. A website is in the works explaining the program and other information.

The floor was then opened to questions and a discussion dealt with issues of student referral (possible but historically infrequent), issues of privacy and legal ramifications, what sorts of problems belong under the purview of BIT and others that would go to the appropriate agency such as the University police or Judicial affairs.

After the presentation Senate Chair Formanowicz continued with the committee reports. The committees have been charged and are working. With regard to the criminal check discussed at the last senate meeting, UT system in Austin is working on formulating language about this matter. Another issue is the administrative review (Dean of Education, Dean of Social Work, and the Graduate Dean) that is underway. There is no policy covering how the Graduate Dean should be reviewed. The Graduate Dean has no faculty. Dr. Elsenbaumer and the Senate president talked to the Executive Committee about a short-term solution to get this year’s review done. They are going to put together a policy for this review of the Graduate Dean, Dean of the Honor’s College, and the Dean of the Library as they all fall into the same category.

A question was raised as to the impact of these reviews. Senate Chair Formanowicz replied that the review goes to the Provost Office and President’s Office and then they are discussed with the deans. One of the problems in the past with those reviews is there has been no reporting back to the unit as to the results of those reviews or it has been inconsistent. There is no mechanism for reporting back. This needs to be changed but in the interim, something will be done so that there is some reporting back to the unit.

A question was raised as to faculty participation in these reviews (yes).

**Old Business:** Discussion about the survey sent out about faculty priorities with regard to the distribution of possible revenue from the gas drilling. As a result of the feedback, John Preist put together a two part survey; one on non salary priorities, and one on salary priorities. The first survey responses indicated that almost everyone had salary as the number one area. Since salaries cover different sub-areas (retention, compression, merit, etc). The new survey breaks that out into several categories. It is important to identify non salary priorities as well. The survey may be administered online and it should be sent out again to everyone. We would like feedback by the next meeting.

**Announcements:** Senator Kongevick announced that Theatre Arts is opening its season tonight with “The Matchmaker.” It runs through Sunday.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.