

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes April 18, 2017
Student Union 2579 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Call to Order

- **Presiding:** – Tim Mueser
- **Present:** – William Taylor (acting secretary), Hans Gottgens, Deborah Vestal, Song-Tao Liu, David Krantz, Brenda Leady, Kevin Gibbs, Charles Odenthal, Kathy Shan, Edith Kippenhan, Cathy Fisher, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, John Bellizzi, Michael Cushing, Jim Anderson
- **Absent:** Sandip Janda (student representative), Angela Gorgioski (student representative), Don Stierman (excused), Yanfa Yan, Bruce Bamber (Past Chair, ex officio),
- **Others Present:** John Plenefisch (ex-officio),

Approval of Minutes.

Tim: motion to approve minutes from March meeting, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Tim: (updating roster).

Charles, Kevin and Alison, Yanfa are rotating off, Mike will be on sabbatical and will need a replacement. Song-Tao, Cathy, Qin Shao rotating on.

Hans: so physics needs one sabbatical replacement and one new appointee.

Reports from Faculty Senate (David Krantz):

David: The budget issue is driven by decisions at the State. There is 0% tuition increase, and 1% increase for SSI. It is performance based, meaning UT may get less than 1% from the State. UT budget will also be impacted by the State mandate that the University will pay for all textbooks and can charge \$300/student. This is estimated to create a \$12-14 million shortfall. This has not been finalized but is the only proposal on the table.

The Board of Trustees have approved a bond measure of \$72 million, for the UT budget including renovation, and deferred maintenance. UT and Owens have entered a formal agreement: "Rocket express". Students can take 2 years of instruction at Owens to earn an Associate's degree. Those credits can transfer to UT for another 2 years to earn a Bachelor's degree. President provided an update on program cuts. Programs that are embedded in a larger unit are less likely to be cut.

Provost Hsu advocating the University put together minimum requirements for promotion and tenure to use as a baseline in elaborations at Department and College levels.

To reduce costs for personnel, the Administration is offering volunteer separation for eligible faculty and staff. Anyone eligible for retirement can take the volunteer separation. The incentive is half of base-line salary as a one-time payment. It is not a retirement plan. It is not expected that people will be rehired to teach. But this point has not been explicitly elaborated. Importantly, it is expected that the relevant faculty lines will be lost.

New hires, and anyone going up for promotion/tenure will need to use the faculty 180 system. Training sessions are currently running.

Edith: If you are on UCAP or CCAP there will be specific training sessions for those.

David: University is increasing TOEFL scores up to 71 from 61. This is for undergraduates; discussion is ongoing for graduate students.

Edith: the LGBTQA advisory board presented their history on campus. They have initiated safe place training, it is housed under diversity and inclusion. The statement to faculty senate was to support the advisory board to retain a staff person to maintain their activities.

Also, Disability Studies is currently a program. They would like to be a department; the discussion was tabled.

Sibylle: one point that came out of the executive committee. Course and program development will include a survey from the Provost about off campus activities.

John P: This has to do with reporting. There are SARA and Clery Act reporting requirements. You need to report when your students are off-campus with activities related to the University. Crime statistics for those off-campus areas need to be kept.

Mike: does this apply to graduate students i.e., attending conferences?

John P: Yes. There are two things. SARA refers to reciprocity agreements. Clery Act refers to crime statistics. For example, if a student attends a conference and stays overnight, the crime statistics in that city need to be collected.

Jim: does it need to be in the syllabus

John P: no.

Sibylle: One more thing: policy that administration wants feedback on. New policy related to international travel registration. Everyone (Faculty staff or students) who wants to travel internationally will need to register with CISP. At beginning of the policy it states, anyone that will travel for University Business, Academic activity, or Faculty, Staff or student role. Purpose is to have consistent set of international travel procedure.

Tim: maybe the union should deal with this.

John P: is this posted for comment?

Sibylle: no, they were seeking feedback from senate

Edith: if we travel with laptops, do we need to have clean laptops? These devices may have student information.

David: customs has been confiscating electronic devices.

Graduate Council Report (John Bellizzi, John Plenefisch).

John P: Jerry Van Hoy was appointed to the faculty 180 implementation committee. Anne Izzi is director of sponsored research – she is point person for all grants – contact her first with new proposals.

Song-Tao: she came from rocket innovations/patent office

John P: in the report from the GSA, 300 people attended MGRS, 135 graduate students from 16 universities. They had their first undergraduate panel and want to expand that. Health insurance for graduate students was discussed. There was a concern regarding grant allowances for tiers of health insurance. Insurance is capped at bronze level if funds come from grant – this is not the highest tier. Amanda was clear that it is 9-9-6 for full time graduate student status. I.e., sign up for 6 hours in summer

John B: GSA report indicated travel funds are increasing and encouraging students to apply.

John P: Amanda wants to increase stature of graduate programs. For example, numbers of Ph.D.'s have stayed flat for 5 years. Science programs especially are encouraged to increase enrollment to grow the program.

Tim: does this match demand in job market?

Hans: According to US bureau of labor statistics –most science fields show demand is growing faster than average.

John P: it is an important question. If there is

Tim: if we downplay MS, might be a bad idea, in some fields there is more demand for MS graduates.

John P: if growing MS increases stature of the program then that should be pursued.

Tim: so it's up to the Departments what direction to go.

John P: yes

Song-Tao: director of assessment indicated each program learning outcomes will be tied to the strategic plan. Each program needs to map their strength.

John B: The Dean of the graduate school presented data on inquiries for application: lots of students start applications but do not complete them. In our own graduate recruiting, she encouraged us to reach out to those students – with a phone call- and ask them to finish the application.

Report from Student Representative.

Tim: we have no report today, but if anyone knows of students to act as NSM representatives, please relay that information to the chair.

Reports from NSM Chairs' meeting: Tim Mueser

Tim: invite from UT foundation rolling out dashboard program to see foundation information

Elizabeth Tester is the contact person. Course leaf updates for fall – still in progress. Anyone going for tenure or promotion next year needs to use faculty 180. Spring commencement will be in glass bowl.

Edith: each students face name and degree will be up on the screen. Planned to be a 3-hour program.

Tim: Dean mentioned the College level faculty advisor awards and distinguished lecture awards – call for nominations deadline is Friday.

Hans: College did very well with University awards: two outstanding university teachers: Todd Crail and Jillian Bornak. Robert Collins – outstanding researcher, Andy Jorgenson received an outreach award.

Tim: Quinn updated the strategic plan – it is rewritten based on budget changes.

John P: there is a request to look at the new version and will be another comment period. Bill Ayres is the new vice provost for academic affairs. Jamie Barlow is the new vice provost faculty affairs – new dean search in Arts and letters. A comment was raised about associate professors on CCAP reviewing full professors, not much more discussion on that.

John P: UCAP – allows associate professors to vote promotion to full. So even if CCAP is changed, it is allowed at UCAP.

Hans: is this in the CBA.

John P: only the UCAP composition.

Tim: requesting nomination outstanding alumni award. Workload are coming back needing more information. Budget deficit is $\$7.5 \times 10^6$ without the textbook issue.

Reports from Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)

John B: we did an email vote re: changes to math 2420 and physics 2070. The changes passed 14 in favor 0 opposed. These have been forwarded faculty senate.

Election Committee (Sibylle Weck-Schwarz)

Sibylle: Graduate council and CCAP had 42% participation rate. John B elected at large CCAP. Tomer Avidor-Reiss elected to Graduate Council. Rafael Garcia Mata elected to Graduate Council.

Tim: council for 2016/2017 adjourned – 4:40pm. Hans has agreed to chair NSM council for next year – he will do a short meeting of the new council.

New Meeting.

Hans: I want to thank officers and chairs of committees of the past year. New members Song-Tao from Biological Science, Kathy and Qin Shao from Math and Statistics. Departing are Kevin and Yanfa. Program review, budgetary issues will be up for discussion next year.

Meeting location and time will be the same.

New chairs for upcoming year: Curriculum John B, Elections – Sibylle, Brenda Leady – secretary, Kathy Shan – chair elect. Chair position rotates among departments physics is next. Any other nominations for chair? None. Call for vote – chair elect approved.

Next we need to populate standing committees – appropriate chairs will be responsible with populating relevant committees. John B will populate Curriculum Committee. Tim to populate Academic Grievance Committee, Hans will populate the executive committee. Any other issues?

Tim: next year we may be asked to carry out a safety review in the college.

David: good idea to invite the Dean to our council early in the year. Hans will do this

Meeting Adjourned 4:50