

## APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are the official minutes.

**ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING****October 19, 2022**

**Present:** *Richard Benson, Inga Musselman, Mohammad Akbar, Andy Amato, Poras Balsara, Ashley Barnes, Lisa Bell, Kurt Beron, Dinesh Bhatia, Patrick Brandt, Monica Brussolo, Adam Chandler, Ovidiu Daescu, Nikki Delk, Karen Doore, Vladimir Dragovic, John Ferraris, Andrea Fumagalli, Mary Beth Goodrich, Maria Hasenhuttl, Bill Hefley, Dorothee Honhon, Karen Huxtable-Jester, Naser Islam, Michael Kesden, David Lumley, Victoria McCrady, Syam Menon, Neeraj Mittal, Sarah Moore, BP Murthi, Syed Naqvi, Simeon Ntafos, Dawn Owens, Elizabeth Pickett, Ravi Prakash, Shalini Prasad, Siham Raboune, Suresh Radhakrishnan, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Michael Rebello, Carolyn Reichert, Monika Salter, Maribeth Schlobohm, Gaurav Shekhar, Uma Srikanth, Stephanie Taylor, Lucien Thompson, Christine Veras de Souza, Shilyh Warren, Regina Ybarra*

**Visitors:** *Katrina Adams, Naofal Al-Dhahir, Ellen Ammons, Aurora Becerra, Sandy Beisel, Janette Bell, Lance Bennett, Valerie Brunell, R. Gabe Cavazos, Susan Chizeck, Darren Crone, Mareze Crone, Torrie Cropps, Adannah Duruoha, Colleen Dutton, Qin, Fang, Frank Feagans, Stephanie Garcia-Rocha, Agapito Garcia, Juan González, Charles Haseman, Kristen Hatten, Leigh Hausman, Shella Haynes, Cynthia Haynes, Jennifer Hilton Montero, Jennifer Holmes, Megha Hooli, Jennifer Hudson, Calvin Jamison, Dante Jaramillo, Jasmine Johnson, Simon Kane, Michael Karich, Serenity King, Jennifer Klunk, Amit Kumar, Murray Leaf, Mark Lee, Ingrid London, Rafael Martín, Jennifer McDowell, Mark McKinney, Marco Mendoza, Rabah Mezenner, Margaret Moore, Victoria Morales, Jessica Murphy, Mehrdad Nourani, Sanaz Okhovat, Joseph Pancrazio, Terry Pankratz, Rosie Peterson, Nithya Ramachandran, Amanda Rockow, Nils Roemer, Ellen Safley, Elizabeth Samuel, Brooke Schafer, Richard Scotch, Timothy Shaw, Scott, Simpson, Shashank Sirsi, Amanda Smith, Melanie Spence, Stephen Spiro, Amandeep Sra, Rukhsana Sultana, Vy Trang, Mary Urquhart, Karl Van Leeuwen, Mary Jo Venetis, Roopa Vinay, Charles Vincent, Shelby Vincent, Josephine Vitta, Conor Wakeman, McClain Watson, Don Wijesinghe, Michelle Wilson, Tonja Wissinger*

**Absent:** *Olivia Banner, Todd Griffith*

**1. Call to Order, Announcements & Questions – Richard Benson**

Dr. Richard Benson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Dr. Benson provided an update on enrollment. The current enrollment is 31,650 students, up by 2,000 from a year ago and 3,000 from two years ago. The University has experienced another record year in the number of National Merit scholars. Currently, the total stands at 227 scholars.

The merger of the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Arts, Technology and Emerging Communication into the School of Arts, Humanities and Technology has gone well. The president complimented both Provost Musselman and Dean Roemer for their contributions with the merger.

Vice Speaker Michael Kesden inquired about enrollment on a school-by-school basis. Dr. Benson responded that an increase in enrollment wasn't uniform but rather that some schools, such as JSOM, experienced an increase while other ones showed only a modest increase or even a decrease in enrollment numbers. Dr. Benson pointed out that this discrepancy in enrollment is a result of the marketplace, what students want and what the parents of those students want. Dr. Benson mentioned that many universities nationwide have not rebounded robustly from COVID-19 and that UT Dallas

is fortunate in this regard, to be located in a “boom town” in North Texas. He also mentioned that the University of North Texas has shown staggeringly large growth over the last two years.

Speaker Prakash pointed out that an increase in enrollment imposes a significant burden on classroom space and asked if there were plans to add more non-temporary classroom space in the near future. Dr. Benson said that the University pursues aggressive new facility proposals with every legislative session and within the UT System itself through the Permanent University Fund. Many new buildings have already been built. In addition, there are plans for a Student Success building and a sister building to go with BSB, as well as other initiatives.

Provost Inga Musselman added that the first full planning/programming day for the Student Success Center building was going to be on the coming Monday. The Provost also mentioned that the building would house a large lecture hall with maybe 400 seats and multiple 60-100-seat classrooms. As for the sister BSB building, she said the first floor was envisioned for instruction and the upper floors for research.

Dr. Calvin Jamison said that the plans for an additional BSB building were preliminarily put on hold.

Speaker Prakash made a point that it is difficult to proctor exams in classrooms filled to capacity and indicated that what the University was doing to add more classroom space was not enough and that the current strategy wasn't working. Dr. Benson countered this point by reiterating that the University was already investing significantly in new facilities and also mentioned that it was projected for the University's growth rate to level off in the next few years, implying that UT Dallas would eventually reach an optimal level of classroom space. Speaker Prakash asked Dr. Jamison to prepare a presentation at the next Senate meeting about the current state of classroom utilization and future expectations of growth so that there could be more transparency about where the University is headed. Speaker Prakash said that he and his colleagues/professors experience frequent disruptions when teaching due to insufficient amount of space in classrooms.

Dr. Bill Hefley requested that Jennifer McDowell, the University Registrar, be invited to present on classroom utilization in general and during various times of the day. Dr. Hefley noticed that it was discussed before how there was actually a surplus of rooms during specific times of the day. Dr. Hefley also pointed out that adding more facilities and classroom space does not necessarily transfer into the right mix of classrooms (i.e., some classrooms are not equipped with power for students to charge their laptops).

Dr. Benson said that he was familiar with this problem. He also indicated that the problem of space was a natural extension of our growth and that many universities would love to have the problem of too much student demand. Dr. Benson reassured everyone that the University was working hard on matching resources to the student use.

Dr. Ovidiu Daescu suggested to allocate one of the large halls for testing service purposes.

Dr. Simon Fass asked if the University has an ongoing planning process to address the problem of space. Dr. Jamison responded that classrooms were regularly updated with appropriate equipment but that the University is growing too fast to reach an optimal amount of space. The University is repurposing some of the space gained through remote work and using it as classroom space. The University is putting together a utility master plan that would enable the University to develop the abilities needed to meet the needs in question.

Dr. Benson augmented Dr. Jamison's points by referring to the campus master plan and how the University was planning ahead not only in terms of the classroom space but all sorts of infrastructure needs, from laboratory space to student housing to dining services and even the landscaping needs. Dr. Benson emphasized that these efforts were costly.

Dr. Mary Beth Goodrich raised the issue of the increased demand for ADA accommodations and a resulting inability of the testing center to meet the increased demand. Dr. Hefley reminded us that this was discussed in the past but that a decision was made not to install doors in testing spaces (which would have made the space quiet and usable for people needing special accommodations for quiet testing) in order to save money. Speaker Prakash noted that this was indeed discussed in the Senate and Council pre-COVID and that it was agreed then that the testing center would take care of the requests for special accommodations. Since then, however, the default option became that professors would arrange for a testing space. Dr. Prakash noted that he himself would put students in his lab but that not every professor had a lab and that some adjunct faculty members didn't even have a private office to offer as a testing space to students with special accommodations.

Dr. Mark Lee brought up an issue related to the newly announced implementation of the initiative providing graduate students with health insurance. Prefacing that he fully supported the initiative, Dr. Lee said that his concern was financing the move during the transition period for graduate research assistants. Dr. Lee referenced two emails he received from Emily Lacy, the last one of which instructed faculty members to cover the cost of health insurance from their research funds. Dr. Lee mentioned he was never contacted about this despite the fact that the research funding was approved before the health insurance policy was enacted and as such didn't include any allocation for health insurance costs.

Dr. Joseph Pancrazio, Vice President for Research, followed up to say that the issue was due to some inconsistent information and that the University would provide bridge funding in those cases when the health insurance costs can't be met through the research funds.

Dr. Prakash asked if the Senate Committee on Research and the Budget Advisory Committee were consulted about this issue. Vice President for Budget and Finance, Terry Pankratz, elaborated and explained that they did not consult with faculty members on the wording of the memorandum that was sent out. Dr. Prakash said that even though the deans were contacted, he was not sure if the deans then relayed the information to their faculty members who managed multiple research grants. Terry Pankratz responded that the way UT Dallas pays for the insurance premiums is consistent with what other universities are doing nationwide.

Dr. Hefley said that one of the things that came out of the University's climate survey was that communication did not always work well. Sometimes it is necessary to overcommunicate to make sure everyone is on the same page.

**2. Approval of the Agenda – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash called for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Syam Menon moved, and Dr. Tres Thompson seconded. There were no objections. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**3. Approval of the Minutes – August 17, 2022 – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash called for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Syam Menon moved and Dr. BP Murthi seconded. There were no corrections. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**4. Speaker's Report – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash reported the following items:

- 1) Dr. Jillian Duquaine-Watson is leaving the University. Dr. Prakash extended his thanks to Dr. Watson for her excellent service to the university.
- 2) A joint meeting between UT Dallas and UT Arlington is being planned. The date of the meeting has yet to be decided. One suggestion was November 11<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with Veteran's Day. Since legislators and aides are expected to attend, and they would most likely be busy with public events in the morning of that day, this date was ruled out.
- 3) There is a strategic funding call for proposals for all deans and vice presidents from the Office of Budget and Finance. Proposals will be evaluated by a committee consisting of faculty, staff and administrators. To ensure that the committee members do not feel pressured, their names will be kept secret. Speaker Prakash has nominated a faculty member who has domain expertise. While this colleague cannot be named, Speaker Prakash expressed his thanks to this person for their service.
- 4) Dr. Prakash apologized for not sending the agenda packet out to everyone in a timely fashion. Dr. Prakash asked everyone to submit their materials for the agenda no later than the Thursday prior to the Senate meeting so that in the future such delays could be avoided.

**5. THECB/SACSCOC/Legislative Updates – Serenity King**

Dr. Serenity King reported that the Coordinating Board was overwhelmed with comments from universities regarding their proposed rules for reviewing new degree program proposals. Most comments came from institutions within UT System, Texas A&M System, University of Houston System & Texas Tech. It seems that the Coordinating Board is still planning on moving with proposing the same rules.

Regarding the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) group, Jennifer McDowell is our TTAC representative. The biology field of study faculty committee met, voted on and approved a curriculum, but statements were made by the committee that the curriculum was approved just so they wouldn't have to meet for a third day. The field of study process has not improved enough to the satisfaction or need of the 4-year institutions. Dr. King expressed her concern that it was still possible for a field of study in biology to be created, even though it would largely be untenable for most of the state.

Regarding the House Appropriations Committee meetings, there is not much news. Commissioner Keller repeated what he had previously said about upskilling and matching credentials of value and measuring that with some tenure wage data. Chancellor Milliken and Dr. Archie Holmes participated in some panels.

**6. NCFS/TXCFS/FAC Report – Ravi Prakash/Bill Hefley/Shilyh Warren/Michael Kesden**

Dr. Prakash said that the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting would be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the UT System building in downtown Austin. Those attending both the National Council of Faculty and the Texas Council of Faculty meetings will also travel to San Antonio where the meetings will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of October. Topics of discussion will be faculty mental health and wellness, diversity in hiring, and the UT System-wide research symposium. Both Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Archie Holmes and Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs John Zerwas will be attending. There will be a briefing on the legislative outlook and legislative issues.

No agenda was received for the Texas Council of Faculty Senate, but it should be available before

the next Academic Council meeting.

**7. Student Government Report – Kruthi Kanduri/Margaret Moore**

Kruthi Kanduri reported that Fall elections have ended and they are waiting on the results of a run-off election for the position of ECS senator. Student Government is also working on getting appointees and names out to the UWCs and Senate committees. The Legislative Affairs committee just finished up their National Voter Registration Day event and were able to register over 130 people.

The next SG Senate meeting will be on September 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the student fee referendum, focusing on student feedback.

**8. Graduate Student Assembly Report – Megha Hooli/Don Wijesinghe**

Megha Hooli reported that special elections were ongoing and that 18 people were nominated.

Transportation is an issue, buses are overcrowded. Cancellation of buses are happening especially on the east route. Students waited for 30 minutes and then ended up not being able to board the buses.

Dr. Jamison responded that an additional bus was added during peak hours and they are negotiating with DART to decrease the time between buses to 15 minutes. He said he expected the issues to be resolved this fall.

GSA plans to collaborate with the Student Health Center to offer trainings to students on stress/anxiety relief, and the importance of academic integrity.

**9. Staff Council Report – Jennifer Klunk/Charles Vincent**

Staff Council President, Jennifer Klunk, introduced the new Staff Council Vice President, Charles Vincent. She also introduced members of the newly composed executive committee: Christina Swindle, Rachel Enlow, Brooke Johnson and Michelle Reinhardt.

The Staff Council will continue to work on the matters of employment equity and the ombuds proposal.

The Scholarship Staff Council deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for the Care Award is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Jennifer reported that the first meeting of the year for the Employee Advisory Council took place a few weeks ago in Austin. Employee retention was one of the topics discussed, as well as collaboration opportunities with the Faculty Advisory Council. Jennifer said she was hoping that the Employee Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Council might be able to hold a meeting together sometime next year.

**10. CEP Recommendations – Syam Menon**

**A. 2022-'23 Undergraduate Course Inventory**

There were eleven additions to the mid cycle undergrad inventory. One is repeatable, THEA 3320, for up to six hours as topics vary.

**B. 2022-'23 Graduate Course Inventory**

There are six additions. One is repeatable, ATCM 6v90, for up to six hours.

**C. Permanent Waiver of GRE Scores (MS/PHD in Biomedical Engineering)**

Biomedical Engineering is proposing that the COVID-era waiver of the GRE for its grad programs be made permanent. This follows many other universities across the country, such as UT Austin.

**D. ECS Fast Track Program (Informational)**

Computer Science is reviewing its fast-track program and proposing a pause to admissions to the program for spring 23 until the review is completed and the changes can be implemented.

**E. Global Marketing Certificate**

JSOM is requesting a global marketing certificate that has 2 tracks focused on B2B and B2C. It is intended for marketing professionals with 10 plus years of experience.

**F. BA in Public Health**

EPPS is proposing a BA in Public Health to be housed within the Sociology program.

**G. National Taipei University of Technology – UTD Dual Degree (MS in Materials Science and Engineering)**

This is a proposal from Material Science and Engineering for a new dual degree program between UT Dallas and National Taipei University of Technology. Students will be required to take 21 credits at both institutions to get both degrees.

**H. UTD-UNT-Dallas MOUs (Multiple EPPS Programs)**

This is a set of MOUs that will provide pathways for undergraduates at UNT Dallas into various programs in EPPS.

**I. UTDPP1079 Policy on Requirement for Vaccination Against Bacterial Meningitis for Students Under the Age of 22 Registering for Courses**

UTDPP1079 says that students under 22 years of age are required to have a meningitis vaccination. This proposal is to incorporate the COVID-era practice of requiring the vaccine only before the beginning of the classes (and not before enrollment) into the policy.

**J. UTDPP1013 Policy to Allow a Faculty Designated by the Program Review Committee to Participate in Program Reviews**

The current wording says one member of the Program Review Committee will participate directly in the process. The change addresses situations when that may not be possible by saying it can be somebody in the program or the committee, or a faculty member chosen by that committee.

Dr. BP Murthi asked if the permanent waiver of GRE scores was approved by the CEP as a policy and Dr. Menon responded that it was. The rationale is that the waiver is expected to widen the pool of applicants. Concerns were raised about how this may impact the overall quality of students. Dr. Shalini Prasad said that the matter was reviewed carefully and that faculty looked at its peers and aspirational schools for ideas. There is a trend in the field to waive the GRE as a way to increase the potential for diversity and inclusivity (on the grounds that the GRE can only be taken by students who have access to the test). Also, the data shows that the GRE is not a good predictor of how students will perform in the program. Dr. Mary Beth Goodrich asked if waiving the GRE might affect our rankings and accreditation. Speaker Prakash said that it shouldn't affect accreditation as long as we abide by well-defined processes. Dr. King supported this opinion and reminded everyone that it is against the state law to use only the GRE to eliminate students from consideration for admission or scholarships. The Academic Senate is approving the request to waive the GRE requirement and the request will be submitted to the Board of Regents for approval.

Dr. Kesden inquired about the pausing of the ECS Fast Track program. Dr. Menon said that it was due to about 1/5 of the fast-track students not meeting the GPA requirement and also many of them

not taking graduate-level classes beyond the first semester in the fast-track program. Dr. Daescu confirmed this, explaining that the fast-track program was designed to create a path for undergraduate students to obtain a master's degree but that, in actuality, only about 20%-30% of them did so while the rest would leave the program after the first semester.

Speaker Prakash asked Dr. King to confirm that no single criterion can be used to reject a student applicant. Dr. King said that no single weight could be assigned to one factor.

Dr. Murti made a motion that the permanent waiver be treated separately from the rest of the items. Dr. Hefley seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Vote 1: Speaker Prakash called for unanimous approval to endorse the CEP recommendations except for recommendation 10C. There were no objections and there was unanimous endorsement of the CEP recommendations (except for recommendation 10C).

Vote 2: Speaker Prakash called for a vote to approve the permanent waiver of the GRE requirement for the Biomedical Engineering graduate programs. There were 34 votes in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 abstains. The recommendation was approved.

#### **11. Presentation – Addressing Research Data Storage at UTD – Michael Karich**

Michael Karich from the Office of Research and Innovation provided an overview of research data storage and how it is an institutional problem for faculty to store data due to inadequate storage, such as USB drives or on desktops that are not easily accessible and are not backed up. It could result in loss of data and research funding. Additionally, there are duplicated efforts across the campus in managing the data storage. The Office of Research and OIT (Office of Information Technology) want to address these challenges by creating services to support faculty through a centralized platform. Michael Karich wanted to obtain feedback from faculty on making good decisions based on best practices in higher education using three tiers of backing up data. The first tier is hyperperformance through HPC Services supported by OIT and similar tech/national services. The second tier is accessible network service that one could access from devices to share on- and off-campus. The third tier, which has been extremely successful, is collaborative cloud services such as Box and OneDrive through Office 365. The fourth tier will be a long-term solution for archiving to retain data for publications. They recommend starting with 5 terabytes of storage per faculty member with research expectations with a proposed cost recovery mechanism above 5 terabytes at a school or department level or directly to a center or to faculty.

Discussion took place regarding research expectations, confidential information, agreements involving data sets, and how would these be migrated to the repository. Michael Karich agreed that there is a need for centralizing and standardizing processes that takes a lot of effort to make it easy for researchers to incorporate into the data management plans. Dr. David Lumley advised that Michael Karich look into NSF and NIH for their standard procedures as part of UTD processes.

Speaker Prakash requested that Michael Karich returns to the Academic Senate to provide future updates when it is time to roll out with all details.

#### **12. Revisions to UTDPP1100 Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment (Informational) – Conor Wakeman**

Conor Wakeman provided an informational presentation to have the Senate provide additional

feedback to improve the conflict of interest (COI) policies. Language was added due to UT System policies and federal regulations. Due to inconsistencies among the policies, it was recommended that the policies be combined to address specific processes, such as COI management plan, disclosure and approval processes. By having one policy will be more seamless experience for faculty with different responsibilities. Conor Wakeman then provided point-by-point explanations for proposed revisions within the policy.

Dr. Murray Leaf explained that there were serious reasons why the research COI policy was kept separate from the institutional COI policy due to different regental demands and different politics that UT Dallas refused to comply. As an example, faculty do not and should not need permission to serve on editorial boards and other professional activities that faculty provide such as being expert witnesses in court. Discussion took place.

### **13. Revisions to UTDBP3050 (Multiple Appointments Section) – Leigh Hausman**

Hausman provided explanations on why revisions were needed for this policy by changing the dual appointments to multiple appointments. It would be easier for the Office of Contracts Administration to execute interagency memorandums instead of a full interagency agreement.

Speaker Prakash called for a motion to approve the policy revisions. Dr. Hefley moved and Dr. Menon seconded. There were no objections, and the revisions were approved.

### **14. Committee on Committees Recommendations – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash reminded the Senate to sign and return the appointment letters after the Committee on Committees made recommendations in the beginning of the academic year. Some people had to decline for a variety of reasons; the Committee on Committees voted to make the changes. The recommendations are the following:

- Matt Brown left the University, and his replacement is David Channel, AHT, for the Advisory Committee on Research.
- Greg Dess is on SFDA, so the replacement is Anyan Qi from JSOM for the Committee on Effective Teaching.
- They have not been able to find replacements for Jeremiah Gassensmith and Christopher Camacho on the Committee on Faculty Mentoring and will be addressed at a later meeting. Laura Kim is on SFDA and has been replaced by Janet Johnson, AHT, for the Committee on Educational Technology.
- For the Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel, Seung-Hyun Lee will be on SFDA, and his replacement is Sanjay Jain. Robert Stillman was unable to serve, and it was recommended for Edward Lobarinas to be the replacement. Due to multiple AHT members serving on this committee, no replacement is needed for John Pomara who declined.
- There were three vacancies on the Committee on Student Scholarships and will need to appoint new members for Carol Lanham and Tonja Wissinger. There is no need to replace Kim Knight since Mark Rosen is on the committee to represent AHT.
- Jill Duquaine-Watson is leaving, and a replacement is needed on the Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity. It is recommended that Lindsay King be the chair for this committee.

Dr. Murthi noted that Norris Bruce is listed as a member of the Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity; he is no longer with the University.



Speaker Prakash also noted that the Senate approved the IDEA Committee at the last meeting and when President Benson signs that policy and it gets posted in the Handbook of Operating Procedures website, the Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity will cease to exist and will have to nominate members for the IDEA Committee.

There were no objections to these nominated replacements and appointment letters will be issued after communicating the information to the Provost's Office. Speaker Prakash hoped that the nominated replacements would accept the appointments.

**15. Annual Committee Reports – Bill Hefley**

There were a number of reports that were received, and Dr. Hefley will be sending reminders to other committees to submit their reports. The Senate is always asked to approve the reports. These reports will be added to the Senate website.

Speaker Prakash called for a motion to approve the annual committee reports. Dr. Bill Hefley moved and Dr. Syam Menon seconded. There were no objections, and the reports were approved.

**16. Adjournment – Richard Benson**

There being no further business, Dr. Benson adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Ravi Prakash, Speaker of the Faculty

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Date