

Meeting: Faculty Senate  
 Date: September 1, 2015  
 Time: 2:00 p.m.  
 Location: BA 290  
 Adjournment: 3:30 p.m.

# Minutes

Members present: Heslop, Jones, Dang, Blackhurst(for Huber), Slovak, Starnes, Hammack, Nipanni, Ballenger, Mitchell, Smith, Anderson (President), Yan, Taneja, Webster (for Ou), Kelly, Smithers, Williams, King, Pierce, Sun.  
 Members absent: Davis, Lamarque, May

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
	June minutes will be approved via e-mail	
<p><b>Guest Speakers:</b></p> <p>Dr. Julie McElhany, Director, Center for Faculty Excellence and Innovation</p> <p>Tim Murphy, Chief Information Officer</p>	<p>Dr. McElhany gave an overview of the CFEI. The points discussed included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The CFEI staff and their areas of expertise.</li> <li>2. The advisory committee’s role. Senator Julia Ballenger is the Senate representative on the committee.</li> <li>3. Innovation initiatives through partnering with faculty to develop and/or utilize emerging technologies.</li> <li>4. 2015-2016 projects, which include quality matters for online course development, digication for T&amp;P portfolia, remote proctor for online test taking monitoring.</li> <li>5. Faculty development initiative related to teaching and learning.</li> <li>6. Service opportunities.</li> </ol> <p>Senator Heslop and others commented on the lingering problem of CFEI calling for course shells 4-5 months in advance of a semester. Dr. McElhany discussed the need to populate classes at least 10 days in advance of the semester start – the policy is intended to encourage faculty to prepare course shells as far ahead of a semester start as possible.</p> <p>Tim Murphy gave an overview of some of IT’s initiatives, which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some technology aspects have been outsourced to Columbia Advisory Group (CAG).</li> <li>2. IT support/structure was reviewed.</li> <li>3. PAC has approved a \$1.2 million replenishment fund to replace old computers on campus. This was in-part done in order to overcome the issue of ownership – who should be responsible for funding technology replacement, such as in a classroom used by more than</li> </ol>	

one department. Technology components will be replaced on a 5 year plan. These funds will only be used to replace older equipment, it will not be used for new technology initiatives. The oldest equipment will be replaced first. The long-term plan is to have a schedule of replacement. Mr. Murphy requests feedback on the replacement schedule (regarding when optimal downtimes for replacements should happen for example). Non-standard technology/equipment should be purchased with HEF funds, rather than this pool of funding.

4. Feedback on rooms and designs is wanted (such as the three new ITV rooms)
5. A conversation will be welcomed regarding legal holds on personal devices used to access university equipment, data, etc. in the event legal issues arise.

Questions to Tim Murphy included:

1. Senator Heslop raised the issue of safety concerns with cords strewn about a room. Mr. Murphy directed all safety concerns to Derek Preas. (Director, Department of Safety, Ferguson Social Sciences 107, Derek.Preas@tamuc.edu), whose department will address the issues.
2. The BYOD (bring your own device) policy was discussed with regards to the University having legal authority to remotely access a device and wipe it of data. This pertains to those utilizing a personal device for which they receive a stipend to cover costs associated with using the device. The device could hold University propriety data and thus if lost or stolen the University could want to delete data from the device. If one accesses or downloads University data on a personal device, if legal issues ever arose, one could open oneself to having the device being subject to search (if data resides on the device). If one is just accessing University servers and the data remains on the server rather than it being transferred to the device, then no legal issues should arise subjecting the device to search.
3. Mr. Murphy was unsure of the time-frame for completing the work related to online/automated faculty awards portfolio submissions. There is a prioritization committee in place that determines the order in which projects are worked on.
4. Senator Kelly raised the issue of how to put recordings online while also making them fully accessible. Anything that goes on the University website needs to be fully

	<p>accessible. University website materials needs to at least contain tags to explain what the material is. Lydia Harkey (IT Communications &amp; Training Manager) can assist and clarify how to make material accessible.</p> <p>5. The University will not be moving to Windows 10 anytime soon. We will remain with the current version of Windows, at least as long as it is still supported by Microsoft. Windows 10 is however being evaluated in test labs.</p>	
<b>Communications</b>	<p>President Anderson summarized several items from the Academic Affairs retreat which took place prior to the start of the fall 2015 semester:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Provost reviewed the new strategic plan and described who will take ownership of the plan components. President Anderson will make it a priority for the Senate to help address a student success initiative: to create a process by 2016 to involve faculty in intentional mentoring and/or interventions to assist students with improving their academic performances and career planning.</li> <li>2. UCD/MITC and the conflict associated with UNT were discussed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2b. Senator Heslop reiterated the need for better classroom design at UCD, in particular with regards to marker board availability and placement.</li> <li>2c. Senator Heslop stressed the need for more recruiting for the UCD center.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The Academic Freedom, Tenure, Promotion and Post Tenure Review policy will be revised. A motion was made to support the revision of this policy.</li> <li>4. This year's class of faculty submitting their T&amp;P portfolio will use the digication process.</li> <li>5. Senator Huber has agreed to represent the Faculty Senate on the Campus Concealed Carry Implementation Committee.</li> <li>6. President Anderson is serving on the Athletic Director Search Committee, which hopes to have the director in place by October 1.</li> <li>7. The University's enrollment exceeded 13,000. To be exact, 13,002 on this date.</li> </ol>	<p>Motion was made by Senator Kelly. Motion was seconded by Senator Slovak. Motion passed.</p>
<b>Committee Reports:</b>	No committee reports at this time	
<b>Unfinished Business:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Senator King asked President Anderson to follow-up on the discrepancy in graduate faculty status guidelines.</li> </ol>	

<b>New Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Senator Williams discussed the Physics BS program as it relates to being a low-producing program. The physics BS program has produced 23 BS graduates over the last 5 years, which places it short of the 25 graduates required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in order to remain in good standing. Senator Williams discussed the Physics departments concerns that upper administration may not be interested in advocating on their behalf and that President Jones may not be aware of the Physics' faculty concerns. Senator Williams discussed changes in the program that the department is implementing, their contribution to the University's research and teaching mission and asked for advocates to help the department discuss the departments contributions and plans to rectify the situation to upper administration.</li> </ol>	