

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 2, 2016

Following are the minutes of the special Faculty Council meeting of May 2, 2016.



Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 2, 2016

The first special meeting of the Faculty Council for the academic year 2016-17 was held in Main 212 on Wednesday, May 2, 2016, at 2:15 PM.

ATTENDANCE.

Present: Alexandra W. Albright, Lucinda Jane Atkinson, Simon D. Atkinson, Christina Bain, Mark L. Bradshaw, Carolyn M. Brown, Christopher P. Brown, Barry Brummett, Derek Chiou, Allan H. Cole, Elizabeth Cullingford, Ann Cvetkovich, Jonathan B. Dingwell, Glenn P. Downing, Alan W. Friedman, Linda L. Golden, Andrea C. Gore, Lauren E. Gulbas, Tracie C. Harrison, Hillary Hart, Kevin S. Helgren, Maya L. Henry, Martha F. Hilley, D. Eric Hirst, Steven D. Hoelscher, Coleman Hutchison, Vishwanath R. Iyer, Jody Jensen, Jonathan Kaplan, Binna Kim, John C. Lassiter, Alexandra Loukas, Blinda E. McClelland, Julie A. Minich, Jennifer Moon, Richard A. Morrisett, Martha G. Newman, Robert A. Olwell, Dennis S. Passovoy, Na'ama Pat-El, Nancy L. Roser, Lorie Roy, Jonathan L. Sessler, D. Max Snodderly, Pauline T. Strong, Jessica R. Toste, James W. Tunnell, Lauren J. Webb, Jennifer M. Wilks, Cara Young.

Absent: Ronald Angel (excused), Chad J. Bennett, William "Wills" Kerby Brown, Jorge Canizares (excused), Benjamin H. Carrington, Sergio M. Cavazos, Francesca L. Cicero (excused), Juan J. Colomina-Alminana (excused), Janet M. Davis (excused), David J. Eaton, Benny D. Freeman, Laura I. Gonzalez (excused), Terrance L. Green, Peniel E. Joseph, Christine L. Julien (excused), Prabhudev C. Konana, Jack C. Lee, Sanford V. Levinson, Lauren A. Meyers, Edward R. Pearsall (excused), Jonathan T. Pierce-Shimomura (excused), Austin B. Reynolds, Christen Smith (excused), Jason P. Urban (excused), Lynn R. Wilkinson.

Voting Members: 50 present, 25 absent, 75 total.

I. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE FACULTY COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017.

Chair Jody L. Jensen (kinesiology and health education) welcomed the 2016-17 Faculty Council voting members to the special meeting called to elect the Faculty Council officers for next year, the chair elect and three Faculty Council representatives on the Executive Committee.

A. Election of the Chair Elect.

Chair Jensen announced that the ballot included two candidates for chair elect, which would be a three-year position. She explained that beginning the first class day of the fall 2016 session, the individual selected would serve as chair elect, then as chair the following year, and then to provide some continuity as past chair the third year.

Chair Jensen invited Professor Steven Hoelscher (American studies) to step up to the podium to make a few comments. The full text of his self-introduction can be found in Appendix A.

Because Professor Christine Julien (electrical and computer engineering) was unable to attend the meeting -- being on research leave in Trento, Italy -- Chair Jensen played a video that Professor Julien had created as a way of introduction. The video can be viewed online at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mhbcf1yxw5hpbt6/Julien%20Faculty%20Council.mov?dl=0>. The transcript of her video can be found in Appendix B.

Chair Jensen asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she explained that one could write-in a nomination on the ballot. After the ballots had been collected the chair explained that an announcement would be made once they had been tallied.

B. Election of Three Members to the Executive Committee.

While the ballots were being tallied, Chair Jensen moved on to the election of the three Faculty Council representatives to the FCEC. She explained that Professors Hoelscher and Julien were included on the officers' ballot, so whichever one was elected would be disregarded as a candidate. The candidates on the ballot included Alan H. Cole (social work), Jonathan Kaplan (Middle Eastern studies), Jennifer Moon (biology), and Martha G. Newman (history, religious studies). Chair Jensen then asked each of the candidates to say a few words of introduction. Their statements can be found in the Appendix C.

Following the candidates' statements, Chair Jensen announced that the 2016-17 chair elect would be Professor Steven D. Hoelscher and would no longer be eligible for the Executive Committee since, "he has already secured a position there. She asked everyone to mark their ballots for the three positions open on the Executive Committee and that she would announce the winners during her report to the regular 2015-2016 Faculty Council.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Chair Jensen announced that the Faculty Council membership and calendar had posted on the Faculty Council's website and noted that the October 17 meetings had been moved to October 10 to accommodate the president's schedule. She pointed out two links on the website to the *Handbook of Operating Procedures* 2-1110 and 2-1120 that contain the rules and by-laws of the Faculty Council; <http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/faculty-council> and <http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/laws-faculty-council>, respectively. Also referenced were the Faculty Council Primer and the General Faculty Standing Committees' Primer, which she thought were useful, especially to new members to get them "up-to-speed" over the summer.

Before closing the meeting, Chair Jensen thanked every one who offered to stand for election.

Being the one who made the calls and sought the nominations and recommendations of my colleagues, I was very pleased and quite humbled by the expression of interest and the kind of passion that people feel for this University. Every one of the people who

stood before you today -- I take pride in being able to call them my colleagues and my friends. So, I want to thank them all, regardless of the outcome.¹

III. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Posted on the Faculty Council website (<http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/>) on August 18, 2016.

¹ Announced winners during the regular meeting of the 2015-16 Faculty Council were Christine L. Julien, Jennifer Moon, and Martha G. Newman.

Appendix A

**Steven D. Hoelscher, professor
Department of American Studies**

Transcription of Self-Introduction

Thank you very much Jody. I want to thank you and all the members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee for the recommendation that I stand for election for this important position. It's really an honor to be here.

Jody suggested that I say a few words about myself. I'm currently Professor of American Studies and Geography, and in the middle of my second term as Chair of the Department of American Studies. I also hold what might be best described as a courtesy appointment in the Harry Ransom Center, where I am Academic Curator of Photography. Between these positions, I've handled a vast array of administrative duties, including curriculum design, hiring, promotion and tenure, and development, and over the past 8 years, I've worked closely with other department chairs, deans, center directors, donors, and alumni. Next year will be my third on Faculty Council.

Since arriving in Austin 16 years ago, my research and teachings have been squarely in the humanities, but my early training was in social and physical sciences. That's perhaps why, when I think of our university, the model that comes most immediately to mind is an ecosystem. With UT's vast array of constitutive elements—departments, centers, research labs, colleges, schools, museums, degrees, majors, athletics—it's often easy to forget about their interconnections. But the critical thing about the university, like any ecosystem, lies in how each element relates to and affects other elements. Thinking of the university as an ecosystem helps us recognize two more things: One, their dynamic nature—invariably, they are subject to periodic disturbances and are often in the process of recovering from some past disturbance; and secondly their fragility—often those disturbances can threaten the diversity that is so central to health of the system.

I'm reminded of this fragility when I think about the past several years, in particular the misguided legislation to permit concealed handguns in our campus buildings, and the repeated attempts to fire our previous university president. We're still waiting to learn how campus carry will play out, but I can tell you that I'm proud of the work of this Faculty Council in sending an unambiguous message of opposition to Senate Bill 11, and very strong support for our campus leadership. What's more, my reading of our university's history shows that this ecosystem's sustainability is never guaranteed—it was seventy-two years ago, after all, that the UT board of regents fired President Homer Rainey after a lengthy battle over academic freedom. Rather, sustainability and forward movement are achieved through the vigorous and collective efforts of both our faculty and administration.

I'm honored to be nominated for this important position and, should the voting members of the faculty select me as Faculty Council Chair Elect, I'll work hard on behalf of an amazing educational environment that means so much to me—and to all of us here today. Thank you. [Applause]

Appendix B

Christine L. Julien, associate professor Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

I'm Christine Julien. I'm a professor in electrical and computer engineering department here at UT where my research is focused in the area of pervasive computing.

First, I want to thank you for bearing with this video speech. I'm actually on a faculty research assignment in Trento, Italy, where I seem to be working with experts in smart PDs and sensor networks to kick start some new projects that are enabling our cities and communities to become better connecting and inhabitants of the communities to become better connected.

So, given the time and distance between us, I do really appreciate the opportunity to send you this message about my desire to help lead the UT Faculty Council.

I first started on the Faculty Council at UT in 2012. And, I gradually become more involved in service at the University level. In fact, it's my experience of just last year that has most prepared and motivated me to further extend my contributions.

So, last year, I served as a member of the Faculty Council Executive Committee. To work with many dedicated and very highly capable colleagues on this committee, I was introduced to the cogs of faculty governance. And it was also really striking how much positive impact this small team really has at UT. Last year, I also served as the inaugural chair of the Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee. And, this experience opened my eyes to how important the work we do in Faculty Council is and the work that we do on committees inside the Faculty Council is. And, so technology-enhanced education is really just an example. But, it is one area in which I think the University of Texas is placed imminent, and so the experience on the committee was very eye opening. My introduction to work that we were doing there made it obvious that changes that we bring about at UT have significant potential to shape not just UT and the future of UT, but higher education in Texas more broadly and also across the country.

So, the opportunity that I had over the past year to work abroad with experts in my field has further stoked my love for my research, and I do really love working one-on-one with graduate students on research. I have missed teaching, and I'm very passionate about teaching both undergraduate students and graduate students. But, I've also missed contributing to the larger mission at UT and working with my colleagues who are across the University.

This past year has also been a time of many changes on our campus from new leadership to the adoption of controversial policies and challenging discussions we're having as a community. The way that UT Austin has risen to these challenges has really has me very proud to be a Longhorn. And, I'm very optimistic about the future of UT. I'm really looking forward to my next years on Faculty Council. And, I also hope to be able to help to lead the Faculty Council and address the new challenges and becoming... and continuing to be a leader in higher education.

Appendix C

Allan H. Cole, professor, School of Social Work

Thank you Jody. My name is Allan Cole. It's an honor to stand for election to the Faculty Council's Executive Committee and especially to be among such a distinguished group of colleagues. I am appointed to the School of Social Work where I serve as senior associate dean for academic affairs, as graduate advisor, and beginning in the fall as director of undergraduate programs. I currently serve on our school's executive committee, and I also chair the University's C12 committee, which attends to the responsibilities, rights, and welfare of graduate student academic employees.

I'm deeply grateful to be a part of this University. Having respect and great affection for our faculty, staff, students, and alums, I take pride in our mission as a first rate research university that seeks to change the world for the better. I relish the opportunity to be a part of those efforts for change. Having worked for thirteen years in higher education as both a faculty member and an academic leader, I have rich experience with envisioning and leading the important work of shared governance. In my view, this is not only an essential building block for any successful university DNA, but it also must be the basis for any Faculty Council's work. I'm excited about contributing to that work, to the work of shared governance with all of you in the coming years.

I should note too that the heart of my academic discipline, like my own heart, beats with the values of equity, dialogue, listening, collaboration, consensus building, and sharing resources for the collective good. If elected to the Executive Committee, I will work with diligence to give voice to these values, especially as we consider the leadership and work of this Council and as we explore the many opportunities for innovation and success that UT enjoys.

Finally, I pledge to serve this group and our University with energy and with joy for I recognize what a privilege it is to be a part of this exceptional community of teachers and scholars. Thank you.

Jonathan Kaplan, assistant professor, Department of Middle Eastern Studies

Thank you Jody. And my thanks to the nominating committee for giving me the opportunity to run for this very important position, and thank you for taking the time to listen and to consider me for this important role in our faculty governance.

My name is Jonathan Kaplan, and I am an assistant professor in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. The area of my research and teaching focuses on ancient Judaism with a particular focus on the Hebrew bible and how this work came to be interpreted in classical and ancient Judaism.

Since joining the faculty just four years ago, I've been deeply involved in faculty governance, primarily in our departmental level serving in a number of roles such as assistant graduate advisor, chair of our course and curriculum committee, serving on three different search committees and organizing lecture series. Since joining the Faculty Council last year, I have worked as well on the Faculty Advisory Committee on Budgets. One of the other initiatives, which I have taken up that I think is crucial way in which our University can intersect with the local community is helping to spearhead a mentoring program in which our UT Austin undergraduates work cooperatively in local AISD schools to help tutor and mentor refugee students from Syria and Iraq, which on the ground is a way for them to practice their Arabic skills, but also a meaningful way to help out people who need their help most desperately.

I have a deep commitment to the faculty role in shared governance. And, I appreciate profoundly what an important role this serves in the future of our University, not just the present. And, I would bring to the Faculty Council Executive Committee three things that I think would help further our shared goal of building a university of the future. There is a number of an area studies department, particularly in area studies department focused on an area of the world that is so consumed by strife and violence, I am... would bring to the FCEC the really deep commitment to listening to one another and hearing all voices at the table and bring those voices together as work to chart a common course for our University. As a member of the interdisciplinary department and as an affiliate of several other program units throughout the University that are inherently interdisciplinary, I would also bring to the FCEC a deep commitment to supporting interdisciplinary research that is at really the core I think where UT is now and where it is going as a leading university in the world. And finally, I think I

would bring an important perspective to the FCEC and that is of a number of the currently non-tenured members of the faculty, which is also I think an important contribution to shared faculty governance that we as a Faculty Council include the voices of those of our faculty who are not part of the tenured faculty.

Thank you for listening and thank you for considering me for this important role in our University's governance. Thank you.

Jennifer Moon, senior lecturer, Biology Instructional Office

Good afternoon everybody. My name is Jen Moon. I'm a senior lecturer in biology. I'm also the assistant dean for non-tenure track faculty in the College of Natural Sciences. I'd like to begin by saying that I'm honored to be included on the ballot for Executive Committee. I've had the privilege of serving on Faculty Council for the past two years and am delighted to have been re-elected for the next term.

During my time on Faculty Council, I have been a member of several committees, including the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee, otherwise known as UGSAC, the Educational Policy Committee, the Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review, otherwise known as CUDPR, and currently, I'm serving as the co-chair for the Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee or C14 and will continue as chair beginning in the fall.

Because teaching undergraduates is my career as well as my passion, I'm an enthusiastic supporter of excellence in undergraduate education. As assistant dean, I've made and will continue to make positive changes in the College of Natural Sciences to ensure our non-tenure track faculty have a voice and a valued career here at UT. As the only non-tenure track nominee, and if elected, the only non-tenure track member of the Executive Committee, I would continue to be a steward for these interests. Having said this, I appreciate the University leadership must balance the needs of many in the decision-making process. The work that the Executive Committee does is crucial for maintaining a positive relationship between our faculty and the president and the administration.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the University in this capacity. Thank you.

Martha G. Newman, associate professor, Department of History and Department of Religious Studies

Good afternoon. I'd like to thank you and say that I am honored to receive this nomination. I am, will do my best to work for you should I be elected. I really appreciate your confidence in making this nomination.

My name is Martha Newman. I am the founding chair of the Department of Religious Studies and am associate professor in the history department. So, I actually have a second affiliation of. I've been at UT since 1988. I've not before served on the Faculty Council, but I have served on Faculty Council committees including the Grievance Committee and the Committee for Student Life. More importantly however, I've served over these many years in a whole variety of administrative positions at UT. Some many years ago, I was the first associate director of the Plan II program, where I worked a lot with undergraduates writing their student theses. I served as well as the associate chair in the Department of History, one of the largest departments in the College of Liberal Arts. And, starting in 2002, I became the director of the Religious Studies program, and then for some many years, I have worked to create from this program, a Department of Religious Studies. I became that department's first chair in 2007 and have since worked with my colleagues in that department and other to create a PhD program. And at the end of the summer, I will be stepping down as chair.

All of this departmental and interdisciplinary administration has taught me a great deal about this University. I've worked with curriculum, I've worked with hiring, I've worked with promotion and tenure, I've worked in fundraising, and I can't think of what else, but I'm sure there are many other things as well. But, most of what my jobs have done over the years have taught me the importance of communication. I see my job as a departmental administrator, whether as a chair or associate chair or whatever, as two-fold. First, I seek to foster my colleagues' research and teaching by helping them find the resources they need and by channeling their concerns to the appropriate administrators, that is, my job is to bring information from the bottom up. Second, I seek to do this and sometimes cajole, maybe even bribe them to do the things that the administration wants them to do. That is, my other role is to bring information down from the top. When I do this well, I'm not just a conduit, but I'm an advocate. That is my job is to listen, to ask tough questions, and to be an advocate for the

projects that my colleagues want to do that they convince me are worth doing. And, if elected, I will bring these skills, I hope, to the Faculty Council Executive Committee.

I'm also a medieval historian. One of the subjects I study is the intellectual world of the twelfth century, of twelfth century Europe where the European university formed, almost exactly 800 years ago. This semester, I have amused my students, my undergraduates, with some letters from the thirteenth century students and their parents. It might come as no surprise to you that when students in the thirteenth century wrote their parents, they asked for money. They wanted money to cover books, to cover lodgings, to cover other things that they did not want to enumerate. And when parents wrote their students, they asked their students to work harder and to drink less. I have a freshman in college.

But, more importantly, for me right now, in this gathering today is to note that the very term university, which started to be used in Latin in this early thirteenth century referred to the community of faculty and scholars who started to act as a corporation. You could also call them a commune; you could also call them a guild. Any of those translations work. And these were corporations, communes, guilds that regulated their own conditions of work, that is they regulated their curriculum; they regulated their membership; they regulated proper behavior and other such things.

The faculty, in what became the University of Paris in the early thirteenth century had to fight from the very beginning to maintain this self-governance. Yet, despite these fights and fights that continued over these 800 years, this tradition has continued. And, I'm honored today to be able to continue to participate in this tradition of shared governance at UT through my membership in Faculty Council and if elected on the Executive Committee. So, thank you.