

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

Following are the minutes of the regular Faculty Council meeting of September 19, 2016.



Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**

The first regular meeting of the Faculty Council for the academic year 2016-17 was held in the Main Building, Room 212 on Monday, September 19, 2016, at 2:15 PM.

ATTENDANCE.

Present: Lucinda Jane Atkinson, Simon D. Atkinson, Blake R. Atwood, Carolyn M. Brown, Christopher P. Brown, William "Wills" Kerby Brown, Barry Brummett, Sergio M. Cavazos, Francesca L. Cicero, Allan H. Cole, Juan J. Colomina-Alminana, Elizabeth Cullingford, Ann Cvetkovich, Janet M. Davis, Glenn P. Downing, David J. Eaton, Gregory L. Fenves, Alan W. Friedman, Philip M. Gavenda, Linda L. Golden, Laura I. Gonzalez, Lauren E. Gulbas, Marvin L. Hackert, Tracie C. Harrison, Hillary Hart, Kevin S. Helgren, Maya L. Henry, Martha F. Hilley, D. Eric Hirst, Steven D. Hoelscher, Coleman Hutchison, Brent L. Iverson, Vishwanath R. Iyer, Jody L. Jensen, Christine L. Julien, Jonathan Kaplan, Susan L. Kearns, Binna Kim, Prabhudev C. Konana, John C. Lassiter, Blinda E. McClelland, Maurie D. McInnis, Julie A. Minich, Jennifer Moon, Richard A. Morrisett, Martha G. Newman, David A. Nielsen, Patricia C. Ohlendorf, Robert A. Olwell, Dennis S. Passovoy, Na'ama Pat-El, Edward R. Pearsall, Austin B. Reynolds, Lorie Roy, Jonathan L. Sessler, Christen Smith, D. Max Snodderly, Vincent S. (Shelby) Stanfield, Jason P. Urban, Lauren J. Webb, Jennifer M. Wilks.

Absent: Alexandra W. Albright, Ronald J. Angel (excused), Christina Bain, Darrell L. Bazzell, Chad J. Bennett (excused), Jay M. Bernhardt, Mark L. Bradshaw (excused), Jorge Canizares (excused), Cindy I. Carlson (excused), Benjamin H. Carrington (excused), Patricia L. Clubb, M. Lynn Crismon (excused), Elizabeth A. Danze, Douglas J. Dempster, Randy L. Diehl, Andrew P. Dillon, Jonathan B. Dingwell, Bradley G. Englert, Angela M. Evans, Ward Farnsworth, Benny D. Freeman, Christian S. Glakas, Andrea C. Gore (excused), Terrance L. Green (excused), Lorraine J. Haricombe, Jay C. Hartzell, Linda A. Hicke, Daniel T. Jaffe, S. Claiborne Johnston (excused), Peniel E. Joseph (excused), Manuel Justiz, Harrison Keller, Jack C. Lee, Sanford V. Levinson, Alexandra Loukas, Lauren A. Meyers (excused), Sharon Mosher, Scott A. Rabenold, Soncia Reagins-Lilly (excused), Pengyu Ren (excused), Pauline T. Strong, Alexa M. Stuijbergen, Jessica R. Toste (excused), James W. Tunnell (excused), Gregory J. Vincent, Lynn R. Wilkinson (excused), Sharon L. Wood, Cara Young (excused), Luis H. Zayas.

Voting Members:	53 present,	23 absent,	76 total.
Non-Voting Members:	8 present,	26 absent,	34 total.
Total Members:	61 present,	49 absent,	110 total.

I. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

Secretary Hillary Hart (Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering) welcomed new and returning members of the Faculty Council. She announced that on October 10, there would be three back-to-back meetings in MAI 212: the annual meeting of the School of Undergraduate Studies at 1:30 PM, followed by the annual meeting of the General Faculty and then the regular Faculty Council meeting. Secretary Hart added that the primary business of the General Faculty meeting would be to elect the secretary, which occurs each year during its annual meeting. The Secretary explained that because she was no longer a full-time faculty member, having taken a position “doing something that is really exciting,” she had nominated Professor Alan W. Friedman (English) for Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council. Dr. Hart also mentioned that Council members could nominate someone—even themselves if they wished—and that nominations would also be accepted from the floor during the meeting. She strongly encouraged everyone to attend the meeting, which would be presided over by President Fenves.

Following those introductory remarks, Secretary Hart presented her report (D 14799-14807), which included final approval of ten proposals to change the *Undergraduate Catalog* along with the legislation to change the criteria used to determine voting members of the General Faculty (D 14482-14489). The secretary also reported that six memorial resolution committees had been appointed over the summer.

The secretary closed her report by stating that she had “really enjoyed being your secretary,” and that she would miss it, but added, “I will see you all around campus, all over the place, thanks.” Her remarks were followed by a round of applause.

Chair Jody L. Jensen (Kinesiology and Health Education) thanked the Council members for that round of applause. She stated that “Hillary has had a number of years of very important service to the University in shared faculty governance. We very much appreciate all that you’ve done. And the Executive Committee has her on speed dial for all the questions that may still come up. I thank you for that round of applause. She has certainly earned it.”

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Secretary Hart explained that for the approval of the minutes, she would simply ask if there were any changes or additions, and if there were none, she would assume the minutes to be approved. Having asked for changes and/or additions and hearing none, she announced that the minutes of the special meeting of the 2016-17 Faculty Council (D 14644-14651) and the regular meeting of the 2015-16 Faculty Council (D 14652-14668), both held May 2, 2016, were approved.

III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT.

A. Comments by the President.

President Fenves thanked Jody and welcomed the Council members to the 2016-17 academic year and thanked them for the opportunity to speak. He noted that he had given his State of the University Address last week and would not repeat it here, adding jokingly that he knew “everybody here was at the speech or watched it live stream.”

Having started his second year as president, President Fenves stated that one of the things that was very important and pretty significant was the change in the senior leadership team of the University. It now included Executive Vice President Maurie McInnis who started July 1 and was “well up to speed;” Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Darrell L. Bazzell; Vice President for Research Daniel T. Jaffe, who is a long standing member of the faculty and former chair of Astronomy and who had already made some major changes in the eight months in his new position; Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly, who began her new position on September 1 and was known by many for her outstanding work with students; Vice President for Development Scott A. Rabenold, who was already working with the deans and the chief development officers across the campus to look at how the University can increase private philanthropy. He noted that Patricia A. Ohlendorf would continue as Legal

Counsel and Dr. Gregory J. Vincent would continue as Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement. He reminded members that in the previous week he had announced that Vice President for Operations Patricia L. Clubb would be retiring after sixteen years and that an announcement would be made soon about plans for the University Operations portfolio.

President Fenves wanted everyone to be aware that the twelfth day enrollment figures had been publicized and that the University had the largest ever freshman class, 8,700 students—1,000 more than last year. Even with the increase in the freshman class size, the president noted, undergraduate enrollment had increased by only 300 students because the University would graduate 10,000 bachelors' students this year, again, the largest in the University's history. He congratulated faculty on the enormous improvement in the four-year graduation rate, which was reported at 60%, "So, we are doing a better job of achieving our goal of 70% four-year graduation rate... getting close to that." He noted that the six-year graduation rate was just a hair under 80%, again, the highest ever. He said he would like that rate to get to 85%, which he felt was doable and "still have the quality and excellence of our students." For perspective, President Fenves said the six-year graduation rate in the state of Texas was just barely 50%. "So, we are doing really well in admitting smart kids, ambitious, bright, and then giving them the opportunity and the tools and the support to get a great education and graduate from The University of Texas."

President Fenves reported that Project 2021, led by Professor Jamie Pennebaker, was off to a "fantastic" start with some very innovative ideas coming from the departments and the faculty. He pointed out that Dr. Hart was part of the Project 2021 team. He said, "She's one of our best teachers on campus, distinguished senior lecturer. So, we're so glad to have you, Hillary, with all your considerable talents and ideas working with us on Project 2021."

The president remarked that Provost McInnis would be providing more information about investments in faculty, which, he said, continues to be a huge priority— to be able to recruit, retain, and compensate faculty at a level that makes the University competitive with the top-tier universities in the nation. He reiterated his remarks from his State of the University Address that he will continue to support interdisciplinary collaborations, which is important to the intellectual life of the University. He said, "We need strong disciplines, but that isn't enough. We need to be able to collaborate on the tough questions that are going to advance knowledge and understanding of human society, advance science, and all the things that come out of the University." He remarked that faculty members would hear more about the things to come from the provost and Dr. Jaffe.

Also mentioned in his State of the University Address, President Fenves said, was the diversity action plan that he, Provost McInnis, and Vice Presidents Vincent and Lilly had been working on over the summer and had recently invited student participation as well. He said it was a fairly comprehensive document with many things related to recruitment, retention, campus climate, and inclusion, and was meant to be a collaborative effort to make advances at the University. The president said the Faculty Council would be briefed on the work in the near future.

Regarding the Texas legislature, President Fenves said the University's top priority would be funding. He noted that it would be a tight revenue biennium for the state and that, therefore, it would be important to make the legislators understand that "ups and downs in funding for higher education really affects our ability to educate students and to be able to compete nationally and to reach the goals that the governor and senior leadership of the state have for the research universities in Texas."

President Fenves said that accessibility and affordability would also be important in the next legislative session. He said that there had been discussion on "tuition set-asides" that would play a very critical role in financial aid for students, especially for those coming from lower income

families. “We must have that kind of financial aid if we’re going to meet our goals of educating a broad, diverse student body in Texas, a state that’s majority minority.”

The final priority for the coming legislative session that President Fenves mentioned related to admissions. He remarked that, after eight-years of litigation, the Supreme Court ruled in the University’s favor on its affirmative action policies. The president opined that the ruling would give UT Austin a good base for working with the legislature to have more flexibility in admissions so that “we can serve the state of Texas by putting together an excellent and diverse class of students.”

Having concluded his remarks, President Fenves asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Concerning the president’s remarks on internationalization during his State of the University Address, Professor Jonathan Sessler (Chemistry) asked if faculty members could move forward to joint appointments and shared visions. “We live now, as you can well appreciate, in an international climate, particularly in my small building of science, and we should be thinking how we can establish a leadership role working off of the comments you made in your speech.”

President Fenves thanked Professor Sessler for his question and stated, “The international profile of The University of Texas is important for us to accomplish all our goals.” He said that, when he arrived at UT Austin eight years ago, he was surprised that the University did not have a strategy on international aspects of education and research. He acknowledged that there were many collaborations taking place at the faculty and program levels, and many opportunities for students to study abroad, but the University did not have a strong program internationally, which was one of the goals he had mentioned in his first State of the University Address and emphasized again this year. He reported that this past year he led a UT delegation to Mexico City, where there are “tremendous” opportunities for collaborations. He also met with alumni in Paris and London who could help the University connect with companies, individuals, and agencies that support international university collaborations. In addition, he visited Peking University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Fudan University and was amazed at the reception he received in Asia—all were very interested in collaborating with The University of Texas at Austin. One example he cited was Peking University, which has a well-known Latin American Studies program. They expressed interest in collaborating with the Benson collection and UT Austin’s Latin American Studies program. The President said he was very impressed with the reputation that the University has in Asia and that there were great opportunities there. He said he hoped to have a follow-up trip in early January.

The President also reported that he had appointed an individual in his office to coordinate the development of an international strategy, which would be fully collaborative with all the units in the provost’ office, as well as deans and faculty, working on a development component. President Fenves stressed that he did not see branch campuses as a good model. Instead, the goal would be to have a physical presence in key locations as a convening power. “We can use that as part of our educational opportunities for students, outreach to individuals, companies, and government agencies that are interested in working with The University of Texas.” He said all that was to be part of the strategy development in addition to the things already being done through the International Office and student exchange programs, which, he said, we do very well.

Hearing no further questions from the floor, President Fenves thanked Jody and the Council.

B. Questions to the President—None.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIR.

Chair Jensen introduced members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee, which included three newly elected representatives of the Faculty Council: Christine L. Julien (Electrical and Computer

Engineering), Jennifer Moon (Biology), and Martha G. Newman (Religious Studies). Other members introduced were Chair Elect Steven D. Hoelscher, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council Hillary Hart, Graduate Assembly Chair Prabhudev Konana, and Past Chair Andrea C. Gore. Chair Jensen encouraged Council members to reach out to the Executive Committee if there was business that they would like to see brought forward.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIR ELECT—None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS—None.

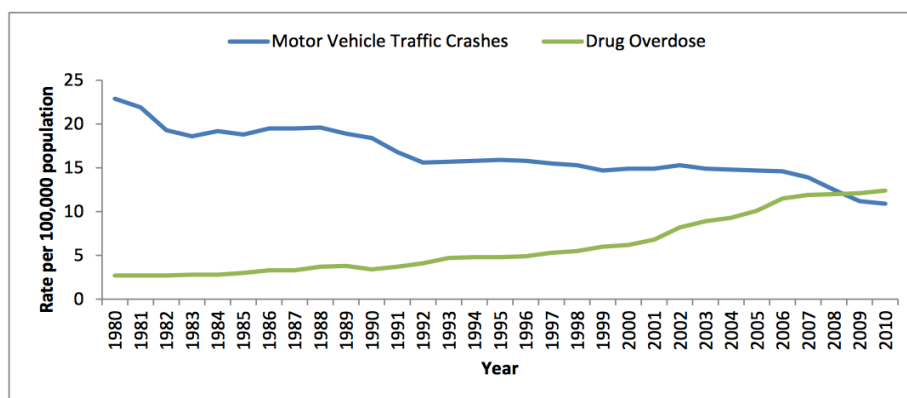
VII. REPORTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMITTEES—None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Report from the Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Chair Jensen announced that September was Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and reported that Dr. Chris Brownson, director of the Counseling and Mental Health Center, who was scheduled to give a report on the subject, had to reschedule to a future meeting due to an illness. She then invited Lucas G. Hill (clinical assistant professor) and Lori Holleran Steiker (professor of Social Work) to report on the Naloxone Initiative to prevent death from opioid overdoses. Professor Hill asked members of the audience to raise their hands if they had gotten the perception that opioid or drug overdose was problem in the United States. A majority of those in attendance did so. Dr. Hill said that, despite tamper-resistant Oxycontin developed by the College of Pharmacy, drug overdoses were on the rise. He pointed out that from 2009 to the present, drug overdoses had surpassed motor vehicle crashes as a leading cause of death, as shown in the graph below.

Figure 1. Rates of motor vehicle traffic and drug overdose deaths, United States, 1980-2010.



He stated that, from 2000 to 2010, drug opioid prescribing quadrupled and opioid overdose deaths also quadrupled; not surprisingly, admissions to treatment centers increased six-fold. Professor Hill stressed how important it is for the campus to begin thinking about this problem since college age groups were at very high risk of misusing drugs.

Professor Holleran Steiker also thanked the Council for the opportunity to talk about the initiative. She said she had recently participated in Overdose Awareness Day—an international event—that had been held at the Texas Capitol, and she wanted to share information with Council members so that they could become aware of the epidemic because it “has absolutely hit our campus.” She informed the members that there had been student overdose deaths in the on-campus dormitories, but particularly in the off-campus dorms. She noted that the Clinton Foundation conducted a study

over a twelve-year span that found the use of prescription drugs—not just opioids— by college students had increased 343%. She pointed out that even students who are taking opioids as prescribed by their physicians are at risk if they drink alcohol, which could have the same effect as a heroin overdose. She said she wanted to dispel the notion that many might have that only prescription drugs are here on campus while heroin is “out there.” She said that more and more heroin is moving onto college campuses in various forms such as pills and powder. She also said that one of the drugs of choice on the street now is Carfentanil, which had originally been designed as an elephant tranquilizer. Dr. Holleran Steiker stated that “the street opiates are evolving faster than we can even keep up with, with the potency of sometimes 100 to even 1000 times that of morphine.” She cited a recent event in one small community when, over the course of one weekend, over forty people overdosed on street drugs.

Because the epidemic is well documented and no one is immune to it, Professor Holleran Steiker said she wanted to talk about solutions to the problem. So, she decided to meet with the Wellness Network—a coalition of faculty, staff, and students who work on wellness issues on campus. Her goal was to raise their awareness of the national epidemic. As a result, a subcommittee was formed and the group approached Dr. Brownson, Susan Hochman (assistant director for Health Promotion and Public Information), and Hemlata Jhaveri (executive director, Division of Housing and Food Service) with proactive ideas that would help the University stay out in front of the epidemic and save lives because of Naloxone, a substance that can be easily administered to counteract the effects of drug overdose. Dr. Holleran Steiker was pleased to report that the ideas were well received and that RAs in the dormitories had since been trained to recognize the signs of overdose and to administer Naloxone, which has been made available across campus. Professor Holleran Steiker then turned the podium over to Dr. Hill to say more about the initiative and opioid overdose prevention.

Dr. Hill said there were many ways to respond to the epidemic, but in the case of overdose, the most important way would be to start by saving a life first, “because we can’t do anything if they are dead.” He then explained that Naloxone helped to block opioid receptors for approximately thirty to ninety minutes—long enough to get help. The analogy he used was to think of Naloxone as a fire extinguisher. If someone using prescription drugs, even as prescribed, is at very high risk of overdose, he tells them, “We are not doing this because I think you’re doing anything wrong, I’m giving you this because, if you’re going to work around an open flame, you’d better have a fire extinguisher around.”



Dr. Hill then described the different ways in which Naloxone could be packaged—see the figure above—and that the cost ranged from \$17 to \$4200. He explained that the one being distributed across UT Austin’s campus was the big white box pictured in the lower left corner, the “Narcan

Nasal Spray” kit. In that form, Naloxone is simply squirted into someone’s nose; doing so quickly can save a life. He said that the Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative had secured a large shipment of the product to be spread around the UT community. It is being provided free of charge to the residence halls and will be provided free of charge to the UTPD as well. Dr. Hill said that the Narcan kits were at the 24-hour desks in the residence halls and that the RAs had been trained using the method shown below.



Dr. Hill said that Naloxone, which can be dispensed without a prescription, is available at the 40 Acres Pharmacy on the first floor of the Student Services Building (SSB). In addition, he said that he and a colleague made a YouTube video on how to administer each of the different packages of Naloxone. View the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVf1dyRrgHs>

In closing the presentation, Professor Holloran Steiker informed members that funds had recently been secured through the School of Social Work and the Addiction Technology Transfer Center for a website that would be associated with the national GetNaloxoneNow.org. She said they were working with the National Development and Research Institute (NDRI) to gather information by zip codes specific to UT Austin. The website would be designed and organized by the Committee on Substance Safety and Overdose Prevention (COSSOP) that is underneath the Wellness Network. Dr. Holloran Steiker encouraged members to stay in touch and to reach out to either Dr. Hill or herself with questions or suggestions or if they want to participate in COSSOP.

Chair Jensen asked if there were questions from the floor. Professor Max Snodderly (Neuroscience) asked what arrangements there were for counseling once the person woke up? Professor Holloran Steiker responded that COSSOP was working on the particulars of the counseling, but there would be follow up with alcohol peer advisors as well as CMHC appointments. Dr. Hill added that Council members who knew of a student group or other community group that could use the information about Naloxone or would be open to training should let him know so that he could try to help coordinate to make sure that education was provided.

To view the complete set of PowerPoint slides from the presentation (slides 7-15), visit the Faculty Council website at <https://utexas.box.com/s/23p5ra81vtz3o9ae6ri0byn0ar40iv7>

- B. 2015-2016 Annual Report from the Faculty Ombuds.
Mary Steinhart (Faculty Ombuds and Professor, Kinesiology and Health Education) thanked Jody for the opportunity to report to the Faculty Council and asked for members’ help with issues that she would briefly discuss.

As background information, Professor Steinhardt said that the Faculty Ombuds Office had been established in 2004 to provide faculty with a prompt and professional way to address concerns and conflicts beyond turning to their supervisors. She stated that Professor Stan Roux had served for four years as the first Faculty Ombuds and that she was the second faculty member to serve. She explained that the office was independent of other offices on campus and reported to the provost through the senior vice provost for faculty affairs, Professor Janet Dukerich. She pointed out that there were two other ombuds on campus, the student ombuds, Kuoang Chan, whose office is located in the Student Services Building and the staff ombuds, Jen Simms, whose office is in Walter Webb Hall. Dr. Steinhardt said that all three campus ombuds are members of an International Ombudsman Association (IOA) and that office operations complied with the standards of practice and code of ethics of the IOA from which the four core principles are derived: confidential, neutral, informal, and independent.

Professor Steinhardt encouraged faculty members to have their colleagues contact the ombuds if they wished to speak privately about concerns they have or to help them explore and evaluate options for action. She opined that having a safe place to discuss concerns often facilitates insight and development of a plan of action to resolve the concern or conflict. Although a resolution is not always possible, she said that often the individual feels better having talked about the situation and having had the opportunity to strategize a plan of action with an impartial party who can provide an objective assessment. The faculty ombuds added that she was available to explain or clarify University policies and procedures. Because the ombuds has the opportunity to discuss trends with various faculty groups on campus, such as the Faculty Grievance Committee and the Committee of Counsel on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, she said she could recommend changes or improvements to policies and procedures to the University leaders.

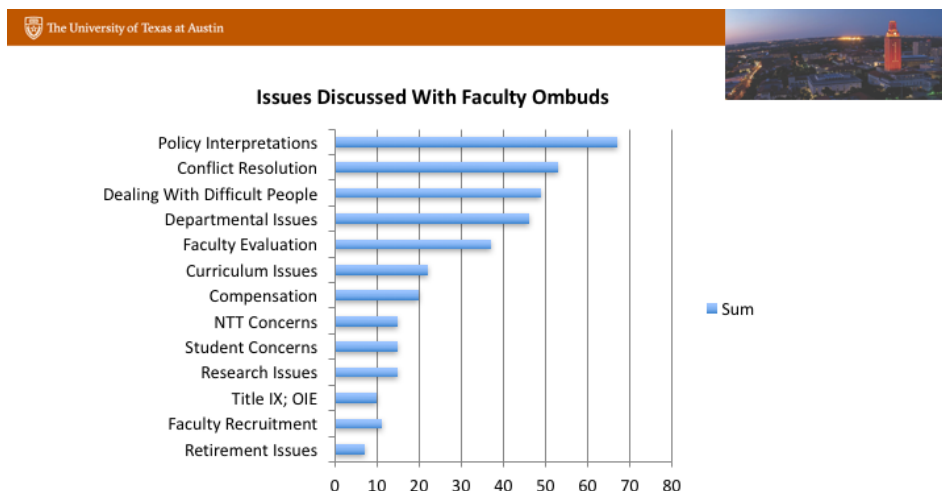
Professor Steinhardt pointed out that the faculty ombuds could not act as an advocate or tell visitors what to do, nor could she ignore a decision made by a University official. Additionally, she said the ombuds could not provide psychological counseling or therapy, conduct investigations or provide legal advice, or take sides in a dispute or act as a judge. Finally, she said the ombuds office was voluntary and assisted faculty on an informal basis, but assured members that she does not participate in any formal process such as a faculty grievance. However, Dr. Steinhardt clarified that the ombuds could explain the faculty grievance process should a faculty member have questions, or meet with a faculty member and the chair of the Faculty Grievance Committee to answer questions.

From September 2015 through August 2016, the faculty ombuds stated, 115 faculty members had contacted her and had an initial meeting and follow up. She noted an increased use of the office over the last four years and opined that perhaps that reflected not only a greater awareness of the office, but also a greater comfort in asking for help and seeking out a safe place to vent as well as brainstorm possible options and solutions. Dr. Steinhardt said the faculty members who requested appointments over the past year were from thirteen colleges or schools and represented forty-three departments, and that the overall profile was similar in the last few years and included sixteen non-tenure track faculty, sixteen assistant professors, twenty-seven associate professors, thirty-six professors, and two retired professors, thirteen department chairs / directors, and five deans or assistant/associate deans. Sixty-seven of the faculty were female and forty-eight were male. Most issues were resolved without faculty initiating a formal grievance, although this past year, the Faculty Grievance Committee reported that one faculty grievance had been filed.

Dr. Steinhardt expressed gratitude for the cooperation she received — with permission — from colleagues from various offices across campus, including the Office of Inclusion and Equity, Employee Assistance Program, legal affairs, and others from various colleges who provided helpful insight. She remarked that she continues to work approximately ten to fifteen hours a week as Ombuds, helping faculty informally; and she thanked the staff in the Office of the General Faculty for their assistance.

The following graph shows the categories and frequency of issues discussed with the ombuds over

the past year. Dr. Steinhardt pointed out that most issues were about policy interpretation and that if she had any questions about it, she would contact Carmen Shockley (director of academic personnel services), who she affectionately called “the Policy Queen.”



Other activities that Dr. Steinhardt participated in during the past year included brown bag discussions regarding promotion and tenure that were held for both assistant professors and associate professors and were sponsored by the provost’s office. She served as chair of the search committee that hired Kuoang Chan, JD, the new full-time student ombuds and director of the Office of the Student Ombuds. She attended a two-day training workshop on sexual misconduct investigation. She presented at the new administrators’ workshop this past August and served as an ex officio member of CREED, the Council for Racial and Ethnic Equity and Diversity. Finally, she continued to serve in an advisory capacity as needed and said she especially enjoyed meeting with faculty who serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee and CCAFR and hoped that she would be able to continue such meetings this coming year. For her professional growth and mental wellbeing, Dr. Steinhardt began participating in a monthly support group consulting with two other faculty ombuds, which she said helped to enhance the quality of their work and also helps with compassion and less fatigue.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Steinhardt said her favorite quote was still from Professor Stanley Roux (molecular biosciences), who she said, “has been a wonderful colleague, mentor, and friend to me.”

Choose actions that best demonstrate fairness and respect, and where appropriate, advocacy for rewards. Conflicts will arise (well-meaning, bright people sometimes disagree), but most can be resolved amicably.

Chair Jensen thanked Professor Steinhardt for sharing her report and asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were none.

To view the complete set of PowerPoint slides from Dr. Steinhardt’s presentation (slides 16-24), visit the Faculty Council website at <https://utexas.box.com/s/23p5ra81vtz3o9ae6ri0byn0ar40iv7>

C. Resolution from the Faculty Council Executive Committee Regarding the Conferral of Degrees (D 14798).

Chair Jensen presented the only action item of business, which was the endorsement of an annual resolution submitted by the Executive Committee on the Conferral of Degrees, which she read and was subsequently endorsed by unanimous voice vote.

Be it resolved: In reference to the HOP 2-1110, section A. The Authority and Functions, item d. Approval of Degree Candidates, the Faculty Rules and

Governance Committee recommends that the Faculty Council, you, by affirmative vote, delegate for the academic year 2016-17 the approval or disapproval of all candidates for degrees to the respective deans.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS.

- A. Suicide Prevention Week, September 26-30. Chair Jensen remarked that faculty members had seen statistics that showed that students often struggle with significant issues; as faculty members, “we are considered to be resources to them and responsible employees, and I know that we take the welfare of our students at heart.” During the week, she noted, there would be activities to raise awareness of suicide on our campus and to help faculty learn how to minimize the consequences of depression and/or anxiety, which might push a student to resort to drugs and risky behavior, or to attempt suicide. The week’s events were posted online at cmhc.utexas.edu.
- B. Civitatis Award nominations due in the Office of the General Faculty by October 15. Chair Jensen asked faculty members to consider nominating colleagues who have “performed above and beyond the typical call of duty; who have provided great and undeniable service to the University.” She encouraged members to help identify those people who are not always in the limelight but who are doing great work behind the scenes and deserve recognition.
- C. Faculty Council members’ Grievance Hearing Pool appointees are due in the Office of the General Faculty. Chair Jensen explained that the Faculty Grievance Committee “triaged” cases that came before them and, if deemed necessary, names would be drawn from the grievance hearing pool to participate in a “deeper investigation or commentary” of the issue. By default, each voting faculty member of the Faculty Council is in the pool unless they submit someone to serve in their place. “Self-nominations are allowed, and we consider failure to hear from you as a self-nomination.”
- D. The annual meeting of the School of Undergraduate Studies will be held on October 10 at 1:30 pm in Main 212.
- E. The annual meeting of the General Faculty will be held on October 10 at 2:15 pm in Main 212 and will be immediately followed by the second meeting of the Faculty Council.

In addition to the announcements listed in the meeting’s agenda, Chair Jensen reminded members of the workshop on Faculty Excellence and Diversity: Recruitment Strategies for Search Committees, October 5 from 2:00-4:00 in the Student Activity Center that is sponsored by the Office of Inclusion and Equity. She encouraged faculty members to share the information with anyone running a search committee in their department and to encourage them to attend the meeting. Alternatively, she said that if the workshop conflicted with someone’s schedule it was possible that arrangements could be made to bring the workshop “in house” by contacting Sherri L. Sanders (associate vice president).

X. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR—None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.