DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

Following are the minutes of the regular Faculty Council meeting of March 6, 2017.

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2017

The seventh regular meeting of the Faculty Council for the academic year 2016-17 was held in the Main Building, Room 212 on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 2:15 PM.

ATTENDANCE.


Voting Members: 42 present, 35 absent, 77 total.
Non-Voting Members: 8 present, 25 absent, 33 total.
Total Members: 50 present, 60 absent, 110 total.
I. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY (D 14956-14960).
Secretary Alan W. Friedman (Professor, English) reported that one memorial resolution had been received: for Associate Professor Carolyn P. Boyd (History). He remarked that the committee had just been appointed on January 24th of this year and that “this may be the most efficient memorial committee that we’ve had.”

The Secretary announced that President Fenves appointed Professor Sharon L. Strover (Radio-Television-Film) to serve a four-year term on the University Co-op Board of Directors beginning September 1, 2017.

Secretary Friedman said slight revisions to the proposal to create policies on polling technologies and copyright ownership of educational content (D 14903-14905) were being considered by the Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee. He also noted that, “The update to the Core Curriculum Course lists still languishes at the Coordinating Board.”

The Secretary reminded Council members that the election for tenured faculty, assistant professors, and instructors to the Faculty Council would occur between March 20 through March 31. He added, “You must vote. You are required to vote and to encourage your colleagues to do so as well. It’s one of your duties as a member of this body.”

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
Secretary Friedman said the minutes for the February 20th Faculty Council meeting had been posted (D 15501-15518) and that, “I can now say confidently that at least one person reads them.” He said that Dr. Lorraine Haricombe (Vice Provost and Director of UT Libraries) had offered corrections to the summary minutes and to the longer version as well. Her reference to the storage of big data was corrected to read, “the Texas State Repository was not for big data; instead, TACC (Texas Advanced Computing Center) repository was the way to go for big data.” Dr. Haricombe also noted that the summary minutes had been misstated. The Secretary said both errors were being corrected. He then asked if there were any other corrections, additions, or comments? Hearing none, he assumed the minutes to be approved as submitted.

III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT.
A. Comments by the President.
President Gregory L. Fenves said that he had just come from a reception at the Governor’s mansion for the Jury Program, which is the Governor’s University Research Initiative (GURI) to bring National Academy members to Texas. He announced that Dr. Joan F. Brennecke from Notre Dame would be joining UT Austin this summer as part of the first GURI recruitment.

President Fenves talked about the Town Hall on Campus Climate, which was held on Wednesday, February 22 in the Student Activity Center Ballroom and was live streamed. President Fenves said the event was well attended, mostly by students, but also by faculty and staff. He said the hall, which seats approximately 400, was almost filled and that many people who were unable to attend watched the webcast. He said he held the Town Hall because there had been a lot of anxiety, concern, and fear among students on campus who questioned, “Is this a welcoming University for students of all backgrounds, races, ethnicities, national origin and many other forms of diversity that we want to represent broadly across the campus and our community and that is so central to the University’s educational mission?” President Fenves, who said it had been a very moving and emotional event, felt that it was important for the campus community to hear the stories of the students who are fearful because of what they have experienced on campus. He said the incidents represent “deep-seated problems” and that progress had been made, “but we need to make a lot more progress in order to uphold our values and achieve the mission of The University of Texas at Austin.” The President said it was an ongoing process and that he looked forward to continuing work with the students in this dialogue. However, he said more definitive actions were needed.

Starting last year, President Fenves said that he and members of the administration had been working to craft a careful set of policies that would deal with incidents and actions of hate,
especially animus-based discrimination. He noted that, “We have already implemented some in advance of the formal policy having to do with quicker action, faster due process, interim suspension, and several other issues, and recalibrating what the disciplinary actions are for when there are violations to the policy.” He said that he expected the new “Hate and Bias Incident Policy” to be released to the campus community after final approval within the next day or so. The President said the new policy makes it very clear that disciplinary action will be taken if a violation occurs, specifically involving incidents of harassment, pervasive harassment, violent threats, particularly if motivated by hate or discriminatory intent. He said it was important to get the new policy out to the campus community as soon as possible.

Commenting on another major activity, President Fenves said that he Executive Vice President and Provost Maurie McInnis, Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement Greg Vincent, and Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly had been working on the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, which he said was a very comprehensive and broad document that included features related to student outreach and recruitment, faculty recruitment and retention, education, and some business and disciplinary aspects. He said that they were hoping to complete the action plan and communicate it by the end of March. He said that he looked forward to working with the Faculty Council on major elements of the Diversity Action Plan and noted that, over the past several months as the plan was being developed, the Faculty Council Executive Committee had already seen various versions of it.

Concluding his remarks, the President opened the floor to questions.

Professor Jonathan L. Sessler (Chemistry) said he was “very delighted to hear about the success of the GURI program.” But, speaking as “an older in years researcher,” he expressed concern that the University’s foundation is “crumbling as we are trying to build excellence on the top.” He opined that to maintain a research lab requires three to four external grants, each of which have about 10% chance of being funded. He said he personally had the benefit of decades of momentum and good luck, but many of his younger colleagues’ laboratories were “dying.” Meanwhile, he said budgetary pressures keep increasing, which means that grants may be subject to further erosion of spending power because of mandated increases and post-doc salaries, overhead rates, graduate tuition increases, and decreases in teaching assistant support. He said that while the University might succeed at bringing in top talent, “more attention needs to be given to young researchers in the first few years, or even first few decades of their research careers.” He asked, “What can we do, and as always, what can I do personally to help?” President Fenves thanked him for the question and said, “Well, you’ve identified all of the problems probably better than I could.” He said that Provost McInnis views faculty recruitment as one of her main jobs because it provides continual renewal of people, but also new ideas and new ways of doing things, and opens new possibilities in all fields of scholarship and research. He stated that in the laboratory-based fields, it was important to be competitive in the packages offered to get faculty launched with their research careers, especially young faculty. President Fenves said one of the most important indicators of the successful young faculty member’s career is mentorship of their colleagues. The president said it was essential for senior colleagues to provide a supportive environment -- psychologically, intellectually, collaboratively, collegially -- for young faculty that creates a positive culture and that, hopefully, translates into success not just for the new faculty member, but for the research area field and the department.

Regarding financial pressures, President Fenves agreed that they are ever increasing, even at the federal level, and that one of the concerns we have is what will happen to the budgets for federal science, basic science agencies? He said that the United States, especially post-WWII, “has been the envy and leader of the world because of the funding for basic research.” He said it would require continual work to make that case in terms of what the long-term paybacks will be. President Fenves said that one of the reasons he appointed Dr. Dan Jaffe as Vice President for Research was because he is very familiar with how to efficiently and effectively organize a research enterprise across the campus. He said there were things that needed to be done, particularly in supporting core facilities since it is not feasible to have such things as expensive
microscopes in every lab. He asked rhetorically, “How do we leverage the resources and use them efficiently to get advanced capability and also be replenished regularly?” He said that Dr. Jaffe is working on that and on how to modernize our support system for the research enterprise across the campus, which he said will require the cooperation of the deans and the departments that rely on the basic infrastructure for faculty and students to be successful.

Professor Martha G. Newman (Religious Studies) said that earlier in the day the campus community had received an email from Provost McInnis regarding a new graduate initiative for funding graduate students, which she thought was terrific. She asked if more information could be provided about the graduate recruitment initiative? Because Provost McInnis was unable to attend the meeting, Interim Dean Marvin Hackert (Graduate School) responded to the question. He said that last fall, after having reviewed the budget, Provost McInnis worked with each of the deans to come up with a proposal to augment offers to graduate students beginning this year. He said that there could be as many as four cohorts going forward. He explained that the additional funding would be supplemental awards ranging from $4,000 to $5,000. He added, “We’ll see how that goes to improve the yield on top graduate students this year.” Professor Newman asked if the offers had already been started? Interim Dean Hackert said the offers being made were for the class of fall 2017.

B. Questions to the President—No further ones were asked.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIR.
Chair Jody L. Jensen (Professor, Kinesiology and Health Education) reported that she and Chair Elect Steven D. Hoelscher (Professor, American Studies and Geography and the Environment) had represented UT Austin at the recent meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS), an organization of Faculty Council/Faculty Senates from across the state. She said the main topic of conversation concerned the political climate and the support of colleagues and students affected by the travel bans and concerns about immigration. Chair Jensen said that she expected a TCFS resolution or statement modeled on the one endorsed by the Faculty Council this past January.

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. Update to the University Mission Statement (D 14994)

In preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation, Chair Jensen explained that it was necessary for the Faculty Council to approve the updated University of Texas at Austin Mission Statement to include the following underlined phrase, which was added by the Board of Regents:
The mission of The University of Texas at Austin is to achieve excellence in the interrelated areas of undergraduate education, graduate education, research, and public service.

The University provides superior and comprehensive educational opportunities at the baccalaureate through doctoral and special professional educational levels. It contributes to the advancement of society through research, creative activity, scholarly inquiry, and the development of new knowledge, including the commercialization of University discoveries. The University preserves and promotes the arts, benefits the state’s economy, serves the citizens through public programs, and provides other public service.
Chair Jensen said that the updated mission statement was being brought forward to the Faculty Council to show that it has been approved through the appropriate channels and is consistent with the request from the Board of Regents to add the language. Hearing no discussion on the matter, the Faculty Council unanimously approved the updated statement.

B. Report of the Committee to Nominate Faculty Members for appointment to the Intercollegiate Athletics Councils for Men and for Women (D 14989-14990).

Jody L. Jensen presented the following panels of names to be considered for appointment to the Intercollegiate Athletics Councils for Men and for Women by the President. Professor Elizabeth Cullingford (English) asked when the term of appointment would begin. Chair Jensen said it would begin the first-class day of fall 2017.

The panel of faculty submitted for appointment in 2017 for a four-year term to the Intercollegiate Athletics Council for Men follows:

- John Bartholomew, Professor, Kinesiology and Health Education
- Allan H. Cole Jr., Professor, Social Work
- Desmond F. Lawler, Professor, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering
- Leonard N. Moore, Professor, History
- Tasha S. Philpot, Associate Professor, Government

The panel of faculty submitted for appointment in 2017 for a four-year term to the Intercollegiate Athletics Council for Women follows:

- Lynn A. Baker, Professor, Law
- Neville Hoad, Associate Professor, English
- Barbara L. Jones, Professor, Social Work
- Xiaofen Keating, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction
- Kerry A. Kinney, Professor, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering

The Faculty Council unanimously approved both panels by voice vote.

C. Report of the Committee to Nominate Faculty Members to for appointment to the University of Texas at Austin Police Oversight Committee (D 14991).

Chair Jensen presented the following panel to be considered for a three-year term appointment on the University of Texas at Austin Police Oversight Committee by the President:

- Ariel E. Dulitzky, Clinical Professor, Law
- Matthew T. Richardson, Associate Professor, English
- Snehal A. Shingavi, Associate Professor, English

The Faculty Council unanimously approved the panel by voice vote.

D. Election of Voting Faculty Members to the Undergraduate Advisory Committee (D 14992-14993).

Chair Elect Hoelscher said that voting members of the Faculty Council had been given ballots for election to the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC) when they arrived. Following statements by each of the candidates, the members were instructed to vote for two faculty members from different colleges and schools. He said the two winners would serve three-year terms on UGSAC beginning the first-class day of fall 2017. The Chair Elect then invited the following candidates to say a few words. A transcript of their statements can be found in Appendix A.

- Jody L. Jensen, Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, College of Education
- Martha F. Hilley, Professor, Butler School of Music, College of Fine Arts
- John A. Daly, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication
Following the collection of the ballots and tallying of the votes, Chair Elect Hoelscher announced the winners of the election: Professors Martha F. Hilley and Sharon L. Strover.

E. A Brief Update on Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments (CLASE) Study. Professor Noël Busch-Armendariz (Social Work) said that she appreciated the invitation to come back and speak to the Faculty Council, but first she congratulated Secretary Friedman on the great minutes that he distributed to the General Faculty. She said that she had read them and found them to be of great interest and very complete. She said, “They are not like any that she had seen before in her tenure at the University and they helped her to keep abreast of what’s happening here at UT Austin.”

Professor Busch-Armendariz said that she had been asked by Chair Jensen to give an update on her research Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments (CLASE) Study. She said she would give information regarding the progress of the study and prepare faculty for the results, which she will present at the April 10th Faculty Council meeting. She reminded members that CLASE is a benchmark study of intimate and interpersonal violence against students who are enrolled in any of thirteen of the fourteen UT System campuses. The study concerns sexual harassment (stalking, dating, and domestic violence) and unwanted sexual contact such as sexual assault, attempted rape, and rape. Professor Busch-Armendariz said they were in the second year of what will be a four-year study that was initiated by the Chancellor and is funded by UT System. The study involves three levels: a shallow, a medium, and a deep dive. She said UT Austin is taking part in all three levels and will continue to be in the study for the full four-years.

Professor Busch-Armendariz described the shallow dive as a confidential Web-based study that is commonly referred to as a climate study. The Web-based survey involved 26,000 students from across the UT System campuses and looked at violence against students referenced in the previous paragraph and who are defined by and protected under Title IX.

In the medium dive, Professor Busch-Armendariz said, four UT System campuses were involved in qualitative interviews of students, faculty, law enforcement, administrators, and others that would enable the research team to better understand students’ experiences in the shallow dive. She said that this year they would learn more about the interpersonal, intimate partner violence experiences from students who are affiliated with the military or have military experiences.

Professor Busch-Armendariz said the deep dive involves only UT Austin students. Last fall they recruited 1,200 freshmen to a cohort study. Over the course of their lives here at the University, these students would be surveyed about their experiences and their perceptions about how well the University is doing regarding the issues, particularly those protected under Title IX. She noted that the study is “quite innovative” as not many studies look at those issues. Professor Armendariz remarked that President Fenves has been very supportive of the work of the institute that she runs—The Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (IDVSA)—which she said was very innovative and a leader at looking at these issues both nationally and in the UT System. She said her team uses many slogans; one of them is, “The institutions aren’t causing these issues, and the only institutions that are getting in trouble due to these issues are those that are not paying attention to them.” UT Austin has many programs and services that support our students, and we can serve them even better with better data.

The Director said the empirical data from all thirteen of the UT System institutions involved in the studies would be released at the same time in the very near future. To date, she said the findings were embargoed, which is why she cannot report on them today. She then opened the floor for questions and comments.
Chair Jensen asked if there was any comparable study being done in other states and if there would be any way to determine if UT Austin is “culturally unique.” Professor Busch-Armendariz said there are many other such studies, which her group had tried to contextualize. She noted that when the data from the UT System studies are released, there will be a report for each participating institution and one aggregate report. In the latter, she said, “We have contextualized it to similar studies, but they aren’t apples to apples—they are sort of citrus to citrus. But, they aren’t Macintosh to Macintosh, if you will.” Once the data is released, she said, she expected to be asked, “What’s most surprising?” She said the thing that is most surprising to her is that “there is nothing that surprises me about these data by and large.” She said that certain things need attention and that the purpose of the research was to gather more empirical data for campuses so that they could continue to build programs and policies, which is exactly what each of the participating institutions have been doing for the past eighteen months. She said that working groups at each of the thirteen campuses, including UT Austin, have been meeting regularly and working with her research team to produce data that have been very involved. She said, “That’s why we call it the shallow dive, because we have known the prevalence of these protected Title IX data for a very long time; we’ve been doing this for forty years. So that’s not surprising.” However, she said, what was surprising was the level of leadership and engagement of people trying to protect students. She said UT Austin is a leader in this effort, and “We’ll be changing the narrative to move towards that.” Professor Busch-Armendariz said she didn’t want to sound “Pollyannaish” and acknowledged that certain things need to be changed and swift actions have that already been taken to change and to shore up programs and services, including accountability. Having concluded her remarks, Professor Busch-Armendariz introduced Latoya Hill Smith, Associate Vice President for University Compliance Services and the Title IX Coordinator.

Dr. Smith reported on an implementation-working group that has been working diligently to prioritize the biggest concerns from the report and how to address those here at UT Austin. In addition, she said, a smaller working group comprised of faculty, staff, and students were working “to specifically address whether it’s sexual assault, harassment, all of the things that have come out of the report.” Dr. Smith said that the groups had been working to put energy, resources, and staffing into what needs to be implemented before the report is released so that the University can say, “We have accomplished these things in a short period of time.”

Chair Jensen thanked Professor Busch-Armendariz and Dr. Smith for taking the time to report. She reminded the Faculty Council members that a CLASE introduction had been presented last January and that the imminent release of the reports would be determined by UT System. She said that today’s presentation was to keep the Council up-to-date on what to expect.

F. Resolution from the Recruitment and Retention Committee in Support of Undocumented and DACA Students (D 14995).

Dr. Aileen T. Bumphus (Committee Chair and Associate Vice President, Longhorn Center for Academic Excellence) said the focus of the Recruitment and Retention Committee, which includes faculty, staff, students, and administrators, is to make sure that the faculty at The University of Texas at Austin is engaged in the recruitment and retention of our students, particularly those from underrepresented groups. She said the committee has been very active this academic year. She thanked Committee members for their participation and asked those present to stand so that they could be acknowledged by the Faculty Council. Dr. Bumphus said the Committee had heard presentations from several student success programs including one given by the Office of Admissions. Future presentations to the Committee will be given by Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement Gregory J. Vincent on The University of Texas Diversity and Action Plan and Dr. Betty Jeanne Taylor (Assistant Vice President, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement) on work being done in the colleges and schools on inclusive classrooms. Dr. Bumphus said these reports helped to keep the committee informed of the work being done here at UT Austin that relates to recruitment and retention. She noted that the Committee’s activities would be part of the final report to be submitted at the end of the academic year.
Dr. Bumpus said the resolution to be presented addresses support for maintaining an inclusive environment for undocumented and DACA students so that they feel safe and can thrive academically here at The University of Texas at Austin. She then read the following resolution:

The C10 Recruitment and Retention Committee of the Faculty Council proposes the following endorsement by the Faculty Council. The Recruitment and Retention subcommittee will remain dedicated to doing the work to ensure that information on the recruitment and retention efforts at the University for underrepresented students is made available to the Faculty Council. The work will inform current and future efforts to promote student academic success within a diverse and inclusive and welcoming environment. Therefore, be it resolved, The University of Texas at Austin guarantees all rights afforded to students under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, better known as FERPA. Therefore, be it resolved that undocumented and DACA students, as members of our University community, are included in this protection under FERPA.

The floor was then opened for questions and comments. None were forthcoming, so the resolution was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

Past Chair Andrea Gore (Professor, Pharmacy) thanked the committee for putting the resolution forward and stated, “It is incredibly important.” She asked if there was a way to get the resolution out to our students? Chair Jensen said that the Office of the General Faculty had been in touch with staff at the Austin American Statesman and The Daily Texan to see if the Resolution Against the Immigration Ban (D 14962) that was passed by the Faculty Council in January and this one if endorsed could be posted as a public notice. She remarked that Ralph Horowitz with the Austin American Statesman had already asked about the current resolution and the Chair said that she would notify him of its endorsement following the meeting.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS.
Chair Jensen noted the announcements below:
A. The next Faculty Council meeting will be on April 10 in MAI 212 at 2:15 PM.
B. Final voting phase for election of members representing tenured faculty, assistant professors, and instructors on the Faculty Council runs from March 20 through March 31.
C. Annual Reports of the General Faculty Standing Committees are due May 1st.

X. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR—None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.
The meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.
Appendix A

Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee Candidates’ Statements

Jody L. Jensen, Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, College of Education
I have a passion for the undergraduate curriculum. I served as the Undergraduate Advisory Committee Chair for my department. Also, currently serve as the chair of the Graduate Studies Committee. I’m interested in, how do we shape the undergraduate programs, I’m interested in making sure that we continue to give consideration to how do we make our undergraduate studies relevant. Just not from their content expertise but also for fitting into the society that we find ourselves in now. I think I’ll leave it at that but I just have a passion for it. Thanks.

Martha F. Hilley, Professor, Butler School of Music, College of Fine Arts
I’m from the Butler School of Music. It is an honor to be put on this list. I serve as director of Undergraduate Studies for the Butler School of Music. I have served on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the College of Fine Arts. I’m on the Academic Affairs Committee in the Butler School. I’ve twice chaired the Council. I’ve been on the Faculty Executive Committee for the Council. I’ve been on lots of committees. But, I would like to have the chance to better understand the undergraduate degree programs across colleges. As director of Undergraduate Studies, I work a lot with Study Abroad about trying to figure out what we are going to do with credits that students bring from abroad working in different degree programs, and it would help me to know the undergraduate programs better. So, thank you.

John A. Daly, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication
Chair Elect Hoelscher read the following statement on behalf of Professor Daly, since he was unable to attend the meeting:
I have taught at UT for many years. Have won virtually every award for undergraduate teaching. And, most importantly, believe that undergraduate teaching is one of the most vital missions of UT.

Sharon L. Strover, Professor, Department of Radio-Television-Film, Moody College of Communication
Thank you, and I would echo Martha’s comments. I am just extremely pleased to have my name included on this list. Really, you couldn’t go wrong with anybody on this list, it’s quite a great, great group.

I am a former Department Chair in Radio-Television-Film; it’s a large, large department. I interact of course with a lot of students and a lot of parents and a lot of other units on campus as well. My time here has been spent collaborating with units really that stretch the length and breadth of the University from the LBJ School to the Information School, the Business School, and, I’ve enjoyed working on a lot of joint research and education programs. I firmly believe that our… well our fundamental mission hasn’t changed. I think a lot of the terms of art are changing and that this committee is nicely poised to do some interesting work around new critical thinking skills, critical literacy skills as well. And, I would like to make some contributions to that.

Mary K. Mulvaney, Clinical Professor, School of Social Work
I’m really honored to be on this list at all. I really appreciate whoever nominated me, they didn’t tell me. I’ve been a Clinical Professor in the School of Social Work for twenty-six years. And for most of that time, I’ve taught MSSW students in their final semester of our program while they’re in their internships. And, I do liasoning and teaching with them, getting them ready to go out and work as social workers. I have had the honor to work with students through the Bridging Disciplines program and some of our students that have gotten undergraduate research grants and worked with them, and I also had a semester work Social Work Fig, which was way more fun than anything else.

I have also been on the Independent Inquiry Flag Committee for the last year and a half. I am the chair of that this semester or this year. I’ve been on the BSW Curriculum Committee in the School of Social Work the entire time I’ve been here. I’ve seen lots and lots of changes and am so impressed with the students we’re getting now. I think they are way more ready to come and be interns, which is what I care most about. So, I think you all are doing a really good job. For the last couple of years, I have had the opportunity to work with professors in Nursing and Pharmacy and now the Med School doing simulations with our students. And, just being able to interact with people from other parts of the University has really been a blessing. So, thank you very much for considering me.