

I. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE FACULTY COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018.

Steven D. Hoelscher (2017-18 Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies) welcomed voting members of next year's Faculty Council to the special meeting, which was called to elect the Chair Elect and three Faculty Council representatives on the Executive Committee.

A. Election of the Chair Elect.

Chair Hoelscher said he was delighted that the people asked to stand for the Faculty Council (FC) Chair Elect and those asked to stand for the Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC) agreed to do so. He said that he had served on the FC and on the FCEC for one year and had learned how much work, time, and effort it takes to do a good job. He said he was "amazed at the frank and honest conversations that we have with our University's leadership and the response we receive from them." He announced that the ballot included two candidates for Chair Elect, a three-year position beginning the first-class day of the fall 2017. He said the candidates will give brief introductions and then the Faculty Council will vote on the FC Chair Elect. He said the process will be repeated for the FCEC candidates.

Chair Hoelscher invited Charlotte Canning (Professor, Theatre and Dance) to step up to the podium to make a few comments. The full text of her self-introduction can be found in Appendix A. Brian L. Evans (Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering) then gave his statement, which is found in Appendix B.

Following the candidates' statements, Chair Hoelscher clarified that only new and continuing members should cast a vote. He said that after the ballots were collected and tallied, he would announce the winner of the election.

B. Election of Three Members to the Executive Committee.

Moving on to the election of the three Faculty Council representatives to the FCEC, Chair Hoelscher asked each of the candidates to come forward to make a statement (these can be found in Appendix C). The candidates are: Simon D. Atkinson (Professor, Architecture), Tracie C. Harrison (Associate Professor, Nursing), Heather Houser (Associate Professor, English), Kerry A. Kinney (Professor, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering), Jennifer Moon (Senior Lecturer, Biology Instructional Office), and Pauline T. Strong (Professor, Anthropology).

Following the statements, Chair Hoelscher asked for a round of applause and thanked the candidates for volunteering to take on this important work. He opined, "every one of these six people would be fantastic." He asked voting members to vote for three of the candidates. He said once the ballots were collected and tallied, he would announce the winners.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A. Update on Emergency Crisis on Campus.

Jody L. Jensen (2016-17 Faculty Council Chair and Professor, Kinesiology and Health Education) gave an update on the stabbings that occurred earlier today near Gregory Gym. She said that UT Alert and local news media were reporting that there had been one fatality, a second student in critical condition, an one or two more also injured. She said that the senior leadership were not present as they were dealing with the crisis and the concerns of student safety and mental well-being now that the immediate threat had passed. She said that, as soon as the ballots were tallied and the results announced, the meeting would be adjourned. Professor Jensen announced that UT Police would have a press conference at 3:30 PM and that the Provost was in the process of getting this information out to the University community.

B. Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Outgoing Chair Jody L. Jensen.

Chair Hoelscher acknowledged the leadership of Professor Jensen this past year:

“I’d like to thank Jody Jensen for being our leader this year. She doesn’t know this is happening. We were supposed to do this in September, but I’m going rogue, and I’d like to offer our collective thanks for your service as Faculty Council Chair this past year. It’s been a privilege to work with you and to see you go toe to toe with the President and occasionally win arguments. This has been a productive, difficult, but also enjoyable year. So, Dr. Jensen, on behalf of your colleagues, this is for you. Please join me in thanking Jody Jensen.”

Following an enthusiastic round of applause, Professor Jensen thanked everyone and said, “It has certainly been a privilege to work for you this past year, and I look forward to continuing to do so in whatever leadership position, or opportunity there is going forward. It’s certainly been a pleasure. The best gift is meeting so many of you and coming to understand your passion for this campus and what we do here. So, thank you.”

C. Announcement of Election Results.

Chair Hoelscher announced that the 2017-18 Chair Elect will be Charlotte Canning and the members elected to the 2017-18 FCEC are Simon D. Atkinson, Heather Houser, and Jennifer Moon. He emphasized that all the candidates were fantastic and hoped those not elected would try again next year, “because we want your participation in the leadership of Faculty Council.” The Chair thanked everyone for voting and for staying for the duration of the meeting. He said, “This has been, obviously, a very difficult, challenging meeting for us, and I thank you all for sticking it out.”

III. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM.

Appendix A

Charlotte Canning
Department of Theatre and Dance

Transcription of Self-Introduction

Thank you, thank you Steve. I would like to thank Steve and Jody and the other members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee for their recommendation that I stand for this important position. And, it's truly an honor to speak to you today.

I am currently the Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Centennial Professor in Drama—which a friend once remarked was one of the longest professorship titles they'd ever heard—in the Department of Theatre and Dance, where I am also a Senior Associate Chair, Head of the Undergraduate Honors program, Head of the PhD program, and Chair of the department's Graduate Studies Committee. I also hold 0% appointments in CWGS (Center for Women's and Gender Studies) and AADS (Department of African and African Diaspora Studies) and am an affiliate with American Studies. In the past, I have served as an Associate Dean in COFA (College of Fine Arts) and on multiple University committees including the Faculty Advisory Committee on Budgets, Recreational Sports Committee, chaired the UT Press Advisory Committee, the UT Libraries Committee, and a faculty Grievance Panel. In all these roles, I have encountered most of the ubiquitous University administrative duties including curriculum design, course scheduling, hiring, promotion and tenure, budgeting, admission, and development.

My scholarship is in the arts, specifically theatre and live performance history. That work has always given me a productive lens through which to view the University. While theatre is most decidedly an art, it is one that intersects with the humanities, engineering, physics, chemistry, business, economics, and public policy, to name a few of the fields we rely upon. The University has always been theatre to me in the most serious sense: we need all of its parts for it to work. We cannot omit some and still reach our audiences in ways that are transformative.

I joined the faculty in January of 1993 in what I now realize was the tail end of the post-war higher education boom. One of the first things I received in my new mail box was a polite memo telling me that if I wanted my syllabus typed by the staff, I needed to get my notes to them in the next few days. Times have changed, haven't they!

It is those changes that made me want to run for this office. Higher education in the United States is facing unprecedented challenges: some promising, some terrifying. One thing is for sure, that if we, the faculty, allied with our staff and student colleagues, do not solve them, they will be solved for us. It is unlikely that such solutions would reflect what we value about higher education.

In the mid-20th century our predecessors were faced with the challenges of expansion: how to scale up higher education, how to collaborate with industry/the government, and how to redefine the traditional roles of student and professor. Clark Kerr, Chancellor of UC Berkeley and architect of what was labeled the "California Plan," set his ideas out in the germinal 1963 *The Uses of the University*. "The major test of the modern American university is how wisely and how quickly it adjusts to the important new possibilities. The great universities of the future will be those which have adjusted rapidly and effectively." This is no less true now than it was fifty-four years ago.

We have all endured the pain of the endless rounds of budget cuts. We have all struggled with the contradictions between the ways in which higher education is championed as essential but funded as an after-thought. We have all experienced the attempts to set us against one another: arts versus science, graduate versus undergraduate, tenured/tenure track versus adjunct, and on and on. This is not an adjustment to new possibilities but a desperate attempt to prop up the system. If we could have fund-raised or budget-cut our way out of this we would have done so already. Those are old strategies that won't lead to permanent solutions. And this is terrifying. But that may be a good thing. As Kerr concludes, "The first best step in conquering the future is to worry about it—to fear it. Worry is the beginning of wisdom. Fear should liberate responses, not imprison them." I think we have

the first recommendation down pat! It is the second—the liberation of our ideas—that I want to collaborate on with all of you.

One thing, having been at the same institution for twenty-four years, has given me is unshakeable faith in my colleagues—in their brilliance, inventiveness, and their generosity. I do believe we have the energy, resources and insight to invent new ways to be a University that are thoughtful, inclusive, and exhilarating. Faculty Council is a key body for exploring these new ways and supporting ones already emerging. I am honored and moved by your nomination. Should you elect me, I'll work hard to collaborate with you on continuing to reinvent our University in ways that will sustain and inspire every member of the UT community. Thank you.

Appendix B

Brian L. Evans
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Thank you Steve, and thank you for the nomination from the Faculty Council Executive Committee and others. I got here in '96 and have been here in lots of roles in faculty governance. The big change came for me in 2004 and 2005 when I participated in a study group on social justice and that got me thinking, what could we do better at the University; that I could do as an individual to help the University? That led me into faculty governance, Graduate Assembly, and also our Committee on Graduate Student Academic Employees and their Rights and Welfare and, Responsibilities. From that, with Andrea Gore and some others, we came up with a motion for living wage in the University to recognize that our TA's and IA's and RA's are not paid a living wage. So, that was a non-binding motion but nonetheless raised some of those issues at that time. More recently, I've been involved in Committee of Counsel on Academic Freedom Committee and Responsibility since 2008. Chaired it many times. We've undergone a lot of changes internally to improve due process, which is part of what we do as Faculty Council. We have a lot of faculty governance at the University level that falls on our shoulders. We also have, not just to us as members, but through our twenty-five or so committees, a lot of due process and faculty governance happening at the University level. So, in Academic Freedom we've done a lot to revise and improve due process and clarity of regulations and policies and procedures at the University level with the Provost's Office, and how they get implemented at the deans' level and ultimately at the department level. We do this through an investigation. When we get an appeal in (we get on average three appeals a year—this year, it was two, some years it's five), we meet with departments, administrators, and deans, and we talk about that case and situations. And that leads us to advising the Provost on changes for future cases and future guidelines.

I was also involved in the Faculty Council Executive Committee for one year. And in that year the Board of Regents decided to change the way they do Conflict of Commitment, Conflict of Interest and Outside Activities, which would have been incredibly invasive on our personal and our civil liberties. So, the Faculty Council Executive Committee, along with other committees and people across the campus, faculty and staff, brought our concerns to the attention of UT System, which were the intermediaries to the Board of Regents, and they went back and changed the policies. Then, I got involved in the local implementation to make it even less invasive, make it very simple instead of wanting all of our income and all of our personal activities for them to approve or not. I've also been involved on the Graduate Assembly and Faculty Council pretty much since 2008 with a couple of—I usually depart for a year and let other folks come on and come back, so that's kind of been my style.

Moving forward, there are a lot of opportunities. I think there's a recent white paper that Andrea Gore helped with on shared governance. And our administration has taken some really good steps by including our Faculty Council Chair and other people in their high level executive meetings, which is relatively new, so with the VP level and other executive meetings. We've already been involved meeting with the President and Provost as Faculty Council Executive Committee on a monthly basis. But now, we've added three new connections to the upper administration to give direct feedback on decision making. So, whoever is the Faculty Council Chair, and that will be Steven next year, will be involved in that high-level decision making on a regular basis, either once a semester or monthly, depending on the committee that they're on. So, that'll be wonderful.

Moving forward we have lots of issues that I've seen. I've also chaired the Faculty Advisory Committee on Budgets for a couple of years. And what I saw there was a breakdown of faculty governance through the college level. Not that they don't like faculty governance, it's just that there's less clarity on what faculty governance means at the college level in a departmentalized school. So, there's a lot of room for improvement as we saw in budgets. Some colleges have it, but there could be more input from non-administrative faculty into the budget making decisions at the college level. I'd also like to see more folks from the Deans' offices here at our meetings. We used to have more participation at one time. We would love to have more participation going forward. That's all I have to say for now. So, thank you very much.

Appendix C

Simon D. Atkinson, Professor, Architecture

Good afternoon. I took leave from my previous university to come and help build graduate programs in the School of Architecture. We now have ten graduate programs, many of them are nationally ranked. I teach at each level of undergraduate/graduate work. Each of my courses are interdisciplinary, which I believe in very strongly. And the undergraduates I have plan two urban studies, business and many others. And at the graduate level, we have just introduced a new experiment where I'm teaching a practicum that links the School of Architecture and real estate in the McCombs School. This has been a real breakthrough because students are working on live projects. This may well have had some effect on the fact, here's a bragging line coming, that we managed to win what is the number one, in a way, world prize, the highest competition two weeks ago.

So what do I stand for, the first is excellence in teaching. We are teachers. We are innovators in teaching. I believe very much in the fluid classroom. I believe that we have to stand up and develop the culture of teaching in every way that we can. I believe that teaching needs to be innovative and research based. Second, diversity is who we are. It's not just a question of saying the word, it's a question of action. Most of my students who are minorities are the most vulnerable. They are often socially so, but particularly economically so. These are tough times for people who are struggling from disadvantaged family backgrounds. We have to be the humane University. We have to teach with an open door that is always welcoming. The third is that I believe strongly in the fabric of the University. I'm on the Faculty Building Advisory Committee. Buildings are an academic matter. All buildings are an academic matter. They are really the platform upon which we build the society. And it's not just the buildings; it's the space between the buildings. So I'm looking for a safe campus. I'm looking for a vibrant campus. I'm looking for an inclusive campus. I'm looking for a campus that will use substantially less energy in the way that it runs, and I believe very strongly that we need to have more of our students living on or certainly very close to our campus, because that's what builds an academic society.

Tracie C. Harrison, Associate Professor, School of Nursing

Thank you, it's my pleasure to be here. And, I won't waste too much of your time, I'll get straight to the point. I believe that this position is one of service. It is not one of my agenda, it's one of service to you. I believe that our committee structure can be stronger and communicate better back and forth with each other across campus and upward through this committee as a whole. So it's something I'd like to work on if that's something that you would like to work on as well. I believe that the best policies are ones that anticipate what we will need in the future. So I have thought about things like workers' compensation, making a safe place, making sure that our retirement stays in place, all of these things that anticipate the future. And I agree teaching, diversity, all of those things we cannot ignore, and we need to continue to safeguard. Just thinking about the future, thinking about ourselves as a collective. Thank you.

Heather Houser, Associate Professor, English

Hello. I just want to thank everyone who put my name forth to stand for the Executive Committee. I came here in 2011 with a PhD in English but also a post-doc in Environmental Studies. So, starting with my graduate work, I have been dealing with people from across campuses, but also things like operations facilities. So, I think this is something that informs what my contributions to this body might be. Thus far, I've served on a number of campus-wide committees dealing with sustainability, including the not quite successful Bachelors in Sustainability Studies, the Campus Sustainability Master Plan Faculty Group. I'm now on the environmental team for the Bridging Barriers Initiative. Within my department, I've been very devoted to things around curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I'm working on our English honors program committee. I'm working with Plan II students, and all levels of our graduate program. So, I really reembrace this opportunity. It's actually going to be my first term on the Faculty Council as well. So, all of this will be new to me, but I embrace the opportunity to get as involved as possible.

I'm particularly interested in advocating for the tenure system. To me, this means developing non-punitive ways of encouraging faculty to contribute in a lot of different kinds of ways to teaching service and research. I'm also concerned about our ability to recruit and sustain faculty from underrepresented groups. And to me, what's involved— and not just for faculty, but also graduate students—are things like livable wages, our salary scale and addressing the uneven experiences of faculty and students who are living and working here. Finally, —in

all aspects of my work—I would like UT to develop its role in promoting social justice through environmental leadership. And, I think this can happen in a lot of different ways, curriculum, facilities, our spaces, and maybe even our politics. Thank you.

Kerry A. Kinney, Professor, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering

Thank for you for this opportunity to speak with everybody. I am a professor in Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, which means we couldn't decide what our degree was about. But I'm proud to say that we started a new environmental engineering program at the undergraduate level. I think that's particularly timely given what's going on in the world these days. I'm a professor in environmental engineering. My research looks at the microbiome of the built environments and the treatment processes for anything contaminated, which I'm interested in doing something about.

I'm interested in this position for two reasons. One is to be a voice for the faculty. How do I say this, I spent a lot of time in the weeds, when I was coming up through tenure, etc., where you're just focused on your research. You're just doing your classes in the same old way. And when I got tenure quite a few years ago, I decided I wanted to change those two things. I wanted to do things I was really passionate about both with regard to how we serve our students and also with respect to the research that I wanted to do. So, looking at interdisciplinary research, for instance, I work with the School of Nursing, I've worked with folks obviously in engineering, Natural Sciences, etc. But, I really want the faculty to have the opportunity to take what we do here to the next level. And I think we are at the turning point where we can do this. We have the leadership at the University that's willing to go for change if you will. And I think this is a great opportunity and serving on the FCEC would certainly help me and you guys get that message across.

With regard to my previous experience, I'm a little shook because I actually serve on the Campus Safety Committee. So, this is really sort of hitting home as I'm sure it is to everybody else. I've already had to text my father to tell him I'm alive, which I don't enjoy doing, especially since he's the one who's telling me to be careful all the time. And, I really don't want all the students doing that right now to their parents. We've got to change that, and I certainly want to continue to focus on the Campus Safety Committee. I'm also on the Career to College Task Force and also the Workday Steering Committee.

But getting back to why we're all here. We're here, obviously, to do great research, but we're also here to serve the students. And so about fifteen years ago, I thought, what would make a difference to a student? Well, one of the things that makes a difference to the students is not to make everything so theoretical. And, I'm an engineer. We love our math, we love our theory, but we're also very practically minded. And so, fifteen years ago the women in engineering started a program where we have undergraduate students working with the graduate students for a semester-long research experience. Originally, I had it all about the senior level, showing the students what they learned. And because I listened to the women in engineering who knew a lot more than I do, we moved it down to the sophomore level so we can retain the students in engineering. It's not about what they can accomplish in the lab; it's about what they can accomplish in life because they are going to finish their degree. Other programs that we're looking at, I don't want to see research as separate from teaching. I think these things can integrate so we need to make it not, oh I'm only researcher, or I'm only a teacher. We have an opportunity; the campus is before us. We started a program—many of my colleagues in engineering—with students doing what we call living lab projects on campus. There's a creek through campus; there are endless types of buildings on campus. We sample across I35, where there's pollution; if you wanted to know the obvious—up wind is better than down wind. So, we've done all of those things, we've involved something like 700 students in three years, and it's all integrated into existing courses. So, I want to have a win-win for everybody, I want a win for the faculty, because we can do these things more efficiently. Telling everybody to work harder... well there are only so many hours in the day, and I prefer to sleep some of them. So, really, what I'd like is for it to be a win-win, not to have these artificial barriers between research and teaching, and in fact, that's the advantage of students coming to this University. There's this whole world that they can be exposed to. And, I don't care whether they ever go off and do research. It would be wonderful, I love it. But, I care that they get their degree and that the students who normally are kind of out of the loop, if you will, who are not given these opportunities, are given these opportunities. Because if they got to UT Austin, they should succeed. Thanks.

Jennifer Moon, Senior Lecturer, Biology Instructional Office

Thank you so much. Good afternoon, my name is Jen Moon, and I'm a Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biosciences and in the Bio Instructional Office. I am also the Assistant Dean for Non-Tenure Track Faculty in the College of Natural Sciences. I'd like to begin by saying I'm honored to be included on the ballot for the FCEC. I have had the privilege of serving on the FCEC this past year, and unexpectedly I find myself sincerely enjoying the working with colleagues to tackle issues related to faculty governance. So, here I am again in front of you to ask for your support for my nomination.

During my time on Faculty Council, I have served on a number of committees including the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC), Education Policy Committee, the Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review (CUDPR), and, currently, I chair the Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee, which we call C14, and will continue as chair, in the Fall.

Because teaching undergraduates is my career as well as my passion as well as my job, I am an enthusiastic supporter of excellence in undergraduate education. As Assistant Dean, we've made and 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 at UT. As the only non-tenure track nominee, and, if elected, the only non-tenure track member of the Executive Committee, I will continue to be a steward for non-tenure track interests.

Having said this, I appreciate that 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 the faculty, the Administration, and the President. So, I would welcome this opportunity to continue this work for the University in this capacity. Thank you so much for considering my nomination.

Pauline T. Strong, Professor, Anthropology

Good afternoon. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for membership on the FCEC. I am a Professor of Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies, and a faculty affiliate in American Studies, Museum Studies, and Native American and Indigenous Studies. I am also Director of the Humanities Institute, which sponsors humanities-based programs for faculty, students, and the community and allows me to meet faculty across campus. I'm also the parent of a graduate student, which at the moment is a really, really scary thing to be. But it has also given me a new perspective on UT. I am strongly committed to strong faculty governance, and am especially interested in academic freedom, faculty and student diversity, gender equity, support for interdisciplinary research and teaching, and campus climate. I would bring to the Faculty Council Executive Committee twenty-four years of experience at UT as well as previous experience on the Faculty Council, the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, the Educational Policy Committee, and the Libraries Committee. My leadership experience includes chairing the Faculty Advisory Committee on Budgets and the Graduate Assembly, as well as the presidency of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, which is a section of the American Anthropological Association. I represented the Graduate Assembly on the FCEC during the year I chaired the Assembly, and learned during that year just how important the FCEC is as a communication link between the faculty and the administration. It was an absolutely fascinating year. If elected to serve on the FCEC, I would do my best to ensure that the faculty is well represented in University decision-making, which is particularly important as this juncture, when so much about higher education is being threatened and reconsidered. Thank you.