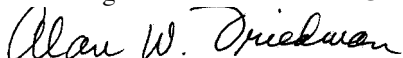


## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL FACULTY FOR 2017-2018**

Following are the minutes of the General Faculty meeting of Monday, October 16, 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 MEETING OF THE GENERAL FACULTY FOR 2017-2018**

The regular meeting of the General Faculty for the academic year 2017-18 was held on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 2:15 p.m. in the Main Building, Room 212. President Gregory L. Fenves presided over the meeting. After calling the meeting to order, the President invited Secretary Alan W. Friedman (Professor, English) to present the minutes of the previous meeting, held October 10, 2016.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Secretary Friedman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Since there were none, he called for a vote to approve the minutes as posted. The minutes of the 2016-17 regular meeting of the General Faculty, which was held on October 10, 2016 (D 14913-14914), were unanimously approved by voice vote.

**II. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL, 2016-2017.**

Secretary Friedman presented an overview of the annual report, which was published as D 15310-15337 and posted on the Faculty Council website. He said the Council spent a great deal of time on political issues and highlighted resolutions supporting academic freedom and opposing professor watch lists, resolutions against the immigration ban, and a resolution in support of undocumented and DACA students. He reported that the criteria used to determine the voting membership of the General Faculty had been broadened to include more non-tenured faculty. He said that that proposal triggered subsequent changes to the *Regents' Rules* in that this campus no longer needs the Regental approval of Faculty Council legislation. The Secretary said the Faculty Council also approved policies on polling technologies and copyright ownership of their educational content. It endorsed the Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document, voted to change the retroactive withdrawal policy for undergraduates, and amended and approved the University mission statement. He reported that eleven new or modified undergraduate programs were approved, including the updated core curriculum course list. He said President Fenves had appointed twenty-six Memorial Resolution Committees and that twenty-nine resolutions were completed during the year. Finally, Secretary Friedman reported that the Faculty Council approved a proposal to modify the language and title of the *Handbook of Operating Procedures 2-2230 Threatened Faculty Retrenchment*. Since then, the proposal was being modified to address concerns from the President and the Administration. The Secretary said the revised proposal would come back to the Council for consideration later in the academic year.

**III. DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL REPORT—None.****IV. COMMENTS BY AND QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.**

President Fenves deferred making comments until the Faculty Council meeting, which was to immediately follow the annual meeting of the General Faculty. No formal questions had been submitted to the president prior to the meeting, but he welcomed questions from the floor. Professor D. Max Snodderly (Neuroscience) said he was pleased to hear, in the State of the University Address, emphasis being given to improving financial aid to students. As Chair Elect of the Committee on Financial Aid to Students, he was curious to know what sort of procedural or structural approach the President will take and if faculty input will be considered? President Fenves said that, in his University

Address, he had stated that he wanted to increase the role and purpose of the University in improving upward mobility of students. He said, “We’ve known for a while that we have inadequate financial aid resources,” which is evident each year during the admission cycle when students who have been offered admission to UT Austin choose not to come here because they get better financial aid offers from other universities. The President said that improvement would take some long-term planning and solutions with a number of stakeholders, including the Texas Legislature. He said it was very important for the state of Texas to continue supporting Texas grants, which did get an increase this past legislative session, but not enough to cover the population growth. He also mentioned that the Texas Tuition Set-Aside—a source of financial aid that was originally approved by the Legislature in 1975—has been under discussion in the Legislature, questioning its effectiveness. In addition to the resources from the State, President Fenves said he planned to use the increase in the Available University Fund (AUF) for financial aid targeted to lower- and middle-income students.

In terms of the structural and the organizational aspects, President Fenves said Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Rachel Hernandez is considering how the University can better coordinate and integrate student recruitment, student admissions, and financial aid. He said there would be some major changes coming out of Vice Provost Hernandez’s office and that she would be working with the Committee on Financial Aid to Students on some of the policy decisions and how to allocate the new financial aid.

In the long run, though, President Fenves said, “We need to continue to increase financial aid resources. I’ll be working with the Board of Regents on some strategic planning and that is going to be one of the keystones for our future plans.”

Finally, President Fenves acknowledged the Faculty Council’s interest in philanthropic resources for financial aid and said that the Development Office has been working on that as well and that he would speak more about it at the Faculty Council meeting. He said increased access and social upward mobility will be keystones of a future capital campaign.

Professor Martha F. Hilley (Music) asked if the President had any updates or comments about DACA. President Fenves said he had no new information and that it’s in the hands of Congress to develop legislation to support students who have been here most of their lives and have been productive students and citizens. Because UT Austin has students, staff, and faculty who have DACA status, he said he would continue to watch for developments. He said that most higher education organizations, including the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Association of American Universities (AAU), were urging congressional leaders to pass legislation as soon as possible to protect Dreamers. He said the University was helping to support that effort to the extent possible and urged those “interested in it to make sure that elected representatives hear your voices.”

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS—None.**

**VI. REPORTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY, COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, AND COMMITTEES.**

**A. Committee to Nominate a Candidate for Secretary of the General Faculty.**

Steven D. Hoelscher (Committee Chair and Professor, American Studies) announced that Professor Alan W. Friedman (Department of English) was the Committee’s sole choice for the Secretary position.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS.**

**A. Election of the Secretary of the General Faculty.**

President Fenves asked if there were any nominations for Secretary from the floor. Since there were none, he called for the vote. Professor Friedman was unanimously re-elected to serve through August 31, 2018. President Fenves extended his congratulations and thanked Professor Friedman for his dedication and service to the University.

**VIII. REMAINING QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT—None.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM.