

Volume XI, Number 2
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
October 19, 2017

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani. Roll was called by Secretary Steven Corns. Those whose names are **grayed** out below were absent.

Brent Unger, (Gerald Cohen for) Audra Merfeld-Langston, **Mark Mullin**, David Westenberg, Craig Claybaugh, Fui-Hoon Nah, **Parthasakha Neogi**, Jee Ching Wang, **Jeffrey Winiarz**, **Klaus Woelk**, Mark Fitch, **Jianmin Wang**; (George Markowsky for) Fikret Ercal, Chaman Sabharwal, Michael Davis, Levent Acar, (Ali Hurson for) James Drewniak, Kurt Kosbar, Maciej Zawodniok, Steven Corns, (Ivan Guardiola for) Steve Raper, (Sarah Hercula for) Trent Brown, K. C. Dolan, Norbert Maerz, David Wronkiewicz, Kathleen Sheppard, **Wayne Huebner**, **David Van Aken**, Akim Adekpedjou, Martin Bohner, S.N. Balakrishnan, Umit Koylu, Robert Landers, **Gearoid MacSithigh**, **Otis Register**, Shoaib Usman, **Paul Worsey**, **Barbara Hale**, **Ulrich Jentschura**, Amber Henslee

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

III. President's Report

Professor Sedigh Sarvestani reported on recent Intercampus Faculty Council activities. IFC will be presented with a specific time slot during the December meeting of the Board of Curators to present examples of outstanding research and teaching from each campus. Key issues discussed at the latest meeting included coordination of policies related to NTT faculty, teaching evaluations, the role of the UM System, UM Research Board, hiring of a junior lobbyist for the UM System, and Open and Affordable educational resources. Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani stressed that while faculty will be provided information on using resources that are more affordable for the students, the authority of every instructor to choose their own instructional materials will remain intact. Human Resources policies are under review. Ideas being considered are tuition assistance for dependents, donated leave (for staff), System-wide coordination of staff leave policy for the interval between Christmas and New Year, and Title IX.

In campus news, strategic planning is underway. Richard Dawes and Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani are the Faculty Senate representatives on the committee. The search committee for a Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies has been assembled. And finally, President Choi will visit our campus on October 31.

Professor Sedigh Sarvestani mentioned that several issues have been referred for consideration.

- The Budgetary Affairs Committee has been asked to provide a report at every Faculty Senate meeting to give a high level view of the budget situation.
- Dr. Levent Acar will meet with the manager of Disability Services to review Disability Support policies and practices to find and correct areas that do not match.
- RP&A will create an ad-hoc committee to conduct a review of our Bylaws looking for any areas that are in conflict with new policies or current practices. Marcia Fischer is the System contact for this.
- Other initiatives will be presented in the RP&A report.

In conclusion, Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani stated that the College of Engineering and Computing had asked her to announce the CEC Meeting and Awards Recognition. The events will be held once a semester, with the first meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 8. Invitations have gone out to members of the College of Engineering and Computing.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Creation of Teacher Education Department

At the September Faculty Senate meeting, RP&A presented a motion that granted Faculty Senate the authority to endorse or reject the creation, realignment, or dissolution of academic department. The motion passed. This was done, in part, because the Bylaws are silent on this issue. Professor Sedigh Sarvestani explained that the reason for passing the motion rather than creating a step by step procedure is that there is some urgency to establish the new Department of Teacher Education and Certification proposed by the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business.

Motion: *RP&A moves for the approval of the Proposal for the Establishment of Department of Teacher Education and Certification*

Goal: To establish a Department of Teacher Education and Certification within the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business. This department, led by a tenured department chair, would oversee the secondary and primary teacher education programs at S&T, including managing and hiring faculty; recruiting and advising students; and developing, scheduling, and teaching all EDUC courses.

The proposal was discussed at the last meeting, but the meeting ended without resolution due to lack of a quorum. Since the motion comes from a committee, no second is needed. Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani opened the floor for discussion.

Professor Kurt Kosbar questioned whether General Faculty or Faculty Senate has the authority to create or eliminate academic departments, citing the history of such actions being taken by the Chancellor in the past. Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani explained that there was extensive discussion by RP&A regarding the issue. She further explained that Provost Marley shared the proposal from CASB with the Faculty Senate Officers, asking them to look it over and provide input.

Dr. Kosbar also objected to the use of the word “approval” in the motion. He moved to amend the proposal by replacing the word “approval” with “endorse”. Professor Fitch pointed out that as a point of order, a committee cannot accept a “friendly amendment,” it would have to be voted upon. Parliamentarian Richard Dawes agreed.

Motion: Dr. Kosbar moved that the wording be changed from Faculty Senate approving the proposal to Faculty Senate endorsing the proposal.

The motion was seconded.

Gearoid MacSithigh stated that he is confused by the sequencing of voting on the proposal and then establishing the procedure. He questioned the urgency of approving the proposal now rather than waiting until an actual process for creating departments could be developed. Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani asked Provost Marley to address the question. He responded that since Jana Neiss, Director of the Education Program had left the position nine months ago, there is an opportunity to begin the national search for a chair and raise the visibility of the program at the same time. He went on to say that Jana was a national-caliber figure equivalent to the level of a department chair in many ways. He explained that part of the rationale of creating a separate department was to raise the visibility. He reminded everyone that the program has been structurally a part of the Department of History and Political Science. The urgency has to do with getting into the national market as soon as we can reasonably do so.

Dr. Balakrishnan raised concerns that faculty are inserting themselves into an academic process that is usually decided by executive order. He questioned whether the Provost and Chancellor would be bound by a recommendation from Faculty Senate to create or dissolve a program. Dr. Sedigh Sarvestani stated that she could not answer because the faculty by-laws do not provide enough clarity on the issue, but she said she could state that it was a positive thing that Faculty Senate was asked to provide input on something that could be done by executive order. So she took the proposal to RP&A because there was no clear procedure. After looking at the bylaws and CRRs, RP&A concluded after General Faculty has the authority working in conjunction with the Provost from the Executive end, with the shared governance portion coming from the General Faculty. Since the next General Faculty meeting is in December, RP&A made the motion for Faculty Senate to assume the authority and approve this department. She said there were extensive discussions about the fact that it isn't quite right for Faculty Senate to just assume authority without having it officially granted to us. So, a decision was made to create an ad hoc committee to look at how Faculty Senate will participate in the creation and realignment of academic departments and take a proposal to the General Faculty.

A review of the minutes of the September 19 Faculty Senate minutes revealed that the wording of the RP&A motion granting authority to Faculty Senate used endorsing instead of approving:

“Whereas the Faculty Senate has authority granted to it by the General Faculty and the CR&Rs over academic program policies,

Be it resolved and understood that:

Faculty Senate is the campus authority responsible for *endorsing* or rejecting the creation, realignment, or dissolution of academic departments until such time as the General Faculty removes this authority.”

Question was called regarding the motion to amend the motion. A Disagreement arose over whether a vote must be taken on Call the Question. The parliamentarian ruled that a vote must be taken on Call the Question.

The vote to call the question passed.

A request was made to have a hand count for the vote on the motion to amend.

The motion to amend the motion passed with 24 yes, 1 no and 3 abstentions.

In discussion of the actual proposal, Dr. Kosbar commented that it seems odd that the proposal appears to be to create a department for a couple of dozen part-time adjunct faculty led by an assistant teaching professor when a number of departments on campus that have multiple majors existing within one department with one chair and tenured faculty. He stated that he is in favor of expanding into the area of teacher education but is against the proposal to create a separate department.

Professor Bruening spoke in support of the proposal, explaining that the program currently is housed in his department. He related some of the issues that have come up that support creating a new department. He pointed out that when Jana Neiss was here as Director of the program, her salary was among the highest in the department which he said was appropriate in light of her job and her performance of it, yet her rank was that of assistant teaching professor. He also pointed out that the budget for the program is housed under the umbrella of History and Political Science, meaning that the chair could have utilized the funds for something other than the teacher education program. Dr. Bruening argued that taking the program out of the History and Political Science Department allows for hiring tenure-track faculty in the teacher education disciplines and with their own budget. He went on to say that our teacher education program offers something others do not in that our graduates get their degree in a content area and then are certified as teachers, making them highly sought out. He said he is very much in favor of creating this department, which will allow the program to grow and gain visibility.

Professor Levent Acar expressed his reservations about the name of the proposed department, while also making it clear that he is not in favor of the proposal. His objection centered on his belief that he thought it sounded like a community college department. He proposed removing the word “certification” from the name of the department. Several faculty and representatives from the teacher education program presented reasons for keeping the “certification” designation in the name, among those

reasons being recognition by funding agencies such as NSF, and the fact that students in the education program cannot graduate without obtaining certification.

The **motion** was amended to say that Faculty Senate endorses the creation of the Department of Teacher Education and Certification.

The motion passed with 19 yes votes, 4 no, and 2 abstentions.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Rules, Procedures and Agenda

Professor Michael Bruening presented the RP&A report for Tom Schuman, who was returning from China. In an attempt to better manage meeting time and in response to a request from several Senators, RP&A has created a new meeting format that would place the business of the Senate prior to information reports. Future meetings will utilize this same format except that the student group reports may be moved earlier to accommodate their schedules.

Dr. Bruening also reported that with the new Code of Faculty Conduct in place, RP&A took a look at our current Committee on Faculty Conduct which was created in 1988. The committee has been populated but has not been active in recent years. The responsibilities assigned to the committee are also in conflict with the new policy. RP&A recommends disbanding the Committee on Faculty Conduct and then establish a new process that is in accordance with CRR 330.110.

As mentioned earlier during the discussion related to the creation of the Teacher Education and Certification Department, the CRRs and Policy Memoranda do not currently address the creation or dissolution of a department.

Motion: RP&A moves to “Create an ad hoc “Special Committee” to examine the process needed for creation or realignment of a departmental unit.”

The motion passed.

RP&A recommends/nominates the following as members (affiliation) of the ad hoc committee:

- Jeff Winiarz (Graduate Faculty)
- Steve Raper (Campus Curricula Committee)
- Gearoid MacSithigh (CCC and Faculty Senate)
- Kurt Kosbar (Faculty Senate)
- Levent Acar (RP&A, Faculty Senate)

RP&A recommends that the ad hoc committee work with the Provost’s Office to develop a working procedure.

Motion: RP&A moves for Faculty Senate endorsement of this committee alignment.
The motion passed.

B. Curricula

Professor MacSithigh presented the Curricula Committee report stating that the Curricula Committee met on October 3 to review sixteen course change requests and eight experimental course requests.

Motion: The Curriculum Committee moves for Faculty Senate to approve the DC and CC form actions.

The motion passed.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

C. Information Technology

The new chair of ITCC, Professor John Singler, reported on recent activities. Thomas Vojta stepped down as chair this year after serving in the position since 2013. Andreas Eckert is Vice Chair, Richard Dawes is chairing the Research Computing Subcommittee, Jeff Schramm and Matt Sauer are leading the eLearning Subcommittee, and Daniel Tauritz is heading the Computer Security Subcommittee.

In news related to research computing, Dr. Singler reported that the campus invested \$500K in high-performance computing equipment, and upgrades to the Forge cluster are complete and in use.

In the area of computer security, the two-factor authentication is now available. For now, two-factor authorization is optional, but that will likely change in the future.

Professor Singler stated that there has been an overall reduction of \$1.5M in General Revenue Allocation to IT since FY16. As a result, funds have been taken from student IT fees to cover salaries. With more people and machines on campus, and less resources for IT support, campus should expect a reduction in services.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[ITCC.10.19.17](#)

D. Budgetary Affairs

Professor Mark Fitch presented the Budgetary Affairs Committee (BAC) report. Speaking from notes provided by committee chair, Barbara Hale, Dr. Fitch reported that the Budgetary Affairs Task Force helped to propose FY18 Budget reductions totaling \$6,881,762 to cover a \$4.6M projected shortfall last semester.

FY18 reductions now total \$6,902,000 and include modifications for about six units. \$2.3M of what had been given up is available as changed investment.

- \$500K identified by the College of Engineering and Computing for reduction was returned due to savings in Best in Class hires.
- The Provost had \$658K additional cut from CAFÉ savings. Provost Marley clarified by saying that originally, the budget for CAFÉ was \$650K but it was reduced to about \$400K.
- Global cut of \$207K in the original budget became \$788K, in part ascribed to reorganization savings
- Administrative Services had cuts of about \$400K.

The committee identified several issues of concern related to the Budget Reduction Scenario. These include the \$20M in commitments that have not yet been spent and the closing of KMST with no public notice. It was also pointed out that some ‘reductions’ are actually realignments.

Details of the report are available at the following link:
[BAC.Report.10.19.17](#)

E. Administrative Review

Dr. Ali Hurson began his report by reminding everyone who is on the Administrative Review Committee: himself, Bih-Ru Lea, Kelly Liu, and V. A. Samaranayake. He discussed the role of the committee as described in the By-laws and went on to describe the process used to determine who would be reviewed this year. After eliminating administrators who were reviewed last year and those who have only been in their positions for a short period of time, he presented the committee’s recommendation.

Motion: The Committee moves that the following be reviewed in this academic year:

- Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
- Assistant Vice Provost Institutional Research and Assessment
- Vice Provost Academic Support
- Vice Provost Global Learning
- Vice Provost Research, and
- Vice Provost Graduate Students

The motion passed.

Details of the report are available at the following link:
[ARC.10.19.17](#)

F. Public Occasions

Professor Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani had one item to present for Faculty Senate consideration.

Motion: The Public Occasions Committee moves that Saturday, October 13 be adopted as the date of the 2018 Homecoming celebration.

The motion passed.

A motion was made to set aside the Agenda to allow the Students and Staff Council to present their reports.

The motion passed.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[PublicOccasions.10.19.17](#)

The students had already left the meeting for class. Staff Council presented next.

VI. Administrative Reports

A. Chancellor's Report

Due to time constraints, Chancellor Maples volunteered to save his report for the next meeting.

B. Provost's Report

Provost Marley gave a quick report, noting that the detailed report is posted online. He gave a brief update on Strategic Planning, stating that the committee has been identified and has begun to meet. The first draft of the Plan is due to the Chancellor by December 1. Open forums are planned for December 5 and 6 and a copy will be provided to the System Review Team. Feedback should be provided to the committee by January 1, the second draft is due to the System Review Team by February 1, and so on with the final draft due to System by April 1.

Dr. Marley provided a summary of the distribution of New Faculty Support Funds. The presentation is posted online along with Division Updates. He will address these items and any questions at the November meeting.

[Provost.Report.10.19.17](#)

VII. Campus Reports

A. Staff Council

Sylvia Dees reported that Fall Staff Appreciation Day will be held from 9:30-11 AM at the Puck on October 31, followed by a Chili cook-off on the second floor of Engineering Management. The deadline for submitting applications for Staff Scholarship is November 1. The GRACE food and toy drive also begins November 1 and continues to November 27. Staff Council has been discussing a donated leave pool. Staff Council has received or has suggested that supervisors and managers be subject to mandatory training and 360 evaluations.

Details of the report are available at the following link:
[StaffCouncil.10.19.17](#)

B. Student Council

Since the meeting ran long, this report was not presented but is posted under Reports on the Faculty Senate web page.
[STUCO.10.19.17](#)

C. Council of Graduate Students - No Report

VIII. New Business - NONE

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Corns, Secretary