

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Senate February 8, 2006

In Attendance: Drs. Baruch-Bienen, Evans, Geelhoed, Krolick, Luduena, Meltz, Parsons, Sorenson, Whang, Yew.

Absent: Drs. Amaechi, Brackley, Kahlenberg, Keiser, Lam, Olson, Plastino, Robichaux, Ruzicka, Shah, Tekmal, Vargas, Verrett, Vines.

Guest: Dr. Theresa Chiang
Vice President for Academic Administration

Convened: 4:05 PM

University Updates

Dr. Theresa Chiang
Vice President for Academic Administration

Graduate School recruitment:

Final candidates are being considered to fill the chair of the Department of Molecular Medicine.

The search for a new chair of for the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology will begin in March. Self study is complete and they are in the process of forming a search committee.

Third floor construction:

Noting that the renovation project involving the third floor of the medical school (near student services) has been creating significant noise and inconvenience, Dr. Chiang indicates that the project is scheduled to be complete by the end of May. Questions or concerns should be directed to Mr. Kazen, Executive Vice President for Administration.

Strategic plan update:

A draft has now been forwarded to the Faculty Senate, with a request from Dr. Chiang for us to distribute it so as to allow broad input from the faculty-at-large. She has also provided the draft to the governance bodies that represent the UTHSCSA students and the staff. There is a rather short timeline available for review and discussion, since Dr. Chiang needs a finalized document in time to make use of it for developing the University Compact due to be submitted to the UT System in April. Therefore, Dr. Chiang has requested that the Faculty Senate collect comments/concerns/suggestions from the faculty-at-large, and then prepare and forward to her office, prior to the end of February, a document that summarizes

faculty input. This will likely require a special meeting of the Faculty Senate (see below).

Dr. Brackley will distribute the latest draft of the plan to the faculty immediately, and request that comments be sent to a member of the Faculty Senate who represents your school. School representatives will then consolidate comments gathered from their colleagues, and pass them on to Dr. Brackley for integration with comments coming from other schools before forwarding the final summary to Dr. Chiang.

General Discussion

Dr. Baruch-Bienen (Chair-elect)

Dr. Krolick (Past-chair)

Strategic Plan:

Having received the latest draft of the Strategic Plan from Dr. Chiang's office the day before this meeting, many senators were unable to evaluate it or comment on its content. Senators agreed that a special meeting of the Faculty Senate should be called in order to have needed discussion and to allow incorporation of comments obtained from the faculty-at-large into the Senate's final position on the plan. The draft of the Strategic Plan should be distributed to the faculty-at-large by Dr. Brackley, followed by a special meeting, tentatively scheduled for 4:00 PM on Wednesday February 22, 2006.

Senate Resolution:

The following resolution was drafted by the Faculty Senate and represents concerns noted by both senators and members of the faculty-at-large. It involves the recently proposed space allocation policy and has therefore been forwarded to Dr. Brian Herman, Vice President for Research:

RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED SPACE ALLOCATION POLICY

Submitted to the Vice President for Research

from the UTHSCSA Faculty Senate

February 13, 2006

Be it resolved, that the UTHSCSA Faculty Senate has several significant concerns, delineated below, regarding the currently proposed UTHSCSA research space allocation policy (presented by Dr. Herman to the Faculty Senate on January 11, 2006). The Faculty Senate requests that the Vice President for Research carefully consider each point before pursuing the finalization and implementation of such a policy, and further, to respond to the Faculty Senate regarding each point so as to allow faculty representatives to report those responses to the faculty-at-large.

1. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider significant differences that exist in indirect costs allowed by federal vs. private funding agencies.** This has the potential of producing an

inequity with regard to the Direct + Indirect costs total as the basis for calculating the RSPI, and the sense that research faculty funded by federal grants are more highly valued.

2. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider inherent differences in the fundable cost of performing different kinds of research.** That is, there is a potential lack of fairness in applying the same policy/formula to investigators of equal productivity, but whose science entails strategies with significant differences in justifiable cost. For example, research faculty required to request inherently larger budgets involving large numbers of expensive animals will score higher RSPIs than those who do not employ, or request funds for, animals.
3. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider differences in the space needs of research faculty who require that large, space-consuming equipment items be placed in their laboratories.** That is, there is a potential lack of fairness in applying the same policy/formula to investigators of sound productivity and funding levels, but whose equipment needs inherently require larger space allocations. RSPIs for such investigators would likely reflect an inaccurate estimation of space needs.
4. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider possible differences in the number of personnel that may be assigned to different laboratories supported by equal grant funding.** For example, if some investigators require supply budgets that are inherently modest, thereby allowing them to recruit (*i.e.*, afford) larger numbers of personnel, RSPIs for such investigators would likely reflect an inaccurate estimation of their space needs. Furthermore, this is particularly pertinent with regard to the training/teaching mission described below in item 5 in which students generally require smaller salaries, are therefore more affordable and potentially more numerous, but consume the same amount of space as other personnel.
5. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider the possible negative impact on the teaching/training mission of the UTHSCSA.** The current proposal equates the value of our research space solely to grant dollars associated with the research performed in that space. In those cases in which space is used for the mixed purposes of performing research, and for training students and fellows to perform research, no consideration has been given to the sacrifices in productivity, possibly translating into fewer grant dollars, incurred by research faculty during the performance of such training. The perception could emerge that taking students into one's laboratory can lead to decreased institutional support.
6. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy reflects a formulation based on expectations at other institutions.** The proposed policy does not consider that internal measures of productivity may provide more valid standards for comparisons.
7. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy reflects a formulation based on expectations associated with a time of significantly better funding opportunities.** The proposed policy does not consider that reasonable

expectations may have to be modified to reflect the current, and likely future, difficulties in obtaining or maintaining research funds.

8. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider how research space policies may directly influence other space-requiring missions of the university.** That is, with space being a finite and vital resource with regard to not only research activities, but also our educational, clinical, and service missions (which may be emphasized differently in each of the five schools), mechanisms need to be considered that protect all missions of the UTHSCSA.
9. **The UTHSCSA Faculty Senate is concerned that, taking items 1-8 together, the proposed space allocation policy does not adequately consider the possible negative impact on faculty morale.** For many of the faculty, it is not clear to what extent the premise is valid that a significant disparity exists regarding the effective use of research space at the UTHSCSA. Thus, it is not clear that implementing such a policy is warranted or advisable, particularly during this time of continuously decreasing funding opportunities.

Meeting adjourned: 5:35 PM