

# Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting Wednesday January 13th in Room 2.022

**In Attendance:** Bennett Amaechi, Yidong Bai, Allison Beck, Peter Gakunga, Keith Krolick, Mark Nadeau, Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, V Sreenath Reddy, Krista Bowers,. Mark Soucy, Diana Beckmann-Mendez, Margaret Brackley, Qitao Ran, and Mohan Natarajan

**Absent:** Nandini Ghosh-Choudhury, Barry Norling, Kaparaboyna Kumar, Donna Gardner, Joe Conner, Sally Combest, Christopher Franka, Catherine Ortega, James Roberts, Brent Shriver, Sara Gill

Convened: 4:05 PM

## **University Topics: Updates**

Dr. Theresa Chiang, VP for Academic Administration

- Dean searches:. We have 12 candidates coming back for a 2 ½ day visit each in Jan and Feb, six for School of Medicine dean's job and six for Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences dean's job.
- The Library Classrooms Open House (Jan. 22) at 3:30 to 5 p.m. We encourage all faculty to attend and see the beautiful new facilities.
- Date of the MARC Dedication (Feb. 26): we will formally dedicate the Medical Arts and Research Center early evening of Friday, Feb. 26. All faculty, staff and students will be invited.
- Please reiterate use of the new logo which is now a **registered** mark – indicated by the symbol of an R within a circle. All versions of the Health Science Center logo have been re-drawn to include this registration mark and are available to download from our branding style guide. The new versions of our logo – sporting the registered mark – should replace the former “TM” versions within our e-mail signatures, on our PPT templates, etc. Many faculty, staff and offices do not realize this, even though we've run it in HSC News.
- Faculty Senate's recommendation on Conflict of Commitment Policy has been received by President Henrich. Dr. Henrich has turned the matter over to Mr. Mike Black for follow-up.
- HSC's Strategic Plan; progresses are being tracked. At some point there will be a report ready to share with the Senate.
- Every five years the HSC does a review of the entire faculty promotion/tenure/appointment process. Last time it was in 2004. Dr. Henrich has commissioned a task force of faculty members to do another review. The chair is Dr. John Mangos of Pediatrics. Faculty Senate will be a part of the process from where the Task Force will seek input.
- PTAC workshops will be scheduled on Feb. 3 and 10. Thanks to all senior faculty volunteers.
- Mr. Harlan Smith, the newly appointed Office of International Services, is on board. In the future, it is the hope of the administration that OIS takes a more proactive approach to educate the HSC community on rules and regulations while at the same time providing workable solutions to address issues/concerns regarding international exchange.

## **Other Senate Business**

Senators discussed the ongoing study evaluating a potential merger of UT Health Science Center and UTSA. Various perspectives were discussed including what benefits and challenges might emerge for students and faculty of each institution should there be a recommendation to move forward.

A question was asked about what data was being considered by the evaluation group charged with studying the possible merger in order that the senate might gain understanding of the variables under consideration.

There was general discussion considering the driving forces for the study including academic, scientific, and economic as well and Tier I designation potentials.

The due date for a report from the study group was thought to be June of 2010.

There was general discussion about the myriad of complexities involved in such a potential merger.

It was suggested that everyone keep an open mind. Once there is more information, it was suggested to send the president a resolution from the Senate about the potential of such a merger.

It was mentioned that many students see the potential merger as a positive.

It was suggested that one or more senators and/or the chair have a discussion with Dr. Shine to learn more about the potential merger at the upcoming UT-System Faculty Advisory Council.

One senator asked what the president's view on a potential merger might be. The Chair said he would inquire at the next meeting with the president.

It was mentioned that one of the evaluators for the proposed merger had prior experience in merging academic and academic health science center universities.

It was mentioned that faculty senators might inquire more about the potential merger study and progress at the next Faculty Advisory Council Meeting to be held in Austin in January end.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.