

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting

September 4, 2024, at 3:10 p.m.

Present:

Absent:

Ex officio: Paige Ware, Elizabeth Lobo

Visitors: Holly Jeffcoat, David Miller, Rich Templeton

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m.
2. The agenda and May 1 meeting minutes were approved.
3. FY 2024-25 Senators introduced
4. The acclimation of FS Committees was tabled due to pending corrections to the slate.
5. Associate Provost Report to Faculty Senate: Faculty policies update, Paige Ware (Associate Provost for Faculty Success)
 - a. Faculty Searches updates: Paige thanked all who participated in the hiring process. She reported an all-time high of instructional faculty hires (99 total, including TT, NTT, and visiting positions; affected 41 departments). There was a net increase of 10 new positions that transitioned from staff to faculty roles. Many processes have been decentralized, but departure lines were returned to the Provost's office, and three searches were denied.
 - b. Policies Under Revision (the timeline for the revision process is from Spring 2024 to December 2024, and Faculty Senators are invited to read the guidelines and participate in a group feedback discussion scheduled for mid-September).
 - i. Policy 1.3.2: Conflict of Commitment: First, a peer/aspirant review was conducted, and SMU was one of the few units without one. With the Provost's office, Legal Affairs developed a policy draft. CoC is different from "1.3 Financial Conflict of Interest" and "10.7 Financial Conflicts of Interest in Externally Sponsored Research;" its primary concern is with internal/external conflicts of time commitment and affiliation.
 - ii. Policy 2.17: Faculty Sanctions and Dismissals: SMU's current policies need updating, and a working group has been formed to revise the Sanctions and Dismissals policy, with Faculty Senate involvement.
 - iii. Policy 2.8: Extra Compensation: A new explicit policy has been drafted that states that faculty on a 9-month contract can receive up to 3 months plus an additional 17%, totaling a potential 50% increase in extra compensation. This newly established compensation ceiling will impact only 4% of faculty.
6. Library Update, Holly Jeffcoat (Dean of SMU Libraries)

- a. Update of the Rees-Jones Library of American West: This new addition will showcase a rare and pristine collection focusing on pre-1900 materials in exhibit halls, reading rooms, and a digital scholarship space. The timeline: Building demolition will occur from November to January, and the project is expected to be completed by January 2027
- b. Other library updates include the following: Duda Family Business Library is now open. Hamon Library renovations in progress
 - i. Senate concerns include the impact this project will have on parking. Dean Jeffcoat stated that it is a parking-neutral project.

7. Facilities Update, Michael Molina (Associate Vice President and Chief Architect)

- a. He reported on the status of the flooding incident at Umphrey Lee that occurred earlier that day around 8 a.m. due to a broken fire or domestic line, which was probably 20-60 years old. He reported that McFarlin was back online, but Umphrey Lee would be unusable for at least a day. The decision to reopen on Friday will be made Thursday at 3 p.m.

8. SMU Presidential Search Update, David Miller and Rich Templeton (Board Members and Search Committee Chairs)

- a. They provided an update on the status of the search, which is still in its infancy. They reported that President Turner wanted to ensure SMU was in good shape financially and academically before stepping down and that it would be optimal for it to be in a year when the Board of Trustees would have a new chairman. The Board has several times since February and has contracted search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist with the search. The first meeting with potential candidates will be in October, and the goal is to appoint a new president by June 2025. The interview process will be confidential (a sitting president who is not looking for this position will likely be hired), though the details of the search committee are available online. The future president will be one who will keep SMU on its trajectory of academic excellence.

9. AOB: Provost Loba mentioned new guidelines for class meetings on Zoom.

10. Adjourned at 4:53 pm

Submitted by Lourdes Molina