

**Approved School Council Minutes, November 4, 2016 Meeting  
9:00am, Dean's Conference Room, 217 Jenkins**

**Elected School Council Attendees:** Shirley Dennis-Escoffier (ACC); Patricia Abril, Second Vice Speaker (BSL); Sara Rushinek (BTE); Phil Robins (ECO); Brian Barrett, First Vice Speaker (FIN); Howard Gitlow (MAS); Karoline Mortensen (HSMP); Linda L. Neider, Speaker of the Council (MGT); A. Parasuraman (MKT)

**Other Attendees:** Anuj Mehrotra, Dean; Arun Sharma, Vice Dean, Graduate and Executive Programs; Ann Olazabal, Vice Dean, Undergraduate Business Programs

**Secretary to the Council:** Mrs. Blanca Ripoll

**Comments from the Speaker:** Speaker of the Council, Professor Neider, reminded council members to talk to their Department Chairs about conducting the fall feedback sessions (a policy approved by the regular faculty during the Spring 2016 semester). She noted that some Chairs feel overloaded with the demands for accreditation pending. Given this, she asked council members if they would be willing to allow the policy to be phased in during the current semester so that only the untenured regular faculty would be given feedback. A motion was made, and the elected School Council members unanimously agreed to do so.

The speaker informed the council that the university is considering allowing staff to utilize flexible hours during regular academic semesters (if their respective supervisors approve) as a way to reduce traffic flow with the opening of the Lennar Health Center. The policy is currently under discussion and if approved, will be announced formally in 2017.

Finally, the speaker raised the concern that some students occasionally meet with Department Chairs and/or Vice Deans to inform that they feel faculty have made inappropriate comments during class sessions. The school does not currently have a process in place to investigate whether or not such claims have merit. The speaker said she would work with Patty Abril (and anyone else who was willing) to draft a policy that might be used in such instances, as well as talk to the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs to ascertain how other schools handle such concerns.

**Updates from the Dean:** Dean Mehrotra told that Council that he would be meeting with the Provost and Mark Diaz to discuss budget issues and specifically, the deficit problem next week. He noted that in view of the budget concerns, departments should not have individual holiday parties and instead, faculty should be encouraged to attend the school-wide party on December 6<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a school-wide celebration for all staff. Dean Mehrotra mentioned that in collaboration with the School of Public Health and the Miller School of Medicine there was a public launch event for the Public Health Certificate. This is a grant supported by the Beaumont Foundation. The Dean also discussed that given the current financial situation, there are no plans for additional recruitment of faculty, and that the school is not projected to grow beyond the current number of 97 tenure track faculty. He also noted that his review of faculty research, despite significant

resources devoted to encouraging such activities, has declined based on the UT Dallas List. This is concerning. Finally, he noted that we need to be aware of the fact that participants in SBA certificate programs must be tracked to assess their subsequent job placements.

### **Old Business**

1. Previously, four new courses proposed by HSMP were put on hold pending additional information, clarification of course content, and the use of proper departmental course numbers. **HSM 601, ACC 665, HSM 683, MKT 688 were unanimously approved in their revised form.**
2. Two existing courses, **BTE 621 and BSL 685, were revised to fit the requirements of the HSMP major. Both were unanimously approved.**
3. Grade Bands – the result of departmental discussions concerning the use of grade bands was mixed. Some departments support the use, others feel such bands are a violation of academic freedom. Given the lack of consensus, it is clear that having faculty vote on such bands does not make sense. It was also noted that no other school on campus has grade bands that faculty must adhere to.

### **New Business**

4. FIN 825, an independent study course used to prepare doctoral students for their comprehensive examinations, was unanimously approved.
5. Two Week Business Certificate for Veterans – Vice Dean Sharma discussed a potential new program that would be offered for Veterans dealing with basic concepts in business and entrepreneurship. He envisioned that 30-35 students might take place and that faculty would volunteer their time to teach in the program as a service to the school. Dr. Sharma noted that a number of faculty had already told him they were enthusiastic and more than willing to help offer such a program to our veterans. School Council members also expressed support for the potential program

### **Executive Session**

Council members went into Executive Session to determine the agenda for the fall semester regular faculty meeting which will take place on November 11, 2016.

### **Return to Open Session**

The agenda developed by School Council members for the regular faculty meeting included the following items: Report by Provost Le Blanc on diversity statistics with respect to hiring, salaries; Report from the Chair of the Dean's Search Committee on progress to date; Report from Dean Mehrotra on the School's financial situation; Clarification on the fall feedback process (facilitated by Council member, Howie Gitlow); Results on departmental views regarding grade bands (facilitated by

speaker, Linda Neider); and the proposed new certificate program for Veterans (Vice Dean Arun Sharma)

There being no additional items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00a,