**Transcription of the**

**Faculty Council Meeting**

**May 7, 2018**

**MAI 212 at 2:15 pm**

**[Regular meeting begins at 44:30 in the audio file, after special meeting]**

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Thank you, Charlotte, and thank you for everybody who is standing for election to the Executive Committee and the Chair. Like Charlotte said, we’re very proud of the slate of candidates who are offering their name forward for this important service.

I’d like to welcome everybody today the ninth regular meeting of the Faculty Council for 2017-18, and especially the many guests who have joined us today; it’s great to see you. Reminder for all the members and our visitors of the meeting’s rules, which follow an agenda today and also requires that speakers identify themselves by name and department, and to keep statements brief, to no more than two minutes. And we ask only that Faculty Council members speak, unless granted permission by the Chair.

So we begin with the report of the Secretary. The Secretary is not here today so I’m standing in for Alan Friedman. The first item is the Memorial Resolution for Robert Dale Brooks, professor of Radio, Television & Film, Miguel Gonzalez-Gerth, professor emeritus, Spanish and Portuguese, Barbara J. Harlow, professor of English, and Ernst Lothar Koschmieder, professor emeritus from Civil Engineering.

There are number of important items approved by the Provost, and I wish to highlight those. She has approved changes to the business administration degree and business graduation; to the creative writing and digital humanity certificates in liberal arts, as well as to five majors; the BS in Psychology and in Environmental Science; graduation in the BA in both Plan I and Plan II; to seven degree programs in the College of Communication; to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing; to seven majors to degree programs and one minor in the College of Education; to two administrative procedures regarding students in the School of Law, to the BS in Geosystems Engineering and Hydrogeology degree program in the Cockrell School of Engineering and the Jackson School of Geoscience; and to create two new BS program degrees, and a Material Science Engineering minor; and to change the Electrical and Computer Engineering degree programs; to the Doctoral Pharmacy degree and the policy on academic probation in the College of Pharmacy; and to create a design strategy certificate in the School of Undergraduate Studies.

She has also a proposal to change the name of the Ethics and Leadership flag to Ethics flag, as approved by the Educational Policy Committee, and, along with Dean Douglas Dempster of the College of Fine Arts, and Vice Provost Lorraine Haricombe, she has responded to the resolution of Faculty Council to support the Library Committee statement concerning the Fine Arts Library and this report the Fine Arts Library Task Force.

The Faculty Council elected Brian Korgel professor of Chemical Engineering and Yolanda Padilla, professor of Social Work to serve three-year terms beginning September 2018 on the Undergraduates Advisory Committee. From a panel of names submitted to him by The Council, President Fenves appointed Dr. Ciaran Trace, Associate Professor of Information, to serve a four-year term beginning September 1, 2018 on the University Co-op Board of Directors. He’s also approved the Council Resolution from last month, urging the University to join the Scholars At Risk Network, SAR, and he has asked Dr. Leonard Moore, Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement to implement it. [**48:35**]

I’m sorry, I’m a little bit behind on my slides. **[brief pause]** Let’s see, am I…ok-right. There’s a lot to keep track of-sorry about that.

Items Under Review by the President. Yes, ok! Report of the Committee to nominate faculty members for the Intercollegiate Athletic Councils for Men and Women. He has sent to the Provost for review a recommendation to close the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree program, and the Council’s resolution on Academic Analytics from the Committee of Council and Academic Freedom and Responsibility. The Provost, in consultation with Steven Hoelscher, formed a faculty working group to advice the use of academic analytics, including how the service can assist UT Austin with Strategic Planning and about guidelines for its use. The first in this working group took place on February 9th 2018, followed by another in March 21st. The Faculty Council waits to report in investigating committee on which Faculty Council Chair-Elect, Charlotte Canning serves on the Committee.

Finally, items under review by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: updates to the core curriculum course list from 2018-19; proposals in Liberal Arts to create certificates in Business-Spanish and in Spanish for medical professions; proposed changes to the Chemical Engineering degree; proposed changes to the Music Studies degree program; proposed changes to the names of three BA degrees in the College of Fine Arts; proposed changes to the Bachelor of Science in Textiles in a paired degree program; and to the evidence and inquiry certificate in the College of Natural Sciences.

The Councils approve the cancelation of the 2018 summer meetings of Faculty Council-unless y’all want to meet in June, July and August **[laughter]**, no motions for that? Ok-and the schedule of the Council meetings for next academic year. That’s that. Ok-I neglected one item here, and that is the approval of the minutes. They’ve been posted online and I would like to ask if there are any corrections or additions. None noted? Then they stand as approved.

Alright-the next item on the agenda communicates when the President, unfortunately President Fenves cannot be with us here today, and standing in to address questions will be Provost Maurie McInnis.

**Maurie McInnis, Executive Vice President and Provost**

Well, good afternoon everyone. I’ll start by addressing the questions that were submitted beforehand, and these relate to the planning that is underway for a welcome center in PCL Library. So if you’ll give me a few minutes to tell you about this, I hope that will answer many of your questions. So, have we been looking at this? Yes. But let me explain to you what we are talking about. We are not talking about repurposing space that is currently where any books are located, but instead repurposing academic space. Let me back up a minute and start with what really needs to be the question before that which is why should we, as an institution, think about the visitor experience for the students that we are hoping to recruit to the University of Texas. [**52:35**]

Like many of you in the room, I’m sure you’ve been on many college visits. I had the great joy of doing that with my son just this past year, who’s graduating from high school this year and I was really struck on those visits, how very inferior and inadequate our current visitor experience is. Um, we have them-and it’s not just my own observation on this-when I meet with parents in a variety of different settings, this is actually one of the first complaints that I hear about them. That our visitor experience does little to highlight what is really great about UT Austin, and this is usually coming from people who are both parents but also our friends, alumni and donors. So we have them park at a garage that is about a block off of Guadalupe, they then walk to this incredibly dreary building through some of the least pleasant portions of Guadalupe, to this building called Walter Webb, which is not a nice space. And then, in heavy visitation of late spring and summer, or even early fall, we then march them in the 100-110 degree heat down Guadalupe several blocks, and then across the street, before they even begin a visit that is significant to them. And then they’re a long way from the majority of our campus, and they don’t see a lot of our campus. So what I have done is to ask our new Senior Vice Provost of Enrollment Management to work with her team to try to figure out a way that we can improve the visitor experience and be able to celebrate what is really great about the student experience at the University of Texas at Austin.

And we looked at many, many different locations. And it’s a complicated puzzle, because it’s not just about a space for that visit, it is also about the whole experience. It’s about where you park, it’s about the walk from where you park to that meeting, and then where you are on campus and so what can you reach in a reasonable amount of time in order to be able to show off some of UT’s best assets. And it was determined that if we could get something on Speedway, which is, in many ways, a major access on this campus, that that would be great. And so we needed a place that had about 8000 square feet, that we could purpose towards a welcome center. That would be close to the garage at the base, which is, you know, beside or essentially near the Blanton Museum. It gives us an opportunity to really bring our students into the heart of campus. Early on it was determined that the basement of PCL, which is a place where there are a number of staff offices, could be well-repurposed for this. And the libraries were a very eager partner in this, because it gives them an opportunity to have as an anchor part of the experience, the introduction to our students, that the library is at the core of everything we do. And for them to be able to highlight the ways in which the library serves students and how important it is to the experience at UT Austin.

Moving this 8500 square feet of staff to another floor involves the following: first let me give you some statistics about PCL, which is a fairly massive building. A building that is in total about 500,000 square feet, which is really stunning when you think about it. Not all of that is useable, some of that is stairs and backways and closets where computer cords live and IT infrastructure lives and so forth. But in total, when you get the usable square footage we’re still talking about close to 400,000 square feet, so that’s an enormous amount of square footage. The amount of that space that is devoted to collections is 188,000 square feet, which is about 50% of the building. The amount of square feet that is devoted to study space, to students, is about 132,000 square feet, which is about 34% of the usable space. The square feet that we would be proposing for the welcome center, 8500, is 2% of that usable space.

So some of the staff would be relocated to the 5th floor, which is an important study floor for students, but as part of this, we are also dramatically improving that study space for students. Currently the 5th floor is filled predominantly with the original furniture for that building **[laughter]**. And believe me, if you walk that floor, many of you who remember the 70s will flash back **[more laughter]**. [**57:46**] It’s really a depressing space. And they’ve taken a small portion of the 5th floor and already renovated it with more flexible furniture, movable furniture, furniture that has more access to power, furniture that allows students to configure their studying how they like. The 1970s furniture are these enormous library tables that do not move and vinyl chairs. And so even though we will be slightly reducing the amount of student study space on that floor, we will be giving them vastly improved study space. We have engaged with student leadership, and Vice Provost Lorraine Haricombe has engaged with her Student Advisory Committee. They have all been enthusiastic about both of the changes; improving our visitor experience, many of whom have told me “I came to UT despite my tour” **[laughter]**, as well as improving the quality of study space for them on the 5th floor.

So, part of the question was “Why did we not wait until we had charged the Task Force and allowed them to do their work?” and I can say that a year’s delay in this-because the construction will take time-another year delay is another year we delay doing what we need to be doing to recruit students to UT Austin. The engagement that we’ve had, and in fact we’re taking Faculty Council leadership and C7 leadership through on a tour, I really believe that this is not a major change to PCL. Again, we’re talking about 2% of the usable square footage and improving student studying outcomes. And I think that it would be warmly and widely received by all. [**59:42**]

So, I think that answers the questions that were submitted to me beforehand about that. Okay? Uh, there’s nothing else I need to address.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Thank you, Provost McInnis. So those were the questions. I have a couple of comments on my report today. Just pretty briefly, I would like to thank you all, members of Faculty Council this last year as well as those who will be joining us next year for the opportunity to serve as Faculty Council Chair on this last year. This is my-okay, not as long as you-but it’s my 18th year at UT, and I’ve spent all of my academic career here at UT, except for four years in Louisiana. And, I remember when I stood here two years ago and asked for your vote to become Chair of Faculty Council, I said the primary reason was because of my deep appreciation for this University, and my wish to give something back. I came here as an assistant professor, I rose through the ranks to become full professor. I was kindly protected for much service work during my early years here, and I felt it necessary to be able to give something back to the Institution that has meant so much to me in the development of my career and my life. Serving as chair this last year has been immensely eye-opening. When you’re the Chair, the veil that hides the machinery that organizes the University is lifted, and you see things **[laughter]**. You experience things, you learn more about rules, and governance, policies, procedures, financial pressures, capital problems at our University, creative endeavors that I was not aware of.

I think for me the highlight was when I attended in this very room the awards dinner for two colleagues who I respect enormously; Ted Gordon, who is long-time Department Chair of African and African Diaspora Studies, and really, our University’s long champion of Diversity, and Mary Steinhart, our University’s always-on-call, always-ready-to-help-you-out Faculty Ombuds. And actually, you might be surprised, but she and I talked a lot the last couple of days. They received our University’s highest award, the Civitatis Award, and this is an award bestowed to Faculty leaders who have given a huge amount of their working life to service at this University. It’s an award selected by the University Faculty Council Executive Committee, and to be here for that ceremony was remarkably rewarding for me. I’ve also come to witness more difficult moments of high anxiety and tension, and I guess it all comes with the job, doesn’t it? [**1:02:52]**

We’ve done a lot this year. I went back and I looked at the agendas for the last nine months, and just the very first meeting. We met, we heard about the Campus Climate Response team, which is a way of dealing with so many of the tense problems that our students and faculty face. We heard a report from the super-energized Committee of International Programs and Studies, led by a chair who blows me away, how hard he works and how much he gives to that job. We voted on a resolution in support of President Fenves’ strong statement of support for DACA students, all in that one meeting. And I want to end this year with three items that for me are greatly important. The first is I want you all to hear about a Gallup survey of UT Alumni presented by Joey Williams from the Provost’s Office. I attended a session several months ago presented by the Gallup Organization that polled alumni about their experience. In the experience of students, as you will not be surprised to hear was very positive, very favorable, and Joey will tell us the main reasons for that favorable experience here at UT. Also, there’ll be a report from the University of Texas Press, the Executive Director. I have been on the UT Press Committee for-I don’t even know how long-four years, and quite honestly it’s why I got in Faculty Council in the first place. Because I love books, and I want to be part of the Committee that helped published the books that are so remarkable in changing our understanding of the world. And also you’ll hear a motion from Brian Evans, the incoming faculty counc-oh! Sorry, I’m giving it away **[laughter]**. Um, possibly the incoming Faculty Council Chair, **[more laughter]** who wants to add wording-that was awkward-**[laughter]** to our faculty notification when students drop a class. To know about mental health issues that many of them face that will automatically will be generated for students under tremendous stress. It’s a resolution that Professor Evans will be presenting.

So that’s my brief report and Dr. Canning will give hers.

**Charlotte Canning, Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Thank you, Steve. I have two items to report on in my role as Chair-Elect. The first will be the results of the Faculty Council Chair-Elect election and members of the incoming

Executive Committee as well as a report on the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting I attended in April. So I am very pleased to announce that our incoming Chair-Elect for 2018-19 will be Brian Evans from the Electrical and Computer Engineering. **[applause]**. The incoming members of the Executive Committee will be Martha Hilley from Music, Cynthia Labrake from Chemistry and Christen Smith from Anthropology. **[applause]**. And of course, deep, deep gratitude to all of those who agreed to run. It’s no small choice to make, and their willingness to run is just about the best possible endorsement we could have of Faculty Council and faculty governance.

On April 19th and 20th I represented UT Austin at the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meetings in the System office downtown. Chair Steve Hoelscher joined me as his UT duties allowed. At the meeting we had presentations from Dr. Stephanie Huey, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, and Dr. David Troutman, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. It was a wide-ranging discussion, but one of the key things covered was the complicated issue of dual credit. A co-authored report from the System and the Texas Association of Community Colleges will be available later this calendar year. We also had conversations with Dan Sharphorn who is Vice Chancellor and General Counsel for UT System, as well as Dr. Rebecca Karoff, associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on the Student Success Summit. At the meeting we also held elections for Chair-Elect of the UT Sys Fac. The incoming Chair-Elect is Dr. Gurur Bilicer-Denktas of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The incoming Chair is Dan Cavanaugh of UT Arlington. I was elected Co-chair of the Governance Committee and I will serve in that role with Lynne Hughes of the UT Medical Branch at Galveston. This follows the Sys-Fac practice of pairing academic and health campus leadership on committees. And unless there are any questions about the April UT Sys-Fac meeting, this concludes the report from the Chair-Elect. Thank you.

**[applause]** [**1:08:31**].

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Thank you, Charlotte. The first item in new business is the UT Gallup Alumni Survey, and that’ll be presented by Joey Williams.

**Joe Williams, Director of Communications, Executive & Provost**

Luckily it’s not just me, it’s also Gina Magharious from Institutional Reporting, Research and Information Systems. So Gina’s our survey expert at the University for institutional-wide surveys.

So, yeah-uh, first of all thank you Steve and Faculty Council for inviting us to come and talk about the Gallup Survey that we conducted last year. We are going to give you a very brief version that’s relevant to what this means for the role of faculty, the important role that faculty play in our undergraduate students’ lives here at the University. But the full report is at the IRRIS website. If you go to [reports@utexas.edu](mailto:reports@utexas.edu) you can download and read the full report.

So we partnered with Texas Exes last spring and asked Gallup to come and survey our alumni. And the Gallup survey is actually really interesting because it’s not necessarily a traditional-doesn’t approach us from the traditional matrix of looking at, you know, salaries and job placements. It’s really more broadly focused on “What is a life well lived?”, because there’s lots of benefits that come from an undergraduate degree that don’t necessarily go towards your financial security and your job, although those things are very important. But it kind of gets at a lot of other things that are really important.

So since 2014 they’ve been surveying now over 70,000 US college graduates, and last year they surveyed almost 30,000 of our alumni, and we had a 13% response rate. And we also grouped our respondents into cohorts. So we’re wanting to assess the progress that we’re making over time, and some of these dates have to do with sort of institutional changes that we have. So in 1997 we had the automatic admission policy, was first introduced, and it was revised in 2007, and the we have the cohort of our most recent graduates.

So, like I said, this is a national survey, so we have a national comparison group, and then we also had some customized cohort groups. So our AAU peer groups and our SERU peer groups. And so another thing that makes the survey data interesting is we’re benchmarking our students’ experiences compared to our national peers. So we can actually see why UT education is unique and so [to Gina], jump into some of the well-being stuff.[**1:11:58**]

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

So one of the constructs that Gallup has been studying for a while is well-being, and based on their research they define well-being by five elements. One of those is Purpose: so, liking what you do every day, having goals that you want to achieve. Social Well-being: having strong, supportive relationships in your life. Financial Well-being: a sense of security regarding managing your own finances. And then we have Community: liking where you live, feeling safe. And Physical: so having the health that you need to live the life that you want. And Gallup asked alumni a series of questions related to these five elements, and all of the items were rated on a 5-point scale, and then they re-coded the items to fall into one of three categories, and that is; thriving, struggling or suffering. And so you’ll see here the percent of people that fall into each of those three categories.

And the great news about our alumni is that compared to all three comparison groups, our alumni are doing significantly better, so they are more likely to thrive. And so you’ll see here for Purpose, UT Austin is at 56% thriving, which is higher than the comparison groups. For Social it’s 55%, Financial we’re at 50%, which is a lot higher than the comparison groups if you’ll look which is only between 38 and 41%. And then same for Community and Physical Well-being; we are significantly higher. We’re at 49% with Community and we’re at 38% with Physical.

So that’s a brief look at how our alumni are doing now, and now we’re going to go through a series of statements regarding how alumni reflected on their university experience. And Gallup tends to, what they like to do is focus on the percent who chose “strongly agree,” because they believe that’s a true confirmation of positivity. So for the next series of slides I’m going to focus on the percent who selected “strongly agree” to these statements.

So we have “My professors at UT Austin cared about me as a person”; 17% of UT Austin alumni selected “strongly agree”, and that is significantly higher than the AAU and SERU comparison groups. It’s not as high as the GPI National Comparison Group though.

**Joe Williams, Director of Communications, Executive & Provost**

And they’ve mentioned that that’s actually consistent with large public universities, so a lot of the universities reflected in the survey are smaller to mid-size universities that have a lot smaller faculty-student ratios. So this is consistent with what you’re seeing at large universities.

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

And then there’s the item “I had at least one professor at UT Austin who made me excited about learning.” So we have a really great statistic here, we’re at 68% strongly agree to this statement. And this is significantly higher than all three comparison groups.

“While attending UT Austin I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams.” We are significantly higher than the AAU and SERU comparison group here, though significantly lower than the GPI National. And when asked who the mentor is that helped them pursue their goals and dreams, alumni were given a series of items to select and they could select more than one, and the most common selection was “Professor.” [**1:15:57**]

**Joe Williams, Director of Communications, Executive & Provost**

So in addition to students’ relationships, the important relationship that they have with their faculty, there’s other experiences that they have on campus that also were identified as key drivers of their success. And so here we’re looking at “While attending UT did you have an internship that allowed you to apply what you learned in the classroom?” And so what we’re seeing here is fairly consistent with what’s happening, or slightly above our peer group but as consistent with the National numbers. And I thought this was a really interesting question, you know, students that worked on a long-term project, that we are considerably higher than our AAU and SERU peers in terms of students-undergraduate students, again-who are engaging in long-term projects. And that being a key driver of their well-being, success, post-graduation.

Extracurricular activities: we’re sourcing the same trend, so extracurricular activities, students being involved in the campus culture, outside of the classroom, outside of their academic experiences. The more experiences they’re having with their peers here on campus, it’s reinforcing their success and we’re seeing it tied to their outcomes post-graduation.

And so this is a really great slide because, you know, we read a lot of articles and we hear a lot of people asking about the value of higher education, and value and cost. And so we had a significant number of UT alums that say that their education was worth the cost, and-you know-much higher than our other peer groups. And what we’re seeing here is this broken down by cohort, and so it might not shock anybody to think that-you know-the further away you are from your education, the more life experience you have to reflect on the value of your education and how it’s positively impacted your life. You are more likely to say that your education was worth the cost.

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

So, after reviewing these frequencies, Gallup wanted to see if any of these variables had a strong impact on whether or not someone was to select “strongly agree” to the statement “My education from UT Austin was worth the cost.” So they put all these variables into a logistic regression to test just that, and the four items we have listed here are significant drivers of that statement. So those who are more likely to select “strongly agree” to these four items are more likely to say yes, in fact, their education was worth the cost. And, we have on this next slide an example of how that breaks down. So, those who selected “strongly agree” to the statement that they were challenged academically, those people, 78% of them say “strongly agree” to yes, their education was worth the cost, whereas those who did not select strongly agree to being challenged academically, only 42% of those say that their education was worth the cost. So that just shows the dramatic influence it has.

And, this is just a very brief look at all the data we have through Gallup. We’ve presented more details through other presentations, newsletters, the UT website, and we’re more than happy to do additional presentations and breakdowns in the future. I’m working on some right now, but if any of you have specific questions you want answered with this data, I’m more than happy to look into it, so you can reach out to me. I have my email up here, and just to further plug my office. So my position is really new to the IRRIS department and I’ll be handling all large-scale surveys moving forward so anything that’s administered to the majority of faculty or the majority of students, alumni, staff. However, I am more than happy to help out with any smaller scale surveys that might be administered at the department level, anything that you might be administering to assess your impact, I’m happy to give advice on survey language, survey design. [To Joe] You want to say anything else?

**Joe Williams, Director of Communications, Executive & Provost**

Nope. That’s it.

**[applause]** [**1:21:00**]

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Ah, yes, please come forward and use the microphone to introduce yourself?

**Lorenzo Sadun, Professor, Mathematics**

Lorenzo Sadun, Mathematics, I’m wondering the sense of “it was worth the cost.” Is that broken down by how long ago people graduated and therefore what the cost was? Because the cost has changed dramatically over time, as it has at our competitor schools, and seeing how that’s a function of time would seem to be interesting and important.

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

Yes. So, if you look at this slide you can see how it is broken down, and it is in fact the, um, the earlier cohorts are more likely to say that the education was worth the cost. That could be due to the actual cost, or it could be due to their time since graduation, and they’re able to better reflect on how they’re using their education.

**Joe Williams, Director of Communications, Executive & Provost**

Yeah, and it’s their interpretation of their perception of cost, um, so-but yeah, it’s a good point.

**Samantha Fuchs, Graduate Student, Civil Engineering**

Hi, Samantha Fuchs, Graduate Student Assembly President, I’m interested in how much of the raw data you have access to, because when you go back to some of the comparisons of our school to AAU, that’s actually an average of all those individual schools. So you say we have a 2% improvement which is significant, but I don’t necessarily know if that’s significant if we fall within the standard deviation of those data points. Because that’s just an average of 10 to 20 schools depending on what metric we’re comparing to.

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

Sure. And they do, they give us the comparison data but it is in aggregate form so I can’t break it down by specific schools.

**Samantha Fuchs, Graduate Student, Civil Engineering**

Ok. Thank you.

**Christen Smith, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology**

Christen Smith, African and African Diaspora Studies and Anthropology. I was wondering if there was a breakdown based on minority status in these results.

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

Yes, there is, and we can actually do further analyses on that. We do have that information. The current report that is on the website does not go into too much detail on that, but we’re happy to do additional analyses.

**Anthony Petrosino, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction**

Anthony Petrosino, College of Education. How would we go about then doing that additional analysis? How would we communicate with you and what could we expect in terms of putting in a request for that additional analysis? How would that work?

**Gina Magharious, Survey Coordinator & Data Analyst, IRRIS**

Yes, depending on the nature of the request, there’s different ways we could handle it. If it’s just wanting to know additional information on a few specific items, then I can share that information with you through a very short report put together. If it’s something related to a bigger initiative for the campus, and I know that others at the University would also be interested in learning more, then I could make a more extensive, comprehensive report. And then, there is the potential of providing raw data, but that would come down to approval by departments.

**[Someone from the audience says “thank you”]**

Thank you, guys!

**[applause]** [**1:24:35**]

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Okay. Thank you, I’d like to welcome Dave Hamrick from UT Press.

**[long pause, waiting]**

David, I just introduced you, the Director of UT Press.

**[pause, waiting]**

**David S Hamrick, Director, University of Texas Press**

Ditched the jacket, rolled up the sleeves-oops! I think I was scheduled to come on at 2:45 so my guess is the last thing you wanna hear about right now is UT Press. So…we’ll try.

I’m really pleased to have the opportunity to be here today. I think this is the first time that a Press Director has spoken to the Council. It’s been at least 30 years, if at all. I want to thank-first-also, Steve for the invitation. Steve also serves as the Chairman of our Faculty Advisory Committee, which is a body that is appointed by the Council and President’s Office that is integral to the operation of Press. I wanted to mention-and some of you are here, I know-the members of this year’s committee, in addition to Steve, Naomi Lindstrom, Adam Rabinowitz, Jim Cox, Karin Wilkins, Pauline Strong, Linda McLellan, Julie Guernsey and Donna Kornhaber. [**1:27:04**]

I’ve got 10 minutes, so I’m going to have to move through some information very quickly, really at break-neck speed. What I hope to do is give you a brief history of the Press, from its beginnings to today, talk about the Press’s engagement with the University, our engagement with the Academy, some brief highlights.

So, to begin with, the Press was founded in 1950. We published our first books in 1951: two books, to be exact. I brought the catalogue, this was the catalogue **[reaction from audience, laughter]**. It has-the two books were *The Florida of The Inca* and a collection of letters between Robert Browning and Isabella Blagden. There are some other books in the back that I think were university publications, probably departmental papers and other things, and if the publication was no longer available the just got a red rubber stamp and put “out of print” or got a red pencil and marked through it. The second year, the Press published nine titles. And then by 1953, things were looking up. Super-sized the catalog…actually, have a photograph of a cow on the cover, it was the first catalog with a photo illustration on it.

A lot has happened since 51. This is our current catalog. It’s 124 pages. We have published-we published-43 titles for manuscript, a couple of distributed titles and we have 13 journals. So we’ve come a long way. Some numbers for you; we publish a total of 3900 titles, we have 2700 titles in print, we publish in 13 core subject areas. And I would characterize our acquisitions philosophy in this way: we’re innovative, experimental, flexible, we’re calculated risk-takers, but we also recognize and admit mistakes, abort when we screw up, and move forward when something doesn’t work. We’re publishing about 80 books annually. This is down from a peak of about 100 titles per year. We have a staff of 43. We’re downsizing somewhat. Our senior management of nine has over 150 years of combined book and publishing experience and we operate our own fulfillment and distribution system, and we have a warehouse. We also have commission sales reps who cover the globe.

Our engagement with UT Austin: the Press sort of operates quietly and I suspect many of you don’t know a lot about the Press. Sort of under the surface of daily campus headlines, and it would be impossible for you to know that in the last five years, we’ve published 41 UT faculty. We have another 16 under contract and two members of the faculty serve as series editors for us. We have longstanding and some recent book series with multiple departments on campus. The oldest are LLILAS; the Center for Middle Eastern Studies; the Center for Mexican American Studies; Classics; Film and Media; the Driscoll Center, and more recently, the Schusterman Center. We created an institutional imprint, books that would probably fall outside of peer review, that we call “tower books.” And we offer publishing services, consultation and distribution. And we’ve worked with the Blanton, the HRC, the Office of Graduate Studies, College of Fine Arts, Cockrell School of Engineering, UT System, Benson Library, the Stark Center for Physical Culture, School of Undergraduate Studies, Office of Diversity and Community Engagement, the LBJ Library, the Briscoe again, and Landmarks.

Moving beyond the campus, we attend about 20 to 25 academic conferences each year and we promote the University in the Press books by running ads in about 75 scholarly journals and the *New York Review of Books*. We also attend Frankfurt Book Fair, London and Guadalajara. And our international rights manager has sold, in the last five years, translations to fifteen different countries around the world. [**1:33:16**]

We also contribute to what I refer to as the ecosystem of humanity scholarship. Annually, we publish on average about 20 promotion and tenure books, and somewhere between 20 and 25 revised dissertations or first books. Last year, in 2017, our 80, 85 titles received about 600 reviews, both print and online, and in diverse scholarly journals and also general interest media publications that included, nationally, the *New York Review*, *NPR*, we have 17 hits in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Atlantic*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Harper’s*, *The New Yorker*, on and on.

Some recent publishing highlights, that I sort of randomly picked that are odd in certain ways; we’ve won the Society for American Archeology Book Award two years in a row. I don’t think that’s ever happened, they only do one book, a year. Barbara Mundy’s book on 16th century Mexico City won major association book prizes in Art History, colonial studies and environmental history. That rarely happens. We won book awards from the James Beard Foundation for cooking and food reference 3 out of the last 7 years and, to our knowledge, no publisher’s ever done that. Luc Sante in the *New York Times Book Review* selected two out of a total of nine of UT Press titles for Best Photography Books of the Year. And in 2019, we’re launching a Texas bookshelf, which is 15 books, about the history and culture of Texas, all published by UT faculty and staff.

Outsiders are taking note. Some of you that know me have heard me talk about this; about two weeks ago, Dwight Garner the Senior Book Critic at the *New York Times*, on the same day that the *Times* reviewed Geoff Dyer’s book on Garry Winogrand, tweeted “The University of Texas Press is becoming a smart, flexible, unpredictable powerhouse, a model academic press.” So were spreading mad, far and wide. Couldn’t have paid somebody to write that.

I personally believe that a university has a kind of collective institutional spirit, a soul, if you wish, that’s larger than the physical place itself. And it’s composed of a constellation of hundreds of disparate and diverse pieces, both large and small. The French place such a high value on books they often refer to them as spiritual capital. And in my view, the Press is an integral and essential part of the University’s spiritual identity. It’s very common, I think, for university presses-I’ve been at the Press for 17 years-but I know a lot of people in the association. And people tend to work at university presses for long periods of time. It’s very easy to get complacent and sort of operate on a push button basis, but we have, our current staff has great drive, ambition, and we’re really reaching. We have a staff of believers.

I’ll close, because I know you’re tired, with a quote I recently discovered in *History of the Book*. It was written in 1932, and I’ve adapted it slightly…but this is kind of our mantra at the moment: “We are a publishing house, crossroads of civilization, refuge of the Arts and Humanities against the ravages of time. Friend, you stand with us on sacred ground.”

Thank you very much.

**[applause]** [**1:38:35**]

Yeah, I’ll take some questions, yeah.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Are there any questions for Dave Hamrick?

**David S Hamrick, Director, University of Texas Press**

Alright, thank you.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Alright, our last item for new business. I would like to invite Brian Evans to present the motion that he’s been working on.

**Brian L. Evans, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Okay, so this started with a brief read of *The Daily Texan*, and it was a very interesting article. So this is a motion to add wording to faculty notification of a student dropping a course. And so, we’ve been through this many times, and this semester probably as well, I have. So a student initiates a course drop with his or her college, the college/school then will notify the instructor. Language includes things like “if you suspect academic dishonesty, let us know,” that’s pending. So the April 17th article in *The Daily Texan* suggested that to add language to these notices about student well-being. So I contacted the Counselling & Mental Health Center and see what they suggest. So I got-I’ve already been working with-she goes by Thea-but Dr. Thea Woodruff, on a well-being project in our department. And so I said “Ok, what can you, is there something that you could suggest?” So, she got back to me and said, “Sure!”

So, the two sets of arrows of the wording that she had said back to me, so she said “first, here’s the wording that the Dean of Students approves. If you have any concerns about, well, for this, or any member of our campus community please call the Behavioral Concerns Advice Line, BCAL, et cetera.” And the second one was from CAM, the Counselling And Mental Health Center, it was about the crisis line. Okay so I’ll quote this again in the next line. So, this is the last line. So, the motion is to add the following wording to the instructor notification of a student initiating a course drop, and here’s the, “for read here if you have any concerns about or for this or any other member of our campus community, please call the Behavioral Concerns Advice Line BCAL; (512) 232-5050. As a reminder, if a student is experiencing a mental health crisis, the Counselling & Mental Health Center CMHC crisis line is available 24/7; (512) 471-2255. Feel free to distribute this number to the students.” That’s it.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Are there any, is there any discussion about the motion that Brian is presenting? **[silence]** Okay, well then I will take, if there are any more, is there a motion to vote?

**Un-named, Faculty Member/Meeting Attendee**

So moved.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

So moved. Any second?

**Un-named, Faculty Member/Meeting Attendee**

Second.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

All those in favor please say aye?

**Several Faculty Members/Meeting Attendees**

**[collective]** Aye.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Those opposed?

**[silence]**

Okay! The motion passes. Thank you, Brian.

Alright, the last item is announcements. I’ve already mentioned this before that summer Faculty Council meetings are cancelled, and that annual reports of the General Faculty Standing Committees are due. I guess Debbie’s received several, but they’re due now, so please send them in.

The last thing is if there are any questions to the Chair of Faculty Council?

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Yes, I have a question.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Yes.

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Holly Williams, I’m with the College of Fine Arts.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Are you requesting permission to speak? One has to be a Faculty Council member.

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Only Faculty Council members can speak?

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Yes, but I will-

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Yes, I am requesting permission.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Yes, please.

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Thank you.

A very serious resolution, unsigned, which contains allegations against the College of Fine Arts Dean, was sent to me by the Chair Elect of the Faculty Council. It was sent to other members of the College of Fine Arts, only to some faculty, not all, not even all eligible voting faculty. It was sent to three of the four departments, excluded was the new School of Design and Creative Technology. I have been asked to vote in favor of or against this resolution by the Chair Elect of Faculty Council. Chair Hoelscher has said repeatedly that neither the Faculty Council nor the Faculty Council Executive Committee has been involved in directing matters pertaining to the College. I have only several questions, and they’re very short.

My first question is this: is it within the authority and general function of the Faculty Council Executive Committee to facilitate balloting and tallying of an internal matter of a college?

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Would you please put forth all your questions?

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

My second question is: who on the Faculty Council Executive Committee agreed to do this on behalf of the College of Fine Arts? My final question is: would you not call this involvement, and why did Faculty Council Executive Committee continue to arrange for ballot collection and tallying of votes with another entity, even after concerns of impropriety and overstep of authority were raised? Why not just step away?

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Thank you very much for your questions. Let me just get right to the point: we have stepped away, and I believe we’ve answered your questions. The point that I made-

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

I’m sorry, you didn’t answer my question. My first question is, is it within the-

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Would you please let me finish? Uh, excuse me, but will you please let me finish my reply!

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Sure! If I have a response.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Yes.

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Thank you.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

As I’ve made clear in my emails to you, which were copied to Faculty Council members, Faculty Council is not participating in the poll currently underway in the College of Fine Arts. And let me provide a bit more background to why I’m saying that.

A group of tenured faculty in the College of Fine Arts determined this spring that in their view, conditions in the college call for faculty to consider a formal expression of their concerns. They learned, as I, now, that our University’s handbook of operating procedures has no policy regarding no-confidence votes. We don’t have it, it doesn’t exist. As a result, the initiators of the petition had to create one that they felt that they tried to make as fair and subjective as they could make it. I don’t believe that they were under any illusion that such a vote would carry any legislative weight. It was simply an opinion poll. Its only function was to provide a statement of opinions shared by those who endorse it.

The organizers of the vote approached campus faculty leaders, including me, whom they felt had wide trust and respect to do one thing and one thing only: simply, to count. And for the same reason, the faculty ombuds was asked to deliver the results of the administration. It’s as simple as that. Count, and deliver to the administration. Now, one thing that’s become clear to me in our email exchanges is the high level of distrust that is circulating. And one thing I’ve learned-and I’ve learned it well-is that I cannot assume that simply because I understand something to be clearly defined neutrality, i.e. simply to count ballots, along with other senior faculty members from other colleges not connected to Fine Arts, College of Pharmacy, Business and Engineering, I can’t assume that that would necessarily be perceived the same way by everyone. I’ve learned that, Associate Dean Williams.

Perceptions matter, they matter importantly, especially when the conflict at stake is so intense. This is especially true in the highly charged climate that we live in. With that in mind, and in order to ensure that there is no perceived conflict of interest, the ballots will now not be picked up by me or other faculty council past chairs, but rather, a staff member from the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs will collect those ballots, and count them, and share the results with the Administration and the College.

The second thing I’ve learned in this exchange, is that there is indeed a need in our University’s HOP for some sort of policy that provides a mechanism for faculty to provide such input when it’s deemed necessary. Now, of course, I hope that such a need never arises, but if it ever does, our university needs to be prepared.

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

Thank you for that prepared statement. I agree with you, perceptions do matter, so I reiterate my first question and just ask for a simple answer. Is it within the authority and general function of the Faculty Council Executive Committee to facilitate balloting and tallying of an internal matter of a college?

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

This was not a Faculty Council Executive Committee decision, it was a decision by the Faculty Council chair, that would be me, to work with other previous chairs of all, Faculty Council, Graduate Asssembly, and the Office of the General Faculty. So, no, we-

**Holly Williams, Associate Dean & Professor, Theatre and Dance**

So, that’s yes. **[Meeting attendee/ FC member, off microphone: “no, it is not”]** It’s not within the purview. It is-you’re saying it is within the purview, because that’s what you’ve done. Thank you!

**Brian L. Evans, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Steve, may I-are you finished? Okay, then that’s, I’ll.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Brian, please?

**Brian L. Evans, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering**

So, Brian Evans, Chair of Academic Freedom Committee. There are, what Steve said is-from my understand, is-they, this is not a Faculty Council Executive Committee matter. So your question is ill-posed from the beginning. Thank you.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

And I would say, furthermore, it’s even, um, I wanted to answer questions that arose about this because I know the issue is so hot, but this is not the place. This room, Faculty Council is not the place to discuss issues that are happening within that college.

**[To Professor Harney]** Yes?

**Michael P. Harney, Professor, Spanish and Portuguese**

Michael Harney, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. A student has just requested to ask a question, and I believe the procedure is I, concede the floor to him, having just requested. Is that correct?

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Yes

**Michael P. Harney, Professor, Spanish and Portuguese**

**[To student]** Yes

**Adriant Bereal, Student, College of Fine Arts**

My name is Adriant Bereal and I’m a sophomore design major. My question is why were students not involved in this process and these discussions?

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Thank you for that question. Uh, that’s not for me to answer. I was not involved—

**Jody Jensen, Professor, Kinesiology & Health Education**

Mr. Chair. I rise to point of order. I rise to raise a point of order. That this topic is not within the purview of Faculty Council, it is not on the agenda, we’re not the organizing bodies for what happened in the College of Fine Arts, therefore I believe it is out of order. Jody Jensen, Kinesiology, Health Education.

Uh, that is not-it’s not a debatable, it doesn’t require a second.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Okay. Thank you.

**Bruce Pennycook, Professor, School of Music**

Mr. Chair, I am not a member I request to ask a very little question.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Yes.

**Bruce Pennycook, Professor, School of Music**

Just so there is clarification, and I do appreciate the communications we have had. Pardon me? Oh-I’m sorry-Bruce Pennycook, Professor, Butler School of Music and Chair of Arts and Entertainment Technology Department. Just for clarification, and I know you, we’ve been through this, but the members need to know what I received. What I received, and I quote, I have “I,” meaning James Buhler, Professor Buhler, “have been asked to pass along to all tenured faculty in the division, notice that the Office of the General Faculty, the University Council, will be conducting a vote on a resolution of no confidence in the Dean of the College of Fine Arts.” That’s pretty clear. That’s what I received. All of the Butler School of Music, that’s what we received. But I do thank you for the exchanges we’ve had.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Well, and thank you. You did forward that email to me, and you recall my reply was I think, “My goodness! That’s a mistake.” And it is indeed a mistake.

Okay! Well then, I will take a motion to conclude our meeting, if there is such a motion?

**Un-named, Faculty Member/Meeting Attendee**

So moved

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Second? All those in favor?

**Several Faculty Members/Meeting Attendees**

**[collective]** Aye.

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Opposed?

**Un-named, Faculty Member/Meeting Attendee**

Nay! **[laughter]**

**Steven D. Hoelscher, Faculty Council Chair and Professor, American Studies**

Okay, well, there’s one nay **[laughter]**. Have a good summer, see you in the fall.

**[chatter]**