**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Of December 2, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year was held December 2, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

1. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Present: Chad Mahood, Chris Packham, Brian Davies, Drew Johnson, Alexis Godet, Manuel, Marcus Hamilton, John Wald, Mike Doyle, Matthias Hofferberth, Josh Thurow, Rene Zenteno, Gabriela Romero Uribe, Kimberly Fonzo, Whitney Chappell, Andy Lloyd, Curtis Brewer, Jeff Prevost, Diane Abdo, Mary McNaughton- Cassill, Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick, Sylvia Mansour, Richard Gretz, Dan Hollas, Mahmut Sonmez, Richard LeBaron, John Alexander, Ginny Garcia-Alexander, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Rica Ramirez, Sonya Aleman, Jurgen Engelberth, Tianou Zhang, Gina Amatangelo, David Hansen, Dennis Lopez, Becky Huang, Kim Kline, Devon Romero, Branco Ponomariov, Felicia Castro, Charles Liu, Raj Boppana

Absent: not available

Guests: Kimberly Espy, Heather Shipley, Melinda Utoft, Debra Del Toro, Sheri Hardison, Bernard Arulanandam, Jaclyn Shaw

Total members present: 53 Total members absent: not available

1. Consent Calendar

* Approval of minutes – November 11, 2021
* No one objected to Consent Agenda

1. Reports

**Academic Affairs Updates –** Provost Espy & Heather Shipley

- see PowerPoint slides

- UTSA’s implementation of Adobe Creative Cloud’s innovative tools significantly impacts student success.

- Southwest School of Arts update

- Faculty Titles and Promotion update

- Review of Institutional Merit Process – Faculty Annual Review

**University Leadership Updates:**

**-** Sheri Hardison, Sr. Assoc. VP for Financial Affairs – FY2021 Financial Results (see PowerPoint)

**-** Dr. Bernard Arulanandam, VPREDKE - Overview on Accelerate 2030 – Knowledge Enterprise Framework

* 1. **Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood –** no report

* 1. **Secretary of the General Faculty** – no report
  2. **Graduate Council Chair –** no report
  3. **Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –** Drew Johnson: Heather Shipley talked to AFEM about considering a change on what to do with written comments on teaching evaluations. Recommendation is for the written comments be shared with Dept. Chairs and Deans. AFEM will take this topic into consideration and have a meeting with Dr. Shipley in the future about what a process might look like.
  4. **Budget Committee** – no report; John Wald

Governance in the HOP; there could be a Buildings Committee. There currently is not a Buildings Committee at UTSA and so this a missing part of governance in the HOP. John is requesting an Ad-hoc committee; need a list of people and put it on that consent agenda for the next month.

* 1. **HOP Committee** – Matthias and HOP committee currently reviewing different policies and possible changes to various policies.
  2. **Research Committee –** no report
  3. **Curriculum Committee** – no report

*UCC BIL Concentration Comment Apology:*

The faculty senate university curriculum committee (UCC) unanimously and strongly affirms both (1) the English Department's Black, Indigenous, and Latina/x Literature in English Major Concentration as a well-designed and important program that will greatly benefit our students, and (2) the expertise of the English faculty. The comment did not call any of this into question, although we see now how its ambiguous phrasing led folks to think that it did. The committee apologizes for how the comment was phrased and for the distress and dismay this has caused. The comment sought to address what the proposal itself mentions in its final section: the climate history in the English department. The comment’s intent was to invite a conversation about whether, given the department’s climate history, the concentration had the support that it needed to thrive. All members of the UCC want the BIL concentration to succeed and serve our students well and we wish the English department and its faculty success in implementing this important concentration.

1. **Unfinished Business:**
2. **Open discussion:**

* Marcus Hamilton asking about the Southwest School of Arts and how the faculty senate should play a role in the process. Josh Thurow also makes comment on the how the decision was made for UTSA to get involved and have leadership explain the process.
* Rica Ramirez passing along message from faculty colleagues about the recent communications from UTSA regarding the football coach’s new contract, funding of new Athletics Conference and the disparity in pay between Athletics and faculty. The sentiment is the UTSA Leadership is out of touch with the actual experience of a faculty/staff member and students. Requesting that someone from University Leadership come to speak to the Faculty Senate about these concerns.

1. **New Business:**
2. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:57 PM