

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of May 7, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2019-2020 academic year was held May 7, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Present: Chad Mahood, Chris Packham, Richard Harris, Abraham Graber, Alex Godet, Andrew Konove, Becky Huang, Branco Ponomariov, Curtis Brewer, Dan Sass, Debra Pena, Dennis Lopez, Diane Abdo, William Land, Drew Johnson, Elaine Sanders, Emily Bonner, Evangeline Aguilera, Huy Le, Ian Caine, James Chambers, Jamon, Halvaksz, James Dawes, Jeffrey Prevost, John Wald, John Zarco, Karen Williams, Kim Kline, Langston Clark, Liang Tang, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Matthias Hofferberth, Michael Doyle, Michael Miller, Ovidio Giberga, Paul Ardoin, Priya Prasad, Raj Boppana, Rene Zenteno, Rican Ramirez, Roger Enriquez, Sabina Kapoor, Samson Alva, Sharon Nichols, Sonya Aleman, Taylor Edwards, Tina Zawacki, Whitney Chappell, Ying Huang,

Absent: not available

Guests: Si Millican, Kimberly Espy, Melissa Vito, Heather Shipley, Melinda Utoft, Roel Ramos

Total members present: 49 Total members absent: not available

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – April 23, 2020
- No one objected to Consent Agenda

III. Reports

Kimberly Espy

- Fall 2020 planning: planning based on health, wellness, safety; public health officials are developing UT system wide guidance; UTSA is currently putting together tactical teams; the Research tactical team is getting started early – goal is to think about intersection of facilities and activities and determine what need to come back to campus if possible. Role of the faculty senate is to share information and evaluate, then communicate back to other tactical teams and administration. Faculty Senators are still welcome to volunteer for the tactical teams.

Heather Shipley

- There will be changes to the faculty evaluations timeline; automatic extension of tenure clock. You may opt out of the extension. Please contact Melinda Utoft if any faculty member wishes to opt out.

Melissa Vito

- Academic Innovations office is currently working on collecting student feedback; once the office can put together the feedback responses, the office will pull it together and send out. More colleges and campus offices currently sending out surveys. What the Academic Innovations office is hearing from students: similar to faculty; jarring to have to move and transition quickly, internet and technology reliability. ZOOM bombing and crash in blackboard. Feelings about courses are mixed. Some faculty are holding to the same standard in the classroom and some faculty are giving up in the classroom. Thinking about the faculty and students going into the fall and how important the face-to-face learning environment is important to everyone.

Chair's Report: Chad Mahood

- Electronic voting over the summer
- Debra Pena will remain Secretary and Dan Sass will be Parliamentarian
- Chair's Council Memo: **The Faculty Senate voted as follows: 41 support the memo**
- Discuss about By-Law changes to Vice Chair which will be through an electronic vote: **The Faculty Senate voted as follows: Approvals: 40, Extensions: 0, Abstain: 1**

ZOOM CHAT:

Your edit however says Chair/Chair-Elect. That should be removed

From Abraham Graber to Everyone: 04:02 PM

You should also add a clause re: resignations.

From Samson Alva to Everyone: 04:02 PM

I suggest that the appointed person be given the title of "Acting Vice-Chair"

From Abraham Graber to Everyone: 04:03 PM

I agree with Samson. That'd elegantly solve the problems

A. Curriculum Committee –

Raj: Undergraduate Curriculum catalog changes the senate reviewed and approved. All changes are in the catalog have been approved by senate except for 4. Anything that was approved by the faculty senate but is not in the catalog, happened after the deadline in October. **The Faculty Senate voted as follows: Approvals: 37, Extensions: 0, Abstain: 1**

Si Millican & Heather Shipley: answering questions about the course catalog. Electronic Vote can be made. Si has a core curriculum study; general education curriculum is core and makes up about 34% of UTSA degrees. Proposing a self-study on the core curriculum with a SWOT analysis at UTSA that has not been done before. Colleagues across the entire campus would have the opportunity to get involved. Timeline: committee starts in Fall 2020 collecting data and analyze the data in Spring 2021.

Nathan Richardson – Chair Council Rep: budget planning. *(shared document to faculty senate)* The 9% budget cut in depts. Are actually more than 9%; what these cuts are actually doing to the departments. Faculty Senate will receive a final version of memo and then have a vote of support.

B. Graduate Council Chair – no report

- C. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Plus/Minus grading; electronic vote. **The Faculty Senate voted as follows: Option A: 41, Option B: 16, Option C: 3**

ZOOM CHAT:

Time is short. There's an important budget meeting on May 18 So FS will need to consider this ASAP Does this apply to graduate courses as well? My recollection is that +/- attracts more opposition for graduate courses than for undergraduate courses.

From Priya Prasad to Everyone: 04:34 PM

Yes, the graduate student reps said the grad students did NOT want plus minus

From Samson Alva to Everyone: 04:36 PM

But might it not be better to split the issue across Undergrad/Grad?

From Abraham Graber to Everyone: 04:37 PM

I'd like that

From Samson Alva to Everyone: 04:37 PM

That is, take votes separately on the two options for Undergrad and for Grad That's what I'm suggesting.

From John Wald to Everyone: 04:38 PM

what about courses that are cross-offered grad and undergrad? I would recommend keeping it simple with the current vote.

From Samson Alva to Everyone: 04:38 PM

Cross-listed courses still have different syllabi for each course, the undergrad and the grad version. So it's not an issue

From jamon Halvaksz to Everyone: 04:40 PM

And within a department they use different approaches. No question, just a clarification

- D. Budget Committee – response to faculty summer pay memo, version II will be going to an electronic vote. **The Faculty Senate voted as follows: support memo: 35, do not support memo: 1, Abstain: 5.**
- E. HOP Committee – no report
- F. Research Committee – no report
- IV. Open discussion: can faculty decide if they can move their courses online in the fall due to health concerns of the faculty member?
- V. New Business: none.
- VI. Adjournment:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:01PM