

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of January 26, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2016-2017 academic year was held January 26, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. in the Regents' Room (MB 3.106) with Dr. Emily Bonner, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Sonya Aleman, Michael Baumann, Saadet Beeson, Christie Blizzard, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Jackie Cuevas, Karen Daas, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Walter Ermler, Ray Garza, Edgar Ghossoub, Dmitry Gokhman, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Gregory Hazleton, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Melvin Laracey, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, John Nix, Sandy Norman, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Lloyd Potter, Kelly Suter, Joshua Thurow, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, Karen Williams

Absent: Jennifer Alexander, Pepe Chang, Samer Dessouky, Martha Fasci (excused), Ruyan Guo (excused), Richard Harris, Michael Karcher, Randall Manteufel, Michael Moyer (excused), Ashok Nedungadi, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Derek Plantenga, Dan Sass (excused), Liang Tang (excused), David Thompson (excused), Hongjie Xie

Guests: Martha Lundell, Sarah Soulek, Carey Walls, Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 36

Total members absent: 16

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – December 8, 2016
The minutes were approved.
- Grad Council certificates:
 - Certificate in Applied Health Research
 - Certificate in Community Nutrition
 - Certificate in Health
 - Certificate in Bilingual Counseling (CBC)The grad council certificates were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that a survey will be distributed to faculty senators soon to get more faculty input on the Presidential search. She said there have not been any meetings or updates regarding the search so far. She also said that representatives from UT System visited with La Raza faculty yesterday to discuss how to include more representation from Hispanic faculty. Dr. Bonner said that she is serving on the Budget Planning and Sustainability Taskforce which is taking a more in-depth look at how UTSA is funded, and will review different budgeting models going forward. A PowerPoint is available in the January senate meeting folder on SharePoint. She said she is looking forward to seeking input from the senate's budget committee as well. One change that has been implemented is that colleges now keep 75% of salary when a faculty member leaves. The other 25% goes into the Provost's pool to be re-distributed as needed. Dr. Bonner said that a new Provost initiative for diversity and inclusion is underway and various councils are being formed at the college level. Dr. Bonner said that a survey from the department chair's council will be distributed to senators regarding issues to be looked at within the Graduate School. The results will be shared with the Provost.

Dr. Bonner invited John Nix to give a brief overview of the results of the IT Organizational Assessment conducted by Huron Consultants. The results pointed out key challenges and recommendations for UTSA. Additional information can be found in the Chair's Report on SharePoint.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow

Dr. Thurow attended the most recent SYSFAC meeting. He said the Associate Vice Chancellor for Leadership Development and Veteran's Affairs is creating a Chancellor's Network for Women's Leadership. Each campus will form a campus chapter and elect two champions to serve on the executive committee that will meet with the Chancellor for an annual workshop on leadership. Shared governance visits are expected to start later this semester, after some additional details are worked out. Other initiatives underway are the ITL (Institute for Transformative Learning) which is expected to be available by the end of the year for campuses to use for online education, and revisions to the Regent's Rules on faculty workload to better reflect what faculty do. He said that Jill Hernandez is currently serving on this committee. The legislature has proposed cuts to UT System, as well as a tuition freeze for 4 years. Dr. Thurow said that the Academic Affairs Committee is working on a dual credit study and is producing a report on "aspirational best-practices" for the use of NTTs.

C. Provost's Report – Jesse Zapata (for Mauli Agrawal)

Dr. Zapata said he did not have any specific topics from the Provost to report on and called for questions.

A question was asked about candidate visits to UTSA for the Presidential search. He said that due to the Regent's Rules, candidates applying for a Presidential position do not make public campus visits.

A question was asked about how long faculty development leave requests are going to be suspended. He said that was a one-time decision for this year, and the topic may or may not be revisited next year.

A question was asked about the lack of Hispanic faculty representation on the Presidential search committee. He said that the rules governing the committee's formation do not permit adding additional members at this point. He said that all groups were asked independently to nominate representatives, and because of this, groups unfortunately weren't able to see everyone nominated until the committee was put into place.

D. Research Committee – Chris Packham

Dr. Packham said that the research survey link will be sent out to senators soon. He encouraged all senators to discuss it with their departments, but to submit only one survey per department. He said the survey is due on February 17th. The survey results will be discussed by the Vice President for Research's office and the senate's research committee. Results will be communicated at a later date.

E. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

The Curriculum Committee reviewed two proposals and recommends both be accepted:

1. Proposal for a BS in Biology with a concentration in 7-12 biology teacher certification
2. Proposal to discontinue the BA degree program in Infancy and Childhood Studies (BAAS)

The senate voted to unanimously approve both proposals.

IV. Unfinished Business

An electronic vote was conducted in December for a resolution regarding the protection and support of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students at UTSA. The resolution passed with a vote of 32 yes, 2 no, and 3 (active) abstentions. The resolution has been forwarded to the President, Provost, and Chancellor of UT System.

In addition, a town hall meeting regarding DACA will be held tonight at the Downtown campus. Although the RSVP limit has been reached, the town hall can still be livestreamed.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:00 p.m.