

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
of November 10, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2016-2017 academic year was held November 10, 2016, 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, Jennifer Alexander, Michael Baumann, Saadet Beeson, Christie Blizard, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Pepe Chang, Jackie Cuevas, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Walter Ermler, Edgar Ghossoub, Dmitry Gokhman, Ruyan Guo, Jamon Halvaksz, Richard Harris, Gregory Hazleton, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Michael Moyer, Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Sandy Norman, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Derek Plantenga, Dan Sass, Kelly Suter, Liang Tang, David Thompson, Joshua Thurow, Christopher Wickham, Karen Williams

Absent: David Bojanic, Karen Daas, Samer Dessouky, Martha Fasci, Ray Garza, David Hansen, Melvin Laracey, Randall Manteufel, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Lloyd Potter (excused), Alistair Welchman (excused), Hongjie Xie (excused)

Guests: Alexis Godet (for Hongjie Xie), Can Saygin, Jaelyn Shaw, Sarah Soulek, Mickey Stevenson, Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 40

Total members absent: 12

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – October 13, 2016  
The minutes were approved.
- Graduate Council bylaw changes  
The proposed changes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that CLASS taskforces will replace the GRIP. These taskforces will focus on the following areas: Onboarding, FYE, Academic Support, Financial Aid, and Leadership. Highlights from the last GRIP meeting showed that 4 year and 6 year

graduation rates are each up by 7%. Graduating student survey results show areas of high satisfaction in content of courses, quality of instruction, and accessible faculty. Areas of lower satisfaction include major courses offered when needed, academic support services, classroom technology, and advisor accessibility. Some results by department and college are available through institutional research. Other GRIP highlights include a small increase in first year retention and high retention for peer mentors. A CLASS taskforce is working to create 7-8 academic pathways or meta majors. New campus software for advisors, SSC Campus, is coming to UTSA later this semester. Dr. Bonner said that the summer policy (summer surge) from last year is no longer in place. A summer academy for students at risk of dropping out is in the works, and faculty are encouraged to continue developing effective online courses to better serve students.

Dr. Bonner said that an electronic vote on a resolution regarding COLFA's budget was conducted earlier last week. The resolution passed with a vote of 32 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention. The Dean met with chairs and senators last week to discuss future plans. In addition, the Provost has assisted financially which has lowered the budget cuts from approximately 50% to around 15% (estimated). Dr. Bonner said that she is working with the SGA President to determine the best way to disseminate information to students. Future initiatives for long-term communication include curriculum streamlining and review, and budget collaboration at the department level.

Dr. Bonner said that an institutional technology assessment is currently underway at UTSA. More information will be coming soon. Lastly, the chair's council determined that it would be helpful for their representative (as well as the senate's representative) to have a PowerPoint slide giving an overview of what was discussed in the most recent meeting for each group.

#### B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow

Dr. Thurow said that he attended the most recent Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting (TCFS). He said that an AAUP report was given on the history, uses, and abuses of Title IX. The report identified some potential threats to academic freedom and recommended best practices for colleges, university administrators, and faculty members. Dr. Thurow also attended the most recent University Assembly meeting where an update was given on the university's Blueprint plan, student success was discussed, and a presentation on PIVOT was given. A \$3.25 million grant will enable the PIVOT program to develop plans aimed at increasing student success.

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

Dr. Zapata said that he will now be overseeing the following operations:

- Teaching and Learning Services at UTSA (will transfer from library to VPAFS on Dec. 1, 2016)
- Faculty Awards, including: President's Distinguished Achievement Awards, Richard S. Howe Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, UT System Academy for Distinguished Teachers, Piper Professor Teaching Award, and national awards (a new initiative).
- Faculty Evaluation Process, including: Annual Appraisal, Third Year Reviews, Promotion and Tenure Reviews, Comprehensive Periodic Evaluations, and Emeritus Applications.

- NTT Faculty On-Boarding

D. HOP Committee – Glenn Dietrich

Dr. Dietrich said that his committee reviewed HOP 10.10 Human Research, which is a policy that mostly references federal laws and state rules. He said there are some links to university documents, which had previously prompted discussion on whether language should be included to specify that faculty should be consulted before those documents are changed. There was a motion made to table the review, pending clarification on this item. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the senate.

E. Research Committee – Chris Packham

Dr. Packham introduced some guests from VPR: Can Saygin, Jaclyn Shaw, and Mickey Stevenson. Dr. Saygin said that the senate's research committee and the VPR have been working on ways to improve communication and collaboration. A survey will be distributed to members of the faculty senate in December, and the results will be reviewed to determine the main causes of communication breakdown. This model focuses on a bottom-up approach to solve these communication issues.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Open Forum

Dr. Hazleton said that there are gun-free office designation signs available for faculty members to take back and distribute to their departments directly following the meeting. The signs have been constructed to fit all required legal parameters. If more signs are needed, contact Gregory Hazleton, Jackie Cuevas, or Walter Wilson.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:50 p.m.