**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**
**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**
**of September 12, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2019-2020 academic year was held September 12, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I.      Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Vangie Aguilera, Samson Alva, Gina Amatangelo, Paul Ardoin, Emily Bonner, Rajendra Boppana, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Curtis Brewer, Ian Caine, Amarie Carnett, James Chambers, Langston Clark, Glenn Dietrich, Roger Enriquez, Ovidio Giberga, Alexis Godet, Abraham Graber, Jamon Halvaksz, Richard Harris, Matthias Hofferberth, Drew Johnson, Kim Kline, Andrew Konove, Sandeep Langar, Huy Le, Chad Mahood, Chris Packham, Debra Pena, Branco Ponomariov, Priya Prasad, Rica Ramirez, Pablo Requena, Nathan Richardson, Devon Romero, Dan Sass, Liang Tang, John Wald, Xiaodu Wang, Alistair Welchman, Karen Williams, John Zarco, Tina Zawacki, Rene Zenteno

Absent: Sonya Aleman, David Bojanic, James Dawes, Mike Doyle, David Hansen, Becky Huang, Jeffrey Hutchinson (excused), Ram Krishnan, Dennis Lopez, Michael Miller, Ashok Nedungadi, Bill Ramos

Guests: Dustin Barrows, James Calder, Sedef Doganer, Kimberly Andrews Espy, Suat Gunhan, Ambika Mathur, David Matiella, Veronica Mendez, Joo Ong, Heather Shipley, Sarah Soulek, Tulio Sulbaran, Jon Taylor

Total members present: 41          Total members absent: 15

II.     Consent Calendar

- PhD in Civil Engineering with tracks in Building Performance and Construction Science and Management
- *Master of Science in Cyber Security*
- Graduate Certificate in Latin America Studies
- *Graduate Council revised bylaws (Definition of Graduate Faculty)*
- Approval of minutes – May 2, 2019
    - *Two items were pulled off the consent agenda for further discussion: Master of Science in Cyber Security and Graduate Council revised bylaws (Definition of Graduate Faculty)*

All other items were approved.

Other items approved over the summer via electronic vote:
- Dual Degree: Master of Architecture (M Arch, The Professional Program) + Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning (MS URP)
    - Vote count: 28 approve, 0 do not approve, 0 active abstentions

- Dual Degree: Research Oriented Professional Track – Master of Architecture (M Arch) + Master of Science in Architecture (MS Arch)
    - Vote count: 28 approve, 0 do not approve, 0 active abstentions
- Graduate Certificate in Project Management
    - Vote count: 27 approve, 0 do not approve, 0 active abstentions
- Certificate in "Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS)"
    - Vote count: 25 approve, 0 do not approve, 0 active abstentions
- Earth System and Climate Concentration area in Geological Sciences
    - Vote count: 24 approve, 0 do not approve, 1 active abstention
- B.S. in Mathematics of Data and Computing
    - Vote count: 23 approve, 0 do not approve, 2 active abstentions
- Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the department of ECE
    - Vote count: 22 approve, 2 do not approve, 1 active abstention

III.    Reports

- ❖ Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs – Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy
- ❖ Senior Vice President for Business Affairs – Ms. Veronica Mendez
  Dr. Espy and Ms. Mendez provided some updates from Academic Affairs and Business Affairs.
    - College for Health, Community and Policy
      UT System and the Coordinating Board have approved the proposal and a search committee has been formed to find the inaugural dean. A transition team has been formed to recommend activities to be accomplished between now and "go live". They will also meet with pre-tenure faculty affected during this transition.
    - Master Planning updates
      A campus master plan is required by UT System and provides a roadmap to the university's future development, investment and growth. The steering committee gathered stakeholder feedback and are focused on a plan that emphasizes sustainability. Main campus goals include supporting a robust research enterprise, increasing access to open spaces, promoting pedestrian orientation, and encouraging mixed-use. Downtown campus goals include promoting community partnerships, embracing the city's urban environment including its art and culture, enhancing pedestrian connections to surrounding areas and connect campus facilities, and creating a complete comprehensive UTSA campus.
    - Participatory Governance Framework and SPAC
      The new governance framework is broken down into three groups: the President's Cabinet (reviews external/reputational matters), the University Leadership Council (reviews university initiatives), and the Academic Council (reviews academic programs, support and services). The university's Space and Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC)'s purpose is to strategically use space as a resource to support university objectives and initiatives in both the short-term and long-term horizons, and to utilize space data analysis to inform space assignment and optimize utilization.
    - UTSA Planning Context and IRM Budget Model Overview
      Key performance indicators were discussed, which are measured by UT System and reported to the coordinating board. Specific targets have been created for the colleges and work plans are submitted each year to ensure that these targets are met. Revenue units and support units were discussed, as well as an implementation timeline.

- FY20 Budget Overview
  A breakdown of the budget was shared, including detail on state appropriations funding flow, tuition/fees, and sponsored gifts.
- Faculty Hiring and Strategic Hiring Initiative Update
  Strategic hiring, faculty start-up and approved cluster searches were discussed, as well as updates to the faculty recruitment process.

A. Chair's Report – Chad Mahood

Dr. Mahood welcomed new senators and reminded the senate that Roberts Rules of Order are followed at each meeting. He congratulated senators that were recently promoted with tenure as well as those promoted to full professor. He discussed the 7 key themes discussed at the senate's August retreat, **highlighting 3** to take immediate action on:

1. **Attrition/turnover rate of NTT (and TT) faculty**
2. Perception/reality gap of shared governance
3. **Promotion and Tenure process**
4. The new enrollment targets at UTSA
5. Faculty engagement in student advising/services
6. **Faculty input into Presidential Initiatives**
7. Uncertainty due to the rapid pace of change at UTSA

Some initial ideas were proposed to the senate to address these key themes. Each would require a bylaws change and 2/3 majority vote at a future senate meeting:

1) Separate the roles of Faculty Senate Vice Chair and Budget Committee Chair

2) Create a "Strategic Initiatives Committee" to monitor/advise all presidential, strategic, tactical, and academic initiatives

3) Move evaluation and merit out of AFEM, and rename it "Academic Freedom Committee"

4) Create a "Faculty Welfare Committee" which would handle evaluation and merit, have a specific charge to monitor faculty diversity and inclusivity concerns/opportunities, and would be free to explore any faculty issues (for both TT and NTT) that don't fall under academic freedom

5) Dissolve the Nominating, Elections and Procedures Committee and place all duties with the elected Faculty Senate Secretary (former NEP members would be available to join newly formed committees)

6) Create liaison positions with Staff Council (non-voting members)

Any comments on these proposed changes can be sent to Dr. Mahood who will discuss them with the senate's executive committee.

Dr. Mahood also said that elections are needed for the following members:

- Vice Chair
- Parliamentarian
- Secretary

The Vice Chair position will likely remain vacant for now as it is not an election year. This would allow the budget committee to elect their own chair, but this person would not have to serve as Vice Chair.

Dan Sass volunteered to serve in the role of Parliamentarian and was elected by acclamation.

Anyone interested in the Secretary position can email Dr. Mahood.

Dr. Mahood reminded the senate that a resolution is still needed on the Plus/Minus grading policy issue. In order to vote at the next senate meeting, feedback should be gathered now from the departments.

Dr. Myron Anderson will attend the next meeting and discuss the upcoming annual compliance training refresh.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Chris Packham
Dr. Packham said that one of his roles as Secretary of the General Faculty is to support the Faculty Senate Chair by taking questions from the floor and filling in if the chair is ever unavailable. He encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Vice President for Research forums.

C. Graduate Council Chair – Alistair Welchman
Dr. Welchman explained his role of Graduate Council Chair and explained that the Graduate Council is an advisory body to the senate. Then two items pulled from the consent agenda were briefly discussed:
- *MS in Cyber Security* – The ISCS department chair notified the senate that the department's only issue was the name of the proposal, but approved its content. Due to this issue there was discussion of delaying the vote. One suggestion included putting it to an electronic vote. Another suggestion was to table the vote. These suggested motions, however, were not recognized by the Faculty Senate Chair. Instead, the ISCS chair and the CS chair agreed to move forward the proposal but to change the name later (as a friendly amendment). There was a motion, which was seconded, and the senate voted to unanimously approve the proposal.
  - Note: After the meeting several Senators reported confusion on the nature of the vote (to approve, to table, etc.). As a result, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee decided to allow time for more discussion and another vote at the October meeting.
- *Graduate Council revised bylaws (Definition of Graduate Faculty)* - The Graduate School Dean explained that in order to achieve NRUF classification, the university must either graduate 200 PhDs per year or have restrictions on who can chair PhD dissertations. She further explained that the proposal provides an exception to protect faculty if the chair disagrees with their classification. There was a motion, which was seconded, and the senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 19 yes, 8 no, and 3 abstentions.

D. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Richard Harris
No report.

E. HOP Committee – Xiaodu Wang
No report.

F. Research Committee – Jamon Halvaksz
No report.

G. Curriculum Committee – Rajendra Boppana
- Core Curriculum Proposal: CS 1173 Data Analysis and Visualization
The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 23 yes, 0 no, and 10 abstentions. If the THECB does not approve this to be in the mathematics component area, the curriculum committee recommended that it be retained in the UTSA component area option as currently offered. The senate voted to approve as follows: 27 yes, 0 no, 5 abstentions.
- Core Curriculum Proposal: ENG 2443 Intro to Rhetoric ("Persuasion and Rhetoric")

The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 20 yes, 0 no, and 10 abstentions.

- Core Curriculum Proposal: PAD 1113 Public Administration in American Society
  The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. Due to some concerns, the senate voted to table the proposal until the next meeting as follows: 26 yes, 3 no, and 2 abstentions.

IV.   Unfinished Business

V.    New Business

VI.   Open Forum

VII.  Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:25 p.m.