**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Of April 7, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2021-2022 academic year was held April 7, 2022 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, Drew Johnson, John Wald, Curtis Brewer, Jurgen Engelberth, James Chambers, Alex Godet, Joycelyn Moody, John Alexander, Richard LeBaron, Jeff Prevost, Victor De Oliveira, Diane Abdo, Rene Zenteno, Dmitry Gokman, Rica Ramirez, Gina Amatangelo, Marcus Hamilton, Richard Gretz, Michael Doyle, Catalina Zarate, Andrew Konove, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Dan Hollas, Kimberly Kline, Zhechao Liu, Raj Boppana, Huy Le, Felicia Castro-Villarreal, Sonya Aleman, Devon Romero, Sylvia Mansour, Tianou Zhang, Becky Huang, Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick, Whitney Chappell, Branco Ponomariov, Andrew Lloyd, Candace Christensen, Dennis Lopez, David Hansen, James Chambers, Gina Amatangelo, Nicole Beebe, Kerry Sinanan

Absent: not available

Guests: Melinda Utoft, Debra Del Toro, Amirah Nelson, Kimberly Espy, Heather Shipley

Total members present: 47 Total members absent: not available

1. Consent Calendar - No one objected to Consent Agenda

* Approval of minutes – March 10, 2022
* Grad Council Executive Committee election results

Corey Sparks: Chair

Victor Villarreal: Secretary

Elaine Sanders: Parliamentarian

Terrence Hill: Council member at large

1. Reports

**Academic Affairs Updates:** Provost Kimberly Espy & Sr. Vice Provost, Heather Shipley

* See PowerPoint Presentation
* Summer Schedule Registration is now open; ASAP sign-up for fall schedules will begin on April 18, 2022
* Academic Innovation is offering a rich faculty professional development plan for summer 2022.
* UTSA/Southwest School of Arts updates
* ITC Centennial 2068 Community Stakeholder Visioning updates

**Fulbright Programs Presentation:** Amirah Nelson, Senior Outreach Officer

* See PowerPoint Presentation
  1. **Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood**
* See PowerPoint Presentation
* Ongoing Meetings about Academic Freedom, tenure and faculty rights
* FS Elections: For Secretary & Parliamentarian – nominations are open
  1. **Secretary of the General Faculty** – Chris Packham
* Chad Mahood and Chris Packham will be attending the Faculty Advisory Council meeting in Austin on April 28th and 29th.
  1. **Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –** Drew Johnson
* Memorandum for Written Comments in Teaching Evaluations: to provide input on proposed changes in teaching evaluations that written comments provided to faculty be made available to Department Chairs and Deans.

- The recommendations were that student comments should not be shared with those responsible for the formal evaluation of faculty job performance. In addition, the HOP should be revised.

- In the discussion, there were concerns that the memo did not address student evaluation bias.

-The Faculty Senate Chair reminded the senators that this is just the first step in the process that Heather Shipley asked the committee to consider, AFEM will go back to Heather for a response.

***The Faculty Senate voted as follows on the AFEM Memo on written comments in teaching evaluations:* Approve: 25; Disapprove: 2; Abstain: 4**

* Memorandum for Statement on Academic Freedom: discussion on the statement AFEM has written.

- AFEM used a template for these types of statement and AFEM tailored the template to the specific audience it intended to address which is the UTSA community: faculty, staff and students.

- Several discussion points over the language used in the statement which many felt did not specifically address Critical Race Theory and racial and gender equity, specifically.

- The Faculty Senate Chair reminded the senators that procedure dictates the vote be on the document as presented in its current form. If the motion is tabled, it will come up again at the next meeting in its exact form but while it is being tabled, new motions can be recognized for a different way to proceed.

- A motion was raised to table the memo and a second was given, superseding the previous motion.

***The Faculty Senate voted as follows to TABLE the AFEM Academic Freedom Statement:* Approve: 27; Disapprove: 2; Abstain: 4**

- A motion was made and a second was given to create an Ad Hoc committee that would be charged with revising the document to be more reflective of the discussion in the meeting and be ready to present at the May 2022 Faculty Senate meeting.

***The Faculty Senate voted as follows to create ad hoc committee:***

**Approve: 25; Disapprove: 1; Abstain: 0**

Ad hoc Committee members:

Jocelyn Moody - Chair

Sonya Aleman

Andrew Konove

Rica Ramirez

Rene Zenteno

Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick

* 1. **Graduate Council Chair –** no report
  2. **Budget Committee** – no report
  3. **HOP Committee** – no report
  4. **Curriculum Committee** – Andrew Lloyd
* The committee has been tasked with reviewing the new updates to the undergraduate catalog. Assistance is needed from the faculty senators to look at their department pages for any typos or content issues and report back to the committee chair by April 30th. The link was shared in the meeting chat: <https://utsacloud.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TEAM-2020-22UndergraduateCatalogReview/Ellmt0kRzy1Fhqks_5gXVVcBTFwU9-UIgFnyibBaThTR0Q?e=cNvFc0>
  1. **Research Committee –** no report
  2. **Ad hoc Governance Committee** –
* The committee is close to having a resolution for a building committee that would be a part of faculty shared governance to provide more faculty input early in the process before building are built.

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

* Rica Ramirez: COEHD has been tasked to look at P&T and annual review. There is a question about 4th year review and whether it is included in the HOP. The FS Chair will take the question to Heather Shipley to get more information.
* Candace Christensen: Asked if anyone knows if UTSA has reached out to the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions about a land acknowledgement? The Office of Inclusive Excellence has drafted a land acknowledgement over the past year.
* Becky Huang: UTSA is considering doing catalog revisions for both undergraduate and graduate catalog in the same year. The Grad Council Chair voiced that the Grad Council is mostly against the change and that further discussion is ongoing.

***A Faculty Senate poll on catalog change:***

**Approve: 1; Disapprove: 10; Abstain: 12**

1. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:28 PM