

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of December 8, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2016-2017 academic year was held December 8, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) 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, Pepe Chang, Karen Daas, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Samer Dessouky, Glenn Dietrich, Walter Ermler, Martha Fasci, Ray Garza, Dmitry Gokhman, Ruyan Guo, Jamon Halvaksz, Richard Harris, Gregory Hazleton, Michael Karcher, Turgay Korkmaz, Melvin Laracey, Chad Mahood, Michael Moyer, Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Sandy Norman, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Lloyd Potter, Dan Sass, Kelly Suter, Joshua Thurow, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, Karen Williams, Hongjie Xie

Absent: Jennifer Alexander (excused), Jackie Cuevas, Edgar Ghossoub (excused), David Hansen (excused), Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Aneta Koynova (excused), Randall Manteufel, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Derek Plantenga (excused), Liang Tang, David Thompson

Guests: Mauli Agrawal, Carlos Aguilar (student), Sarah Soulek, Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 39

Total members absent: 13

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – November 10, 2016
The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that the department of Modern Languages and Literatures has provided a corrected version of the Spanish translation that was used for the campus carry office exclusion zone signs. The option is to post this corrected language next to the current signs. Dr. Bonner said that she is working to set up a possible mechanism for the use of professional translating services to be utilized in future endeavors of this nature. She

clarified that although the law requires a Spanish translation on the signs, no specific Spanish translation is provided (by law).

Dr. Bonner said that the Presidential search is underway and a timeline has been set. She said that although the search committee may make recommendations, ultimately the final decision rests with the Regents. She said that the internal process between the candidates and search committee is kept confidential for Presidential searches. Dr. Bonner said that when forming the search committee, she tried to consult as much as possible with faculty, but due to the short timeline she was unable to consult with the senate regarding possible representatives. However, she did ensure that there are representatives from both areas of teaching and research. She also said that the committee is looking at possibly adding another member to ensure that there is Hispanic representation from UTSA on the committee.

Dr. Bonner encouraged everyone to attend the faculty mixer next door, immediately following the senate meeting.

She said that Staff Council is working to organize a march on Martin Luther King Day, January 16th. More information will be provided as it becomes available. In addition, Professor Nix said that he is working with others to try and promote unity and recognition of the day by encouraging everyone to sing “Amazing Grace” at 11:00 a.m. on MLK day.

Dr. Bonner said that the Provost has aided COLFA with funds to be spread out over the next 3 semesters. She said the Provost wants to improve the lines of communication and make the budget more transparent in the future.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow

Dr. Thurow discussed the documentary shown at the last Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting in more detail. The documentary called “Starving the Beast” focuses on the development of higher education over the past 10 years. He said there are interviews from all sides that show each group’s perspective of the various changes in legislation and impact for the future of higher education. He said there are clips of the documentary that can be found online, as well as the possibility that the documentary will be released in full in the future.

C. Provost’s Report – Mauli Agrawal

Dr. Agrawal said that he told the Deans he would be working with them on the budget process going forward (and that he expected them to also work with their department chairs). In the future, the Deans will be providing the Provost with their budget requests that will be compared to their budget from last year. Other metrics will be looked at such as retention rates, etc. when determining their new allocation. The Provost would like the Deans to include the department chairs in this process to better understand their resources and plan for the year. He said that eventually he would like to evolve this process into a 3-year plan for the colleges.

Dr. Agrawal said that in the past, promotion and tenure decisions for the year were announced by December 31st. He said that he and the President are considering pushing back this deadline to January 15th. He said he already consulted with the Deans who didn’t have any major concerns with moving the timeline. He asked the senate for their

input. Some senators expressed concerns, so Dr. Agrawal said that he would revisit this idea with the President.

The Provost said that he would like to do more to support inclusiveness and diversity on campus. To get a better understanding of the issues on campus, he is interested in setting up some kind of network to be a part of UTSA's culture. He said he is open to suggestions on how to set this up and how to better expand our ability to celebrate and recognize diversity at UTSA.

D. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

Dr. Welchman said that the senate's Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal from the university's Core Curriculum Committee for 3 new courses to be included in the core. The committee recommended that all 3 courses be accepted for inclusion in the core. The senate voted as follows:

1. CHE 1053 Introduction to the Molecular Structure of Matter (Life and Physical Sciences)

The senate voted to unanimously approve this core course.

2. CHE 1063 Introduction to Molecular Transformations (Life and Physical Sciences)

The senate voted to unanimously approve this core course.

3. COR 2xx3 Personal Career Planning (Social and Behavioral Sciences)

There was some concern regarding this course being listed under "social and behavioral sciences".

The senate voted on the committee's report to accept this course: 0 yes, 25 no, and 5 abstentions

There was a motion to request that the component area be moved.

The senate voted:

3 yes, 16 no, 8 abstentions

Therefore, the senate voted not to approve this course in the core.

E. HOP Committee – Glenn Dietrich

Dr. Dietrich said that as requested at the last senate meeting, the HOP 10.10 policy had been amended to include faculty consultation if any changes are proposed to the documents which are attached to the policy. The senate voted to unanimously approve HOP 10.10 with these changes.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

Dr. Welchman brought forth a draft of a resolution regarding the protection of DACA students at UTSA. This resolution had been recently forwarded to senators via email. The resolution, if approved by the senate, would be sent to the President. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to conduct an electronic vote on the resolution. The senate voted to approve the motion for an electronic vote as follows: 21 yes, 2 no, 1

abstention. An additional motion was made and seconded to vote on the resolution by Tuesday, January 13th at noon. Although the timeline is short, this would allow the resolution to be brought to the President before his meeting with DACA students and would be viewed in conjunction with a petition calling for protection of DACA students that has been circulating. The senate voted to approve the electronic voting deadline as follows: 16 yes, 5 no, 3 abstentions.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:40 p.m.