

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of February 23, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2016-2017 academic year was held February 23, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Joshua Thurow, Secretary of the General Faculty, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Michael Baumann, Saadet Beeson, Christie Blizzard, David Bojanic, Natasha Burns, Pepe Chang, Karen Daas, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Walter Ermler, Ray Garza, Edgar Ghossoub, Alexis Godet, Ruyan Guo, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Aneta Koynova, Melvin Laracey, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Michael Moyer, Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Sandy Norman, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Lloyd Potter, Dan Sass, Kelly Suter, Liang Tang, David Thompson, Joshua Thurow, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, Karen Williams

Absent: Sonya Aleman (excused), Jennifer Alexander, Emily Bonner (excused), Jackie Cuevas, Samer Dessouky, Martha Fasci (excused), Dmitry Gokhman, Gregory Hazleton, Turgay Korkmaz, Randall Manteufel, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Derek Plantenga

Guests: Diane Abdo (for Gregory Hazleton), Mauli Agrawal, Samuel DeLeon (Paisano), Richard Jones, Sarah Soulek, Caroline Taylor (Paisano)

Total members present: 40

Total members absent: 12

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – January 26, 2017
The minutes were approved.
- Grad Council proposal: Concentrations for Existing Ph.D. in Applied Demography
The proposal was approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report and Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow (for Emily Bonner)

Dr. Thurow briefly discussed the budget planning and sustainability taskforce. He said that Dr. Natasha Burns was recently added to the taskforce. There was a presentation from EAB last month contrasting incremental and (primarily) RCM models. Continuing work is based on the ABC model championed by CMO. The new Graduate Dean Advisory Council was recently formed to voice concerns and improve communication between faculty and the Graduate School. Initial conversations have started and members include Emily Bonner, Mike Baumann, Paul LeBlanc, and Dean Agbenyiga. A brief survey was sent out to departments regarding the Presidential search. Departments were asked to choose their 3 most important issues/concerns. The most common concerns were improving communication with faculty including solicitation of faculty input, improving transparency, improving research infrastructure and support, and improving graduate student support. These results will be reported to the search committee. Dr. Thurow said that there is a Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting tomorrow in Austin that he plans to attend and report on at the next senate meeting.

B. Provost's Report – Mauli Agrawal

Dr. Agrawal said that Dr. Pedro Reyes has stepped in as acting President while UT System works to find a resolution for the recent allegations involving Dr. Romo. He said that the recent U.S. immigration ban could impact approximately 50 students at UTSA who are from the involved countries. He said UTSA will have to wait until more information is communicated to move forward. Dr. Agrawal said that the Texas governor's office declared a hiring freeze for state employees, but was unaware that there are some employees with 9-month and 3-month contracts. He said they are allowing waivers now. For fall UTSA employees, the university may have to use accounts other than state accounts for two weeks in August, but there should be no major impact on these employees. For summer, if faculty members are already on payroll in spring, then it is a continuation of work and no waiver is needed. Waivers will be requested for new summer faculty.

A question was raised regarding the recent 10% sweep in January. The Provost explained that this was due to the fact that we didn't meet our budget for the current year. UTSA reached the appropriate number of credit hours, but not the appropriate type. This was due to a drop in international students and grad students, so the amount of revenue generated was lower overall. He explained that state funds are likely to stay the same or decrease over the next few years and continuously increasing tuition isn't an option, so finding new revenue sources is increasingly important. He confirmed that right now, no other sweeps are planned and said that a taskforce is currently looking at different budget models that may be an option for UTSA.

C. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

The Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal for a BA in Geography and Environmental Sustainability – Social Studies Teaching Track. The committee recommended that the proposal be accepted. The senate voted to unanimously approve the proposal.

D. NEP Committee – Chad Mahood

Dr. Mahood briefly reviewed each of the senate's committees. He said that senate elections for members with expiring terms are currently underway and that committee elections would be held in May. He encouraged each senator to contact him regarding their desire to stay on their current committee or switch to a new committee.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

Food Bank – Jill Hernandez, Associate Dean, University College

Dr. Hernandez said that a food pantry is coming to UTSA March 6th. She said that the UC has donated staff and space in the UC for the food pantry. She also said that since UTSA is now an official agency of the food bank, donations through the State Employee Charitable Campaign will be available this fall. Every student with an official student ID will be allowed 5 items per day and unlimited non-food items, like toiletries. Staff will always be available to help students with an emergency need. Dr. Hernandez said that donation bins are also available for departments, and although there is currently no location at the downtown campus, those students are still able to access the pantry at the main campus. An announcement about the food pantry will be sent out soon to students.

VI. Open Forum

A question was asked regarding the research committee's survey. Dr. Packham said that the committee is currently reviewing the results and more information will be forthcoming.

VII. Adjournment

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