

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of March 22, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2017-2018 academic year was held March 22, 2018, 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: Diane Abdo, Vangie Aguilera, Sonya Aleman, Michael Baumann, Christie Blizzard, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Crystal Colombini, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Walter Ermler, Edgar Ghossoub, Dmitry Gokhman, Abraham Graber, Ruyan Guo, Shane Haberstroh, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Sakiko Oyama, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Dan Sass, Tulio Sulbaran, Liang Tang, Joshua Thurow, Xiaodu Wang, Karen Williams, Hongjie Xie, Tina Zawacki

Absent: Saadet Beeson, Pepe Chang, Martha Fasci (excused), Melvin Laracey, Francisco Marcos-Marin (excused), Chris Packham (excused), Derek Plantenga, Branco Ponomariov, Gabriela Sanchez-Soto (excused), Les Shephard (excused), Kelly Suter (excused), David Thompson (excused), Diane Walz (excused)

Guests: Kenyatta Battle (Paisano), George Davila (Paisano), Martha Lundell (for Kelly Suter), Nancy Membrez (for Francisco Marcos-Marin), Ariana Pulido (SGA), Alex Sexton (SGA), Jerry Sharp (SGA), Sarah Soulek, Marcus Thomas (SGA)

Total members present: 40

Total members absent: 13

II. Consent Calendar

Approval of minutes – February 22, 2018

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that the Provost search is underway and 5 finalists have been named. The senate's executive committee will be meeting with the candidates and open forums will also be held on campus.

Dr. Bonner said that there are currently 3 HOP policies undergoing revision/creation:

1. Emeritus – changes to the policy were presented last fall. Revisions have since been made to change the requirement that faculty members must have been rated as “exceeds expectations” in their last 5 evaluations. The new requirements have been changed to “exceeds expectations” at least twice and no rating below “meets expectations”. Any feedback can be sent to Diane Walz (HOP committee chair).
2. NTT faculty – Revisions are being made that would allow NTT faculty to initiate a promotion review, and to create a more university-wide system overall for promoting NTT faculty.
3. Workload – This new policy is currently being developed.

Dr. Bonner reminded the senate that elections for Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty will be conducted in April. Faculty Senate committee elections will take place in May.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow

Dr. Thurow said that the workload policy draft from the committee is almost complete. The senate will have an opportunity to provide feedback before the policy moves through the formal HOP review process. The policy aims to be broad, fitting within UT System guidelines and allowing deans and department chairs the latitude for designing a policy that will work for their unique disciplines. A supplemental guidance document is expected to be created as well.

Dr. Thurow gave an update on the recent diversity survey results. In comparison with the national average, common purpose rated higher at UTSA and equity of reward/trust rated lower at UTSA. The full survey results can be found at:

<http://provost.utsa.edu/diversity/index.asp>.

C. Curriculum Committee – Sakiko Oyama & Martha Fasci

The Curriculum Committee had gathered more information from the previously presented “Concentration in Pre-Medical Sciences” proposal that was tabled from last month’s meeting. After reviewing the additional information gathered, the committee’s recommendation remains unchanged. The committee recommends that the senate approve the proposal. The Faculty Senate voted as follows:

- 33 approve
- 1 do not approve
- 5 abstentions

Therefore, the proposal was approved.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- SGA resolution – plus/minus grading system
 - Marcus Thomas, Jerry Sharp, Ariana Pulido, Alex Sexton

Members from the Student Government Association (SGA) presented GA112: “The Plus/Minus Alternative Proposals and Reform Act of 2018”. The previously presented GA111 expressed students’ disapproval of the current implementation of the plus/minus system. GA112 includes various proposals on how the current system could be reformed to be more consistent in its implementation. This discussion was only focused on the plus/minus system at the undergraduate level. SGA said that students have expressed their concern regarding inequities of the current system, even among different sections of the same course. SGA has repealed all other previous reforms regarding this topic and plan to amend GA111 to emphasize that the plus/minus system should be re-evaluated and not necessarily eliminated, as previously stated. After presenting their findings and explaining possible options for reform, a motion was made by the senate to further address inconsistencies raised in the plus/minus system. The senate unanimously voted to approve the motion.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:00 p.m.