

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of April 12, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2017-2018 academic year was held April 12, 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, Sonya Aleman, Michael Baumann, Saadet Beeson, Christie Blizzard, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Crystal Colombini, Brian Davies, Walter Ermler, Dmitry Gokhman, Ruyan Guo, Jamon Halvaksz, Richard Harris, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Turgay Korkmaz, Melvin Laracey, Chad Mahood, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Michael Miller, John Nix, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Les Shephard, Tulio Sulbaran, Kelly Suter, David Thompson, Joshua Thurow, Diane Walz, Xiaodu Wang, Hongjie Xie, Tina Zawacki

Absent: Vangie Aguilera, Pepe Chang, James Dawes (excused), Martha Fasci (excused), Edgar Ghossoub (excused), Abraham Graber, Shane Haberstroh, David Hansen, Aneta Koynova, Byongook Moon, Ashok Nedungadi, Rogelio Palomera-Arias (excused), Derek Plantenga, Branco Ponomariov, Gabriela Sanchez-Soto, Dan Sass (excused), Liang Tang (excused), Karen Williams (excused)

Guests: James Calder, Ramon Cancino (UT Health), George Davila (Paisano), Brandon Hartman (UT Health), Liana Ryan (VPREDKE), Jaclyn Shaw (VPREDKE), Sarah Soulek, Raydel Tullous (for Dan Sass)

Total members present: 35

Total members absent: 18

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – March 22, 2018
The minutes were approved.
- MA in Global Affairs
The proposal was approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that the Provost search has concluded and the President is in the process of making a decision on which candidate will be selected for the position. Dr. Bonner

said that the executive committee is proposing three changes to the senate's bylaws, which will be voted on at the May senate meeting. The changes are:

1. Shift Vice Chair position to Chair Elect in alternating years. Election would take place at May meeting one year before term takes effect.
2. Add one permanent ex-officio non tenure-track faculty member to the senate executive committee (elected or selected from ADTS).
3. Add provision so that anyone who is (1) on FAC executive committee, and (2) currently not on UTSA's senate, may serve ex-officio on UTSA senate and executive committee.

Dr. Bonner said that a joint committee is being formed to address the inequities of the plus/minus grading system in response to concerns raised by students. The committee will include members of the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association from various colleges, with possible representation from non-voting groups such as the department chairs council, Provost's office, etc. The senate will vote at the May meeting to confirm the proposal to create this committee. A report from the committee is scheduled for next fall. Dr. Bonner reminded the senate that committee elections are scheduled for the May meeting and senators will be contacted by the NEP Chair, Chad Mahood, to confirm their committees. All senators must serve on at least one committee and expiration dates for current committee members can be found on the senate's webpage. Faculty Senate terms officially end on August 31st. Dr. Bonner reminded current senate members that they can invite their new representatives to the May meeting.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow

Dr. Thurow said that the workload committee met recently and made one small change to the policy draft. It will be sent out soon for stakeholder review.

C. Provost's Report – Jesse Zapata (for Mauli Agrawal)

The workload policy draft was submitted today and will be sent out soon for stakeholder review. There will be a 90-day review period and the goal is for the policy to be implemented this fall. Dr. Zapata also mentioned that the gender/pay equity group has completed its work and will be providing results to the department chairs and deans.

D. NEP Committee – Chad Mahood

Dr. Mahood said that the call for nominations for 2018-2020 Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty was sent out on February 26th, with a nomination deadline of March 30th. There was one nominee for each position.

- Dr. Mahood announced Emily Bonner as the sole nominee for 2018-2020 Faculty Senate Chair. There were no other nominations or discussion, so Dr. Bonner was elected by acclamation.
- Dr. Mahood announced Joshua Thurow as the sole nominee for 2018-2020 Secretary of the General Faculty. There were no other nominations or discussion, so Dr. Thurow was elected by acclamation.

E. Research Committee – Chris Packham

Dr. Packham said that the research committee maintained good links with the Vice President for Research's office this past year. One of the committee's major activities was reviewing UTSA's aspirant universities and suggesting what research components found especially attractive at these locations to implement. A key finding was the

importance of interdisciplinary centers that encourage breaking through disciplines and fostering collaborations across colleges and departments. One current resource already in place at UTSA is the Center for Civic Engagement, which could benefit from institutional support to create a space for research, service learning, and entrepreneurship activities within the community. Dr. Packham said that the committee feels that it is important for these types of cross-collaborations to be appropriately rewarded. Jaclyn Shaw and Liana Ryan from the Office of Research Support briefly discussed an upcoming incentive option created by the President to reward faculty that obtain certain grants/awards. More information on this incentive will be communicated soon.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Update from the subcommittee on Preventing Sexual Violence on Campus
 - Crystal Kalinec-Craig gave a committee update to the senate. She said that the committee has drafted an overview of their findings in response to the recently released CLASE report. This data was presented to the Provost who was supportive of the committee's efforts. The committee is currently drafting a resolution for the senate's endorsement at the May meeting.
- Resolution proposal – UT System Climate Action
 - Dr. Bonner said that UT Austin has drafted and passed a resolution in which they are seeking UTSA senate support on. The resolution calls for the formation of a taskforce to study methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing operations on university lands, and to determine if action should be taken. After some discussion, the senate decided to revise/write their own statement to send out for review and a vote at the May meeting.
- UT Health select network tier
 - UT Health San AntonioRepresentatives from UT Health explained the benefits (such as lower copays) for employees who wish to take advantage of using UT Health's services for their medical needs.

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.