

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
of October 12, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2017-2018 academic year was held October 12, 2017, 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, Saadet Beeson, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Pepe Chang, Crystal Colombini, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Walter Ermler, Martha Fasci, Edgar Ghossoub, Dmitry Gokhman, Ruyan Guo, Shane Haberstroh, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Chad Mahood, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Derek Plantenga, Branco Ponomariov, Gabriela Sanchez-Soto, Kelly Suter, David Thompson, Joshua Thurow, Raydel Tullous, Diane Walz, Xiaodu Wang, Karen Williams, Walter Wilson, Hongjie Xie, Tina Zawacki

Absent: Christie Blizard, Abraham Graber (excused), Michael Miller, Byongook Moon (excused), Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Les Shephard (excused), Liang Tang (excused)

Guests: Mauli Agrawal, Taylor Eighmy, Roger Enriquez, Elvira Jacquez, Maricela Oliva, Anne Peters, Sarah Soulek, Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 45

Total members absent: 7

**II. Consent Calendar**

Approval of minutes – September 7, 2017  
The minutes were approved.

**III. Reports**

**A. Chair's Report – Emily Bonner**

Dr. Bonner thanked President Eighmy for spending some time speaking with the senate about his vision and answering questions before the meeting, and welcomed him back anytime. A list of his five proposed themes/initiatives is available on SharePoint. In addition, his powerpoint presentation is available on the strategic planning website: <http://www.utsa.edu/strategicplan/index.html>.

Dr. Bonner said that UT System's recent Student Success Summit included breakout sessions and keynote speakers. Campuses are working to develop plans so that "no student will drop out because of finances, advising, or belonging". Other SYSFAC initiatives include a dual credit study (to be completed soon), a policy on workload, looking at ways to better support NTTs, and physician burnout on the medical campuses. Dr. Thurow (Secretary of the General Faculty) said that UT System's responses regarding questions on the workload policy have been posted to SharePoint. The policy draft will go to the coordinating board for approval. If approved, a taskforce will be needed at UTSA to construct its own version of the policy. UT System and the coordinating board will then approve the final policy.

Dr. Bonner said that the President has asked for faculty senate representation on three committees. Those listed below were nominated and agreed to serve:

- Finance and Budget Model Initiative – Natasha Burns (Kelly Suter as alternate)
- Student Success – Evangeline Aguilera (Pepe Chang as alternate)
- Strategic Enrollment – Xiaodu Wang (Dan Sass as alternate)

#### B. Provost's Report – Mauli Agrawal

Dr. Agrawal said that the Honors College is piloting a "city-mester" which will give students experience in the community. A small group is planned to launch the program next fall.

Graduation rates are up across almost all metrics: 4-year rates for Roadrunners (CAP students not included) are up 7% points in one year which is likely due to a change in admission standards 4 years ago. Retention rates are also up; however, Ph.D. production is still low. First year retention rates are still in the 70%<sup>s</sup> with a goal of 83-85% in 5 years (which is the national average for 4-year universities). 4-year rates are still in the 20%<sup>s</sup> and are working towards a goal of 40%<sup>s</sup>. 6-year rates are in the 30%<sup>s</sup> and the goal (also national average) is to be at 58-60%.

Dr. Agrawal said that last year five taskforces were launched: diversity, female faculty, graduate school, multicultural studies, and mental health.

He said that the first online degree program (Cybersecurity) is up and running with approximately 100 people enrolled.

Dr. Agrawal stressed the importance of defining a budget model going forward in conjunction with coding classes smarter (leading to more funding) and looking at ways to maximize student credit hour production.

#### IV. Unfinished Business

An electronic vote was conducted in September for a statement from the Faculty Senate regarding the protection and support of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students at UTSA. The vote to send out this statement of support passed with a vote of 39 yes, 0 no, and 0 (active) abstentions. A copy of the statement was forwarded to the President and Provost.

#### V. New Business

- Diversity Climate Survey – Jesse Zapata

Dr. Zapata said that the Diversity and Inclusion taskforce will be sending out a “diversity climate survey” to all faculty and staff in academic affairs. The survey looks to identify possible strengths/weaknesses at UTSA. He said that the survey will be sent out early next week and all who receive it are encouraged to respond.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:10 p.m.