

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
of April 18, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year was held April 18, 2019, 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, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Whitney Chappell, Langston Clark, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Edgar Ghossoub, Ovidio Giberga, Alexis Godet, Abraham Graber, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Drew Johnson, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Turgay Korkmaz, Melvin Laracey, Dennis Lopez, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Sharon Nichols, Chris Packham, Debra Pena, Derek Plantenga, Priya Prasad, Elaine Sanders, Tulio Sulbaran, Liang Tang, David Thompson, Raydel Tullous, John Wald, Xiaodu Wang, Karen Williams, John Zarco, Tina Zawacki, Rene Zenteno

Absent: Ian Caine (excused), James Chambers, Pepe Chang, Crystal Colombini, Brian Davies, Kathryn Henderson, Ram Krishnan (excused), Ashok Nedungadi, George Negrete, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Branco Ponomariov, Bill Ramos, Devon Romero (excused)

Guests: Heather Shipley, Sarah Soulek, Gordon Taylor, Kirstin Wilsey

Total members present: 41

Total members absent: 13

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – March 21, 2019

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner reminded senators to follow Roberts Rules of Order during the meeting and welcomed guests. She said that a request has been made from Dr. Myron Anderson for a Faculty Senate representative on the Inclusive Excellence Advisory Board. The group “is a “living” Board with cross campus representation...tasked with identifying challenges, taking appropriate action, and providing recommendations to senior leadership”. Any senator interested in serving can contact Dr. Bonner. The President, Provost, and Vice President for Business Affairs are scheduled to attend the senate’s May meeting. Dr. Bonner said that the Department Chairs Council (DCC) has made a request for the senate’s support in revising the T&P external reviewer template. The DCC has requested two action items from the Provost:

1. Make the use of the existing template letter optional for this current round of referee invitations (chairs are beginning to make their lists of external reviewers and will shortly begin contacting them).
2. Constitute a small committee of faculty and chairs to work on revising the template for the next round of T&P reviewer invitations, subject to the Provost's final approval.

There was a motion to approve the DCC's request for support, which was seconded. The senate voted as follows "in support of these actions" – 34 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Dr. Bonner will send notice of the senate's support to Eve Browning, DCC Chair. Finally, Dr. Bonner thanked senators for their service and engagement this past year with all of the new initiatives.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty Report – Chris Packham

Dr. Packham attended the SYSFAC meeting last week where the Chancellor discussed freedom of speech. The UT System was offered the opportunity to adopt a statement put out by the University of Chicago, but there has been ongoing discussion about some missing elements needed for adoption of the statement. There was also ongoing discussion regarding varying grievance approaches across the UT System. Dr. Packham said that Dr. Bonner ran for chair-elect of SYSFAC and was elected. She will serve as future chair.

C. Graduate Council Chair – Elaine Sanders

No report.

D. Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Structure and Operations – Chad Mahood

Dr. Mahood asked the senate to approve Priya Prasad as a new committee member. The senate voted as follows: 33 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions. Dr. Mahood said that the committee also elected him to serve as chair of the committee. The committee is continuing their work of looking at changes to the senate structure, such as how to get more active service on committees, committee composition, etc. A memo with suggestions will be distributed to the senate next month for review and discussion at the August senate retreat.

E. Budget Committee – Chad Mahood

Dr. Mahood asked that senators send in their questions for the new Vice President for Business Affairs. She will be attending the May meeting and Dr. Mahood would like to provide questions to her ahead of time once vetted through the budget committee.

F. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Abraham Graber

Dr. Graber said that his committee has drafted a memo to Equal Opportunity Services (EOS), is providing proposed HOP revisions to the P&T appeals process, and will be working on a memo to the classroom management and behavioral expectations task group.

The committee met with EOS to discuss their processes and procedures used for various incidents reported to them. The committee put forward 3 recommendations within the EOS memo for the senate's approval:

1. Work to formalize, refine, and eventually implement a decision procedure;
2. Where appropriate, move in the direction of standardized language for communicating with complainants, the accused, and other stakeholders;

3. Hire more staff to allow for a consistent presence on the downtown campus.

There was a motion to approve the memo, which was seconded. The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee's memo as follows: 36 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Dr. Graber will send the memo forward to EOS and the Provost for review of their recommendations.

Dr. Graber asked the senate to review the proposed HOP revisions to the P&T appeals process that is posted to SharePoint. The committee is looking to incorporate an enforcement mechanism into the process to allow faculty to appeal P&T decisions if the HOP procedure was not followed. Feedback is requested prior to the next senate meeting.

The Provost has formed a task group (classroom management and behavioral expectations) "to provide guidance and recommendations on classroom management practices and behavioral expectations." The AFEM committee is looking to be proactive within the discussions and has drafted a memo outlining expectations the senate has regarding the relevant recommendations. Feedback is requested prior to the next senate meeting.

#### G. HOP Committee – Glenn Dietrich

Dr. Dietrich asked the senate to provide more feedback on the resolution for faculty governance which is posted to SharePoint. Any HOP revisions will follow the standard university process, so feedback is needed to ensure the revisions are considered.

#### H. Nominating, Elections and Procedures Committee – Crystal Kalinec-Craig

- Elections for Chair Elect 2019-2020

Dr. Kalinec-Craig announced that there are two nominees for chair-elect for 2019-2020 – Dr. Chad Mahood and Dr. John Wald. Each nominee offered a statement on why they feel they are best qualified for the position. The senate was given an opportunity to ask questions before voting. By secret ballot, the senate voted to approve Chad Mahood as vice chair for 2019-2020 (assuming the role of Faculty Senate Chair for 2020-2022).

#### I. Research Committee – Jamon Halvaksz

Dr. Halvaksz said that the committee has not met since the last senate meeting and are still reviewing the F&A return issue.

#### J. Ad Hoc COB Committee – John Wald

The committee presented a preliminary report on plans for the new COB building. The committee agrees with addressing the COB's space deficit, considering expansion over an entire college move, and acknowledges the data and presentations provided by the administration. The committee report also identifies areas of collaboration including greater faculty input in the early planning stages, data driven decisions and transparency, and communication to/from the faculty. The report provides suggestions and will be voted on at the May senate meeting. Any feedback can be sent to John Wald prior to the next meeting.

#### K. Curriculum Committee – Turgay Korkmaz

- Certificate proposal in Legal Studies

The committee reviewed a proposal for a certificate in Legal Studies. The committee recommends approval of the proposal. A motion to vote was made, seconded, and the senate voted to unanimously approve the proposal.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Human Health Initiative Models – Dr. Shannon Heuberger  
Dr. Heuberger provided some background on the Human Health Initiative. She said that after the phase I data-gathering process concluded, the phase II process shuffled the committee members and asked that they come up with notional models for review. Five models were generated and the Provost has met with each department involved in each of the models. Forums were held yesterday and input can still be provided through email. Faculty Senator Derek Plantenga served on the task force and briefly spoke about his positive experiences working with the committee to gather data to aid in the formation of these models.  
More information can be found on the Human Health website:  
<https://www.utsa.edu/strategicplan/academic-initiatives/human-health/index.html>.  
Any feedback can be sent to [Shannon.Heuberger@utsa.edu](mailto:Shannon.Heuberger@utsa.edu) or to the Provost directly.
- Faculty Hiring Portal – Gordon Taylor, Heather Shipley, and Kirstin Wilsey  
Dr. Gordon Taylor, Vice Provost for Academic Finance and Administration, discussed a new electronic system that was created in response to a lack of transparency in the faculty hiring process and a need for greater simplification of the process. The system is currently for T/TT hires and is not an approval to hire, but rather an approval to search. Department chairs will initiate the process via the electronic form, which is designed to increase transparency at both the chair and dean levels. Department chairs can create, discuss, save, edit and submit new faculty hiring proposals with Deans and Deans can do this with the Provost. All submissions and approvals of new faculty hiring proposals will now be done in the Portal (rolling submissions are possible). The system went live on Monday to Deans and chairs.
- LGBTQ FSA – Dr. Sharon Nichols  
Dr. Nichols said that UTSA's LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Organization was formed in 2014. The group has sponsored several brown bag events over the years and have invited community leaders and speakers to attend. They are also connected with Equality Texas (<https://www.equalitytexas.org/>). The group currently hosts socials, training sessions, and a mentorship program. Dr. Nichols provided the group's contact information and encouraged anyone interested to reach out:  
Email: [lgbtqfsa@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtqfsa@gmail.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/utsalgbtqfsa/>  
Chair: Sharon L. Nichols, [Sharon.Nichols@utsa.edu](mailto:Sharon.Nichols@utsa.edu)

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:55 p.m.