**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**of April 8, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year was held April 8, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

1. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Present: Chad Mahood, Chris Packham, Diane Abdo, Sonya Aleman, Gus Allo, Gina Amatangelo, Mark Bayer, Raj Boppana, Curtis Brewer, Ian Caine, Felicia Castro-Villarreal, Michael Doyle, Jurgen Engelberth, Roger Enriquez, Ginny Garcia-Alexander, Alexis Godet, Richard Gretz, Jamon Halvaksz, Dan Hollas, Becky Huang, Drew Johnson, Vanessa Kenon, Andrew Konove, William Land, Sandeep Langar, Brian Laub, Huy Le, Charles Liu, Andrew Lloyd, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Sandra Morissette, Debra Pena, Branco Ponomariov, Priya Prasad, Rica Ramirez, Devon Romero, Dan Sass, Liang Tang, Joshua Thurow, John Wald, Melissa Wallace, Karen Williams, Zenong Yin, Rene Zenteno

Guests: Belinda Flores, Jenny Hsieh, David Jaffe, Kristen Lindahl, Francine Romero, Ann Marie Ryan, Heather Shipley, Sarah Soulek

1. Consent Calendar – the following items were approved:
* Approval of minutes – March 18, 2021
* Graduate Catalog 2021-2023

Consent Calendar – the following items were not presented as there were no nominees:

* Election of Faculty Senate Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for 2021-2022
1. Reports

**University Updates – Academic Affairs**

• Heather Shipley, Academic Affairs: Dr. Shipley explained the new timeline for annual evaluations, which is now based on an academic year. To make up for the transition from a calendar year to an academic year, the next annual review period will cover material from January 2020 – August 2021. Faculty submissions are due September 15th and reviews will wrap up by November 15th with the Deans.

The automatic 1 year tenure clock extension (due to Covid) has been extended to all tenure track faculty, including those who started fall 2020 and spring 2021. Anyone wishing to opt out must notify Academic Affairs three (3) months prior to their original review date. Third Year Reviews are not part of this automatic extension, but an extension may be requested using the process in HOP 2.24.

**Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood**

• Dr. Mahood said that since there are no nominations for Vice Chair, that election will be pushed back until the fall if needed. Elections for FS Secretary and Parliamentarian will be conducted at the May meeting.

• The fall 2021 course modality survey has been reviewed and the results are available on SharePoint. These results can be shared with leadership after further discussion by the senate.

• Dr. Mahood asked if the senate would like to vote on the message sent out by President Eighmy regarding support for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This could be accomplished by voting to support the university’s message or by drafting the senate’s own statement. A motion was made and seconded to vote in support of the President’s statement. The Faculty Senate voted 40 approve, 0 do not approve, and 0 abstain. A committee of senators will work on an affirmation statement.

• The University Leadership Council received an update on the AY 2022 IRM budget plan and the senate’s budget committee will continue discussions with leadership on this topic.

• Dr. Mahood gave an update on the plan for the university’s clocks. They will likely be removed as updating the clock system would cost a substantial amount more than removing them altogether.

**Secretary of the General Faculty: Chris Packham**

• Dr. Packham consulted with UT System’s Faculty Advisory Council regarding the approach at other campuses to return to face-to-face teaching in the fall. There seems to be similar approaches to this on a system-wide level.

1. **Curriculum Committee** – The curriculum committee reviewed four (4) proposals and recommended each for approval with one amendment\*. The Faculty Senate voted as follows:
2. **B.A. in Equity and Education in EC-6 - Approved**

32 approve, 0 do not approve, 4 abstentions

1. **Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy and Data Analysis – Approved**

29 approve, 0 do not approve, 2 abstentions

1. **B.S. in Neuroscience – Approved**

30 approve, 0 do not approve, 0 abstentions

1. **Minor in Neuroscience\* - Approved \*(*with amendment*)**

33 approve, 0 do not approve, 0 abstentions

***\*Amendment: Reduce the number of credit hours from 21 (proposed) to 18. The proposing department representatives agreed to this amendment.***

1. **Graduate Council Chair –** No report
2. **Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –** Comments regarding the compliance training process can be sent to Dr. Prasad.
3. **Budget Committee** – No report
4. **HOP Committee** – No report
5. **Nominating, Elections and Procedures Committee** – No report
6. **Research Committee –** No report
7. **Unfinished Business:** None
8. **Open Discussion:**
* A question was raised about sharing comments with the media about a faculty member’s research. The senate agreed that more clarity is needed on media/faculty interaction and how it relates to the HOP policy and recent compliance training. Dr. Mahood will reach out to the relevant parties involved and invite them to a future senate meeting.
* SIF proposal update – Dr. Mahood responded to a question about the SIF proposal. The committee recommendations on what to prioritize have been submitted to University Leadership Council and are currently being reviewed.
1. **New Business:** None
2. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:45 PM.