

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of October 15, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year was held October 15, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Present: Chad Mahood, Richard Gretz, Alexis Godet, Andrew Lloyd, Becky Huang, Brandy Barksdale, Brian Laub, Charles Liu, Chris Packham, Dan Hollas, Dan Sass, David Hansen, Debra Pena, Dennis Lopez, Devon Romero, Diane Abdo, Drew Johnson, Felicia Castro Villarreal, August Allo, Ian Caine, Jamon Halvaksz, Jeff Prevost, John Wald, Joshua Thurow, Jurgen Engelberth, Karen Williams, Liang Tang, Matthias Hofferberth, Michael Doyle, Ovidio Giberga, Paul Ardoin, Priya Prasad, Kiran Bhaganagar, Raj Boppana, Rica Ramirez, Richard Harris, Sandra Morissette, Sonya Aleman, Whitney Chappell, William Land, Zenong Yin, Gina Amatangelo

Absent: not available

Guests: Kimberly Espy, Heather Shipley, Taylor Eighmy, Veronica Mendez, Myron Anderson, Sylvia Enriquez, Melinda Utoft, Carlos Martinez, JoAnn Browning

Total members present: 42 Total members absent: not available

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – September 10, 2020
- No one objected to Consent Agenda

III. Reports

University Leadership Updates – President Eighmy & Veronica Mendez

- Introduction: Carlos Martinez, President's new Chief of Staff
- Recognized and thanked faculty and staff for monumental efforts.
- Fall enrollment increased approximately 7%;
- Addressed concerns regarding faculty and staff well-being as working from home and remote teaching bring many challenges.
- Student emergency financial aid: 24 million of the allocated 32 million has been distributed. Student funds remain available.
- CARES Aid: not sure if Higher Ed is a recipient of the CARES AID.
- UTSA COVID testing program is the 3rd most robust program in the UT system; testing 3 different cohorts, both symptomatic and asymptomatic (student athletes, staff and faculty, and students residing in dorms). 5% positive rate for those who are symptomatic; working with UT Health to assist with testing students, etc.
- Our economy in TX is a concern. President is communicating with governor's office, comptroller's office, Austin think-tanks, and various elected officials regarding the 2021 fiscal budget, as well as 2022 and 2023 fiscal years. State budgets and funding

of education remain a concern. Funding is likely to focus on K-12. Funding for higher education not clear. All UT systems are working together to address funding concerns. Legislature focusing on: workforce, jobs, and degree completion. Discretionary funding = growing new jobs.

- Post-Pandemic strategy to include flexible learning and flexible work. Online classes are “here to stay”. Will likely increase online presence even with a return to campus.
 - Capital Campaign is in the 3rd year (FY20) – raised \$44 million
 - Capital Projects:
 - New Science Building (August)
 - Student Success Building
 - Roadrunner Center for Excellence
 - **Veronica Mendez:** Presentation of Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) including plans for the next three to five years. See attached PowerPoint presentation.
- University Updates – Academic Affairs**
- See slideshow from Academic Affairs (Dr. Espy and JoAnn Browning) Integrated Design Initiative National Models
 - **Dr. Espy** reported UTSA Fall enrollment of 34,742
 - 56% increase in new enrollments
 - Discussed Adaptive evaluation memos (see attachments)
 - Spring 2021:
 - 3300 online classes offered
 - 202 face-to-face
 - **Dr. Heather Shipley:** Discussed Adaptive evaluation timeline
 - Calendar year vs Academic calendar year (aligns with fiscal year)
 - September -August
 - Committee to look at timeline, aligning with workload, and other concerns.
 - Decision by November
 - Faculty Senators should take memos back to respective departments and begin conversations with chair: “How are we talking about changes to evaluation timeline?” See attached memos.
 - **Myron Anderson:** Campus Climate Survey (PowerPoint). Encouraged participation.
 - **Sylvia Enriquez:** also presented with Myron on the survey. Survey link will be sent to faculty and staff October 19th via email.

Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood – see PowerPoint slides

- **Chris Packham:** mobility of students is less than usual; local students enrollment is fine, more national student enrollment has dropped. We will be going online for the foreseeable future – not like pre-COVID times.
- UT System Research Committee: drive is to increase research across UT System and collaboration across campus.

A. Curriculum Committee – no report

B. Graduate Council Chair – Jurgen Engelberth

- Forming the committee (in process)
- Currently working on a Graduate Assistant handbook, changes to Grad Council Bylaws and Article I change to the Bylaws.

C. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Priya Prasad

- Faculty workload; respond to the Adaptive memo response from the Provost

D. **Budget Committee** – no report

E. **HOP Committee** – no report

F. **Research Committee – Jamon Halvaksz**

- Research sent an informal memo to the VPREDKE documenting concerns raised by faculty and senators. If this doesn't have a desired impact, we will go forward with a more formal memo.

IV. Open discussion: none.

V. New Business:

- Consider sending a memo to encourage University Administration to initiate a university-wide effort to identify research, collaboration, and service related to COVID-19 and recognize the faculty and staff for their contributions and bringing visibility and recognition to UTSA.

VI. Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:07 PM