UTSA FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

Faculty Senate Minutes and Report

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The Roadrunner Pantry needs your help! Please consider donating food and other items to help fellow Roadrunners in need. Visit **their website** for more information.

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That's a Wrap

On April 18 and May 2, 2019, we heard from the Senate Chair (Dr. Emily Bonner), Dr. Heather Shipley (Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs), Ms. Veronica Mendez (Vice President for Business Affairs), Dr. Elaine Sanders (Graduate Council Chair), the chairs of the Faculty Senate Committees and other invited guests.

Consent Agenda: Approved Programs

- Approval of Graduate Council Chair 2019-202
- Graduate Catalog proposed changes 2019-2021
- Dual MBA/MD degree program
- 2019-2020 Election of Chairs for Standing Committees

Update from Chair

D.r Bonner shared that Dr. Myron Anderson asked for a Faculty Senate representative on the Inclusive Excellence Advisory Board. The group "is a "living" Board with cross campus representation, which is tasked with identifying challenges, taking appropriate action, and providing recommendations to senior leadership. Any senator interested in serving can contact Dr. Bonner. She also said that the Department Chairs Council (DCC) has made a request for the senate's support in revising the T&P external reviewer template (which was taken up by the Academic, Freedom, Evaluation, and Merit Committee). The DCC has requested two action items from the Provost:

- 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).

- 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.

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Emily Bonner, Faculty Senate Chair

Chris Packham, Secretary of General Faculty

Chad Mahood, Vice Chair and Chair of Budget Committee

Abraham Graber, Chair of Academic Freedom Committee

Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Chair of Nominations, Elections, and Procedures Committee and Secretary

Diane Abdo, ADTS Rep

Elaine Sanders, Graduate Council Chair

Glenn Dietrich, Chair of Handbook of Operating Procedures Committee

Jamon Halvaksz, Chair of Research Committee

Raydel Tullous, Parliamentarian

Turgay Korkmaz, Chair of Curriculum Committee

The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate updates from the Faculty Senate and to encourage faculty participation in the spirit of shared governance and the success of UTSA students, faculty, and staff.

This newsletter is based on the detailed notes from **Sarah Soulek**, Management Analyst from the office of the Provost. The Senate is grateful for her continued support to success of Faculty Senate and UTSA.

Update from Secretary of General Faculty

Dr. Packham attended the SYSFAC meeting where the Chancellor discussed freedom of speech. The UT System was offered the opportunity to adopt a statement from the University of Chicago. There was discussion about some missing elements needed for adoption of the statement and about the varying grievance approaches across the UT System. Dr. Packham concluded by saying that Dr. Bonner ran for chair-elect of SYSFAC and was elected. She will serve as future chair.

College of Business Expansion News

Dr. Shipley thanked the senators involved in roundtable discussions regarding the College of Business expansion to the downtown campus. Two roundtables have been held so far with 23 businesses in attendance, including Rackspace, Frost Bank, the West SA Chamber of Commerce and more. Last fall, the Classroom to Career Initiative was launched with the goal of providing 75% of undergraduate students experiential learning by graduation. Preliminary data with institutional enrollment has been gathered, but there is additional data to come, incorporating information for non-traditional students in San Antonio. There are also plans for increased communication to students about experiential learning opportunities through social media, the career center, and other outlets.

Academic Freedom, Evaluation, and Merit Committee:

This committee has been quite busy this semester and have met a number of goals. The committee drafted a memo to Equal Opportunity Services (EOS) about proposed HOP revisions to the P&T appeals process. 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 and will head to an online vote before

being forwarded to EOS and the Provost for review of the recommendations. and is continuing to work on a memo to the classroom management and behavioral expectations task group.

HOP Committee Update

Dr. Dietrich presented his committee's revised proposal for a new HOP policy to form a faculty building advisory committee. Although the proposal needs to match the HOP policy format, Senate voted to approve the content of the proposal and will approve the revised policy electronically.

Nominations, Elections, and Procedures Committee Updates

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).

University Curriculum Committee Updates

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.

Vice President for Business Affairs

Ms. Mendez thanked the senate for inviting her and compiling a list of questions that she will address in the future. In her first 4 months as Vice President for Business Affairs, Ms. Mendez has been looking at ways to make her area more customer-centric and service value-focused. The new IRM budget model will rely heavily on the revenue generating units and expect that service units operate at maximum capacity to keep costs low. The search for an AVP for Human Resources is underway and the goal is to find a candidate that will act as a change agent, with a focus on human capital. Ms. Mendez said that the year's budget is not yet finalized due to a pending decision from the legislature (expected this summer). With respect to whether inflation adjustments are considered when planning the budget, they are considered, but the final budget and formula finding is determined by the legislature and that amount is then prioritized by university leadership. With respect to expanding or improving Rowdy Exchange, there is a plan to improve the system by negotiating contracts ahead of time and increasing utilization of the mobile app. With respect to the timeline of the new budget model, the Deans should be sharing their college timelines with departments and budgets are expected in the fall. There will be more discussion about the IRM model in the fall, and Ms. Mendez can provide updates or quarterly reports if needed as well.

LGBTQ Faculty Staff Association

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 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/utsalgbtqfsa/ Chair: Sharon L. Nichols, Sharon.Nichols@utsa.edu

Faculty Hiring Portal

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 as 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).

Health Science Initiative

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 produced five models. 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 or to the Provost directly.

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