The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year was held September 10, 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.


Absent: not available

Guests: Kimberly Espy, Heather Shipley, Kendra Ketchum, LT Robinson, Ambika Mathur, Dean Hendrix, Tammy Wyatt, Melinda Utoft

Total members present: 56 Total members absent: not available

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – July 16, 2020
- No one objected to Consent Agenda

III. Reports

**Kimberly Espy:** see Academic Affairs Update slides

**LT Robinson:** overview of new changes to Student Affairs; (see slideshow)

**Ambika Mathur:** Graduate Studies; (see slideshow)

**Tammy Wyatt:** overview of new changes to student success and personnel; (see slideshow)

**Kendra Ketchum:** UTS update; (see slideshow)

**Dean Hendrix:** Library Coalition presentation (see slideshow)

**Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood** – see PowerPoint slides

- Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Diversity and Inclusivity (for electronic vote)
- The Faculty Senate voted as follows: Yes: 40, No: 0, Abstain: 0
- UT System FAC Update from SoGF
A. Curriculum Committee –
   - Discussion of the Proposal for Certificate in Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering); up for electronic vote
   - **The Faculty Senate voted as follows:** Yes: 39, No: 0, Abstain: 0

B. Graduate Council Chair – no report

C. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –
   - no meetings yet, will focus in IP of video courses

D. Budget Committee –
   - Discussion on Budget Issues Memo from Committee
   - Proposal to vote on Budget Issues Memo
   - Next step is to have a meeting with the President, Provost, Veronica Mendez, VPBA, John Wald and Chad
   - **The Faculty Senate voted as follows:** Yes: 37, No: 0, Abstain: 1

E. HOP Committee –
   - Will try to be proactive, happy to accept nominations to review HOP changes that could be initiated by the FS.

F. Research Committee –
   - Reviewing Covid-19 research comments and concerns.
   - Busy over the summer talking to VPREKE about the impacts to research, will be continuing that dialogue.
   - Collecting information from the faculty about the impacts of research to reviews of faculty, perhaps especially for the junior faculty members

IV. Open discussion: none.

V. New Business:
   - Chris to work on the UTRGV memo from their FS, regarding adaptively evaluation of faculty. We will move for input and then an electronic vote.
   - Mary McNaughton raised the question about faculty morale and well-being. Mary will contact Chad to consider an ad-hoc committee and pull something together – this would be especially focused on the covid situation at this time. Could become a standing committee for the faculty senate.

VI. Adjournment:
   There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:15 PM