THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of April 20, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2016-2017 academic year was held April 20, 2017, 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: Sonya Aleman, Michael Baumann, Saadet Beeson, Christie Blizard, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Karen Daas, Glenn Dietrich, Walter Ermler, Alexis Godet, Dmitry Gokhman, Ruyan Guo, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Gregory Hazleton, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Melvin Laracey, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, John Nix, Sandy Norman, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Lloyd Potter, Dan Sass, Kelly Suter, Liang Tang, David Thompson, Joshua Thurow, Alistair Welchman, Christopher Wickham, Karen Williams

Absent: Jennifer Alexander (excused), Pepe Chang, Jackie Cuevas, Brian Davies (excused), James Dawes, Samer Dessouky, Martha Fasci (excused), Ray Garza, Edgar Ghossoub (excused), Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Randall Manteufel, Byongook Moon, Michael Moyer, Ashok Nedungadi, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Derek Plantenga

Guests: Mauli Agrawal, Rhonda Gonzales (for Brian Davies), Kevin Grant, Harry Millwater, Can Saygin, Jaclyn Shaw, Sarah Soulek, Mickey Stevenson, Tammy Wyatt

Total members present: 35   Total members absent: 17

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – March 23, 2017
    The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report – Emily Bonner
   Dr. Bonner said that she and Dr. Hernandez attended last week's SYSFAC meeting. Some of the items discussed with Chancellor McRaven included taking on challenges such as physician burnout, sexual assault, and shared governance. He said that students should be able to participate in topics of discovery, debate, and dissent. He cautioned against overthinking problems; encouraging action-oriented solutions, and urged

faculty to make issues known and express their opinions on these issues. Additionally, Dr. Bonner said that the UT System Faculty Advisory Committee is working on exploring an Online Education Project, looking at student "belonging" as a pillar of student success, and is conducting dual credit and workload studies for which taskforces have been formed. Dr. Bonner said that there is an upcoming shared governance visit to be held on campus (May 15th) which will look at how shared governance works at UTSA. Similar visits will take place at all of the UT System campuses. The Dean's Advisory Council and Chair's Council are currently seeking to suspend HOP 4.09 which requires that each TA enroll in 3 hours during the summer session in which they teach. For many, the pay might be less than the course registration costs and the payment deadline is before payments to TAs are issued. Dr. Bonner said that there are some other initiatives happening within the senate. The budget subcommittee is planning to submit recommendations related to transparency to the senate, and then to the members of the university's budget taskforce. A working group on sexual harassment will be gathering recommendations to submit to Dr. Reyes and the Presidential taskforce. The senate's Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit committee is conducting research on annual reports in relation to merit, and will be sending a proposal on program evaluation to the President. Dr. Bonner said that the senate may want to look at implementing an electronic "suggestion box" for topics to take up, as well as creating a Facebook page to stay connected and showcase current issues being addressed by the senate.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow
    Dr. Thurow said that a document has been drafted by the Academic Affairs subcommittee at SYSFAC and will be submitted to the full Faculty Advisory Council soon. The document addresses possible suggestions for best practices and recommendations regarding the utilization of NTT faculty.

C. Provost's Report – Mauli Agrawal
    Dr. Agrawal asked for the senate's input on 3 items:
    1) Faculty development – for incoming junior faculty, courses on grant-writing and teaching are required in the first year. The Provost asked for input on what other services should be provided that would benefit new faculty.
    2) UTSA's sexual environment – the Provost stressed the importance of faculty and staff involvement to combat a negative environment. He encouraged everyone to think about how they could better educate themselves to foster greater awareness of this issue. Dr. Agrawal said that the senate should take the lead in forming recommendations, especially those that would address sexual assault prevention.
    3) Textbooks – Dr. Agrawal said that students have expressed concern about the cost of textbooks. He encouraged faculty to consider utilizing free, online materials where possible.
    Dr. Agrawal said that he was looking into the possibility of the creation of a mini-faculty center at the downtown campus. He said that although there are still overall space constraints, construction is underway for a new engineering building and additional parking on the main campus, which should help to alleviate some of these constraints.

D. Curriculum Committee – Alistair Welchman

Dr. Welchman said that the Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal from the College of Business to eliminate 5 Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA) majors.

1) Human Resource Management
2) Sport, Event and Tourism Management
3) Entrepreneurship
4) Management with International Business concentration
5) General Business

The committee recommends that the proposal to eliminate these programs be accepted. The senate voted to unanimously approve the committee's recommendation.

In addition, the committee noted that a clarifying point might be added to HOP 2.38 with regard to review committees providing an assessment independent of the initial administrative order.

E. Research Committee – Chris Packham

The senate's research committee has been working with representatives from the Vice President for Research's office on a survey that was recently distributed to senators. The survey only yielded 22 respondents; although most of the results were as expected. The committee may consider re-running the survey again to capture a larger sample size. The full survey results are available in the senate's SharePoint meeting folder.

IV. Unfinished Business

Due to loss of quorum in the last senate meeting, an electronic vote was conducted after the meeting on whether or not to approve the curriculum committee's recommendation to support a proposal for an undergraduate certificate in Professional Writing and Rhetoric. The electronic vote passed with a total vote count of 29 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

V. New Business

- Research Computing Initiatives at UTSA
  - Harry Millwater, Associate Dean for Research, College of Engineering
    Dr. Millwater gave an overview of current computing resources available to faculty and students. He said that the research computing support group at UTSA provides computing, storage and visualization resources to support research that has specialized or highly intensive computation, storage, etc. These resources can be accessed by contacting OITConnect, visiting hpcsupport.utsa.edu, or by visiting the VizLab in MS 1.03.06N from 8am-5pm Monday-Friday.
    Dr. Millwater also listed some possible recommendations to be considered by the university. These included the following: establishing a high speed research network; facilitating the use of TACC; expanding support personnel to include computational scientists; fostering the support of research computing in grants; engaging with new faculty for start-up needs; maintaining and enhancing vizlab; maintaining SOTA HPC facility; developing a growth plan for the research data

center; providing tiered storage; establishing a training subgroup; developing a multidisciplinary graduate certificate in HPC; establishing an internal cloud facility; and establishing secured computing.

VI.   Open Forum

VII.   Adjournment
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:10 p.m.