

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
of February 22, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2017-2018 academic year was held February 22, 2018, 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: Diane Abdo, Sonya Aleman, Michael Baumann, Saadet Beeson, Christie Blizzard, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Natasha Burns, Crystal Colombini, Brian Davies, James Dawes, Walter Ermler, Edgar Ghossoub, Dmitry Gokhman, Abraham Graber, Ruyan Guo, Shane Haberstroh, Richard Harris, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Michael Karcher, Turgay Korkmaz, Aneta Koynova, Melvin Laracey, Chad Mahood, Francisco Marcos-Marin, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Ashok Nedungadi, John Nix, Sakiko Oyama, Chris Packham, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Gabriela Sanchez-Soto, Dan Sass, Les Shephard, Kelly Suter, David Thompson, Joshua Thurow, Diane Walz, Xiaodu Wang, Karen Williams, Hongjie Xie, Tina Zawacki

Absent: Vangie Aguilera, Pepe Chang, Martha Fasci (excused), Jamon Halvaksz (excused), David Hansen, Jeffrey Hutchinson (excused), Derek Plantenga, Branco Ponomariov, Tulio Sulbaran, Liang Tang

Guests: Martha Lundell, Heather Shipley, Sarah Soulek

Total members present: 43

Total members absent: 10

II. Consent Calendar

Approval of minutes – January 18, 2018
The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner said that the committee working on the UTSA workload policy met today to look at the current policy and proposed revisions. Once the new version is completed it will go out for stakeholder review. Dr. Bonner said that a few main topics were discussed at the most recent SYSFAC meeting: The search for a new Chancellor is underway. The search committee is comprised of two former and two current Regents who have asked for feedback from FAC to promote shared governance. Other topics

discussed were physician burnout and how that principle can apply to academic institutions, a paid family leave policy being worked on by a FAC subcommittee, and NTT faculty initiatives. More information on these topics is forthcoming.

Dr. Bonner said that the university's budget steering committee is looking at choosing a budget model soon and will be asking for feedback at upcoming town halls in March. She also said that a gender equity study is underway, which was initiated by UT System. Dr. Bonner said that she also received a resolution from the Student Government Association (SGA) highlighting their opposition to the plus/minus grading system. She will be gathering and sending out more information soon so this resolution can be voted on at the next senate meeting.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Joshua Thurow

Dr. Thurow gave an update on what the legislature funded in the last biennium. \$20.5 billion was used to fund higher education, which was a \$235 million increase over the FY 16-17 biennium and was primarily used to pay for increases for TRB debt service and the higher education assistance fund. Other funds went to state mental health hospitals and the Governor's University Research Initiative. There were no changes to the higher education budget structure, except that special items received significant reductions in funding and were renamed "non-formula support funding" items. Within the UT System, academic institutions received a \$1.5 billion total appropriation (a \$47.1 million decrease over FY 16-17). Health-related institutions received a \$1.8 billion total appropriation (a \$6.7 million decrease over FY 16-17). In addition, HRI formula funding was provided for the new medical schools at UT Austin and UTRGV. The higher education issues addressed by the legislature were: reporting of campus sexual misconduct, community colleges now able to issue baccalaureate degrees, greater information on open source textbooks, transparency on student loan debt, and the expansion of telemedicine and telehealth. Other items that the legislature did not accomplish were: reforming Hazlewood, re-regulating tuition, repealing in-state tuition for undocumented students, increasing THECB authority, eliminating tuition set-asides, changing campus carry, and altering the top 10% law. The next legislative session will convene on January 8, 2019. For FY 20-21, the state is projecting an estimated \$6-8 billion deficit to start. UT System priorities are expected to be: institution priorities, protecting PUF/AUF, obtaining adequate and rational funding, protecting free speech on campus, protection the tuition benefit for DREAMers, maintaining the Regents' tuition-setting authority, and revisiting campus sexual misconduct legislation. They will also look to re-establish the value of higher education especially among Republicans, whose views regarding the impact of higher education have diminished (according to a recent study).

Lastly, Dr. Thurow pointed out a guideline on the financial affairs website regarding relocation expense reimbursement; specifically, the amount of time that a new employee must work to be eligible to receive a relocation reimbursement.

Section C: Requirements 1.a. "Time Test: The employee must be hired for a full-time position (100% appointment - 40 hours per week) for a minimum of 39 weeks (9.75 months) during the first 12 months of employment..."

He said that Dr. Zapata's office is looking into this matter as it relates to faculty on a 9-month contract.

C. Curriculum Committee – Sakiko Oyama & Martha Fasci

The Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal for a Concentration in Pre-Medical Sciences. Although the committee recommended the proposal for approval, there was a motion to table the proposal so more information could be gathered before the next senate meeting. The motion was seconded, and the senate voted as follows:

- Table the proposal – 16
- Do not table the proposal – 5
- Abstain – 11

Therefore, the proposal was tabled until the next senate meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Heather Shipley, Vice Provost and Dean, University College

- Academic Calendar

Dr. Shipley asked the senate if they were willing to look at the possibility of changing the academic calendar in order to calculate the semester in accordance with Carnegie units (by contact hours). This could change the calendar from 17 weeks (fall and spring) to 16 weeks (fall and spring), similar to many other Texas schools. Benefits would include:

- Student success – give colleges/offices time to review final grades and effect on student placement into next semester
 - Faculty – would have more preparation time between semesters
 - Financial savings – student workers would be paid 16 weeks (versus 17) and those saved resources could be put to other academic success initiatives
 - Faculty/Staff/Student Benefits – the new schedule would better align with the public school systems start date in the fall

Dr. Shipley said that no concrete decisions have been made yet regarding the ways in which to implement this new schedule, but that details would be worked out soon. The senate agreed overall in support of this new schedule.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:50 p.m.