

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING of March 21, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year was held March 21, 2019, 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, Vangie Aguilera, David Bojanic, Emily Bonner, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Ian Caine, James Chambers, Whitney Chappell, Crystal Colombini, James Dawes, Glenn Dietrich, Edgar Ghossoub, Ovidio Giberga, Alexis Godet, Abraham Graber, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Kathryn Henderson, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Drew Johnson, Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Turgay Korkmaz, Melvin Laracey, Dennis Lopez, Chad Mahood, Ashok Nedungadi, George Negrete, Chris Packham, Derek Plantenga, Priya Prasad, Elaine Sanders, Tulio Sulbaran, David Thompson, Raydel Tullous, John Wald, Xiaodu Wang, Karen Williams, John Zarco, Tina Zawacki

Absent: Pepe Chang, Langston Clark, Brian Davies (excused), Ruyan Guo, Michael Miller, Byongook Moon, Sharon Nichols, Rogelio Palomera-Arias, Debra Pena (excused), Branco Ponomariov, Bill Ramos, Devon Romero (excused), Liang Tang, Rene Zenteno

Guests: Kimberly Andrews Espy, David Silva, Sarah Soulek

Total members present: 39

Total members absent: 15

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – February 28, 2019

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Chair Report – Emily Bonner

Dr. Bonner reminded senators that elections for a new chair-elect will take place at the next meeting. More information on the position can be found in the bylaws. Dr. Kalinec-Craig and the NEP committee will coordinate elections (via email and nominations from the floor on the day of the meeting).

B. Secretary of the General Faculty Report – Chris Packham

Dr. Packham reminded senators about the upcoming August retreat. The senate is working on expanding communication with the administration and various Vice Presidents and Deans have been invited to upcoming senate meetings to discuss their office's goals and discuss their current/future role with the senate.

- C. Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Structure and Operations – Chad Mahood
The newly formed ad hoc committee requested approval to confirm the current members – John Wald, Abraham Graber, Diane Abdo, and Chad Mahood (interim chair). The senate voted to unanimously approve the members of the committee. There was also a motion to confirm any future members via electronic vote. The senate voted to unanimously approve this motion. The committee will report on their findings and discussions each month in anticipation of a broader discussion at the August retreat.
- D. Budget Committee – Chad Mahood
The new Vice President for Business Affairs, Veronica Mendez, is scheduled to attend either the April or the May senate meeting. Dr. Mahood asked for specific questions related to the budget to be sent to him ahead of time to share with the VPBA prior to the meeting.
- E. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Abraham Graber
No committee report.
- F. HOP Committee – Glenn Dietrich
Dr. Dietrich said that a draft proposal from the faculty governance resolution will be posted to SharePoint for review. The committee plans to meet soon to review any changes to the draft.
- G. Nominating, Elections and Procedures Committee – Crystal Kalinec-Craig
Dr. Kalinec-Craig will be sending out committee information once the new senators' names are confirmed. Information about the chair-elect position will be sent out as well.
- H. Research Committee – Jamon Halvaksz
Dr. Halvaksz said that his committee is still working on the F&A issue and will have a meeting soon to discuss further steps.
- I. Ad Hoc COB Committee – John Wald
Dr. Wald requested that the item listed on the agenda under unfinished business be moved up for a vote. Dr. Wald made a motion which was seconded to confirm Raydel Tullous as a member of the ad hoc COB committee. The senate voted to unanimously approve the motion confirming Dr. Tullous as a committee member. Dr. Wald said that Heather Shipley has also been appointed to the committee by the Provost, to serve as an ex officio member. The committee is working on a preliminary report for the administration to review and expects to have a full report to share with the senate in May.
- J. Curriculum Committee – Turgay Korkmaz
- GIS certificate program – Geological Sciences
- The committee reviewed a proposal for a GIS certificate program in Geological Sciences. The committee recommends approval of the proposal. A motion to vote was made, seconded, and the senate voted to unanimously approve the proposal.
- K. Provost Report – Kimberly Andrews Espy
Dr. Espy thanked those that attended yesterday's breakfast to discuss the COB expansion. She distributed a handout with more details and a link to the website containing the expansion's rationale, future plans, drivers, underserved areas, etc. One

critical reason for the expansion is to address the academic space shortage, in its current state and as estimated in the future with a direct correlation to enrollment growth.

The strategic hiring initiative is underway with the first hires under the programs starting soon. She encouraged faculty to work with others they may know who might be interested. Dr. Espy reminded the senate that the deadline for the VSIP has been extended to April 10th.

Dr. Espy said that the search for a Vice Provost for Academic Innovation (previously the Chief Online Learning Officer) is still underway. None of those interviewed were hired and the position is being further refined.

As part of the Classroom to Career initiative, an external consultant is reviewing the career center and will present a report soon.

The Health taskforce has a meeting next week to review the upcoming models and give feedback. The Provost will also meet with individual deans and faculty moving forward.

The Clustered and Connected hiring initiative produced 12 submissions that will be reviewed by the transdisciplinary research council. Some of these may be implemented immediately and some in the future.

The Texas Governor and Chancellor have asked universities to review their admissions processes following the recent news articles and press coverage. The internal audit group at UTSA will be involved in this process.

A question was asked about changes to the external review letter process. The University Faculty Review Advisory Committee (UFRAC) recommended using a template to solicit reviewers and track those asked to provide a review. The template should make the external review process more consistent and complete so that all submissions contain the necessary elements. Any comments or revisions are welcome.

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

- Dean, College of Sciences – David Silva

Dr. Silva thanked the senate for inviting him. He discussed his background in astronomy and his shared vision of student success and goals for first generation students. He stressed the importance of data intensity in science but also as it related to research and teaching. Although just beginning his role of dean this month, he is already working on identifying internal and external connections and is focused on the communication improvements that can be made at all levels.

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:30 p.m.