

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
of October 17, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2019-2020 academic year was held October 17, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Diane Abdo, Vangie Aguilera, Sonya Aleman, Samson Alva, Gina Amatangelo, Paul Ardoin, Sabina Bhattathiry-Kapoor, David Bojanic, Rajendra Boppana, Lorenzo Brancaleon, Curtis Brewer, Ian Caine, James Chambers, Langston Clark, Glenn Dietrich, Mike Doyle, Roger Enriquez, Abraham Graber, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Richard Harris, Matthias Hofferberth, Becky Huang, Jeffrey Hutchinson, Kim Kline, Andrew Konove, Dennis Lopez, Chad Mahood, Michael Miller, Priya Prasad, Pablo Requena, Devon Romero, Dan Sass, John Wald, Alistair Welchman, Karen Williams, John Zarco, Tina Zawacki, Rene Zenteno

Absent: Emily Bonner, Amarie Carnett, James Dawes, Ovidio Giberga, Alexis Godet, Drew Johnson, Ram Krishnan, Sandeep Langar, Huy Le, Ashok Nedungadi, Chris Packham (excused), Debra Pena, Branco Ponomariov (excused), Rica Ramirez, Bill Ramos, Nathan Richardson, Liang Tang (excused), Xiaodu Wang

Guests: Janis Bush, Katrina Clements (Paisano), Dean Hendrix, Patricia Jaramillo (for Branco Ponomariov), Terri Matiella, Heather Montoya (Paisano), Rudy Sanchez (Paisano), Heather Shipley, Sarah Soulek, Joseph Torres (Paisano), Gwen Young

Total members present: 39

Total members absent: 18

II. Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes – September 12, 2019
- Proposed Bylaws Revision for Graduate Faculty - Correct Language
- Closure of MA in Bicultural Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Mexican American Studies
- Dual Degree Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering
  - *One item was pulled off the consent agenda for further discussion:  
Proposed Bylaws Revision for Graduate Faculty - Correct Language*

All other items were approved.

III. Reports

❖ Sustainable Scholarly Communications

- Dean of Libraries – Dean Hendrix

Mr. Hendrix shared a few updates regarding sustainable scholarly communications:

- UTSA's first scholarly communications librarian will begin on November 1, 2019

- UTSA Libraries, in collaboration with Texas Digital Library, will launch the university's international repository – UTSA Digital Press
- Currently, governments provide most funding for research and public institutions employ a large portion of all researchers. Researchers publish their findings without the expectation of compensation. Unlike other authors, they hand their work and author rights over to publishers without payment, in the interest of advancing human knowledge. Through the process of peer review, researchers review each other's work for free. Once published, those that contributed to the research (from taxpayers to the institutions that supported the research itself) have to pay again to access the findings. Though research is produced as a public good, much of it isn't available to the public who paid for it.
- As UTSA becomes an R1 institution and grows its student FTE, the Libraries will face sudden and significant price increases due to tiered and research-status-based pricing. Historically, publishers have not allowed universities' to have open access rights to their own faculty's work. Libraries can only swap out <1% titles in "big deals", creating inflexibility to support new and emerging research/programs.
- The University of California System and other national libraries around the globe (e.g., Germany, Sweden) have walked away from negotiations with Elsevier when unable to secure contracts that aligned with their institutional values. This momentum has led to strong interest among Texas institutions to support those efforts and "do something" as a Texas coalition of publics, privates, big and small institutions. Meetings this summer have led to the creation of two documents:
  1. Statement of Collaboration: Principles and Values (moral support)
  2. Memorandum of Understanding on collaborative negotiations (action)
 Dr. Hendrix provided a list of institutions that worked on the statement and memorandum. For more information, the presentation is available on the senate's webpage.

A. Chair's Report – Chad Mahood

Dr. Mahood gave a brief overview of the plus/minus issue, explaining how the JPMC was formed and that the committee's recommendation is to discontinue plus/minus grading. There was a motion made and seconded to vote on whether or not the senate supported the JPMC's memo.

**Vote against support of JPMC memo:**

After some discussion, the senate voted as follows: 7 in support of the JPMC memo, 25 against supporting the memo, 5 abstentions

**Vote against discontinuing the plus/minus system:**

After the vote, another motion was made and seconded to vote on whether or not the plus/minus system should be discontinued. After some discussion, the senate voted as follows: 15 in support of discontinuing the plus/minus system, 18 against discontinuing the plus/minus system, 5 abstentions

**Vote against MS in Cyber Security proposal:**

Dr. Mahood gave an overview of the MS in Cyber Security proposal that was discussed at the last meeting. Due to confusion regarding last month's vote on the proposal, the senate voted again. After a motion was made and seconded, the senate voted as follows: 1 approve the proposal as it stands, 21 do not approve the proposal as it stands, 14 abstentions.

B. Provost's Report – Heather Shipley (for Kimberly Andrews Espy)

Dr. Shipley discussed the Academic Affairs faculty travel awards matching program and said that a memo with more details was forwarded to deans and department chairs.

She said that UTSA has changed its workload policy in order to align with the updated Regents' Rule and that a framework for developing guidelines was distributed to the colleges. This framework will provide ways in which the colleges can develop their own workload policies. The colleges will be setting up committees to ensure shared governance and will focus on implementation for the next academic year.

Dr. Mahood asked that senators check in on their workload committee formations and report back at the next senate meeting.

C. Graduate Council Chair – Alistair Welchman

The item pulled from the consent agenda was briefly discussed:

- *Proposed Bylaws Revision for Graduate Faculty - Correct Language* – The draft presented at the last Faculty Senate meeting was not the draft intended for final approval. The drafts were similar, but the correct draft provides more details on implementation.

**Vote to table Proposed Bylaws Revision for Graduate Faculty:**

There was a motion to send the proposal back to the Graduate Council, which was seconded. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn. A second motion was made and seconded to table the vote and the senate voted as follows: 31 approve tabling the vote, 1 against tabling the vote, 0 abstentions.

D. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee – Richard Harris

No report.

E. Budget Committee – John Wald

No report.

F. HOP Committee – Xiaodu Wang

No report.

G. Research Committee – Jamon Halvaksz

No report.

H. Curriculum Committee – Rajendra Boppana

- **BBA in Business Analytics**  
The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 32 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.
- **BA in Environmental Studies**  
The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 34 yes, 2 no, and 0 abstentions.
- **Certificate in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering**  
The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 34 yes, 2 no, and 0 abstentions.
- **Undergraduate Certificate in Healthcare Interpreting (Spanish/English)**  
The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 34 yes, 2 no, and 0 abstentions.
- **Minor in Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS)**  
The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 34 yes, 2 no, and 0 abstentions.
- **Core Curriculum Proposal: PAD 1113 Public Administration in American Society**  
(tabled from September meeting)

The curriculum committee recommended that the proposal be approved. The senate voted to approve the proposal as follows: 33 yes, 1 no, and 3 abstentions.

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

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.