

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Of September 8, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year was held September 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. René Zenteno, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

- I. Call to order and taking of attendance. Dr. Zenteno thanked Dr. Chad Mahood, past Faculty Senate Chair for his service over the past three years.

Present: René Zenteno, Chris Packham, Curtis Brewer, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Felicia Castro-Villarreal, Kirsten Gardner, Sonya Aleman, Alex Godet, Andrew Lloyd, Corey Sparks, Valerie Sponsel, Chad Mahood, Hector Aguilar, John Alexander, Gus Allo, Kiran Bhaganagar, James Chambers, Xun Chen, Candace Christensen, Sidury Christiansen, Neil Debbage, Victor DeOliveira, Mary Dixson, Zaid Haddad, Marcus Hamilton, Ying Huang, Drew Johnson, Kim Kline, Brian Laub, Huy Le, Richard LeBaron, Don Lien, Charles Liu, Dennis Lopez, Justin Marmolejo, Sue Ann Pemberton, Branco Ponomariov, Jeff Prevost, John Quarles, Rica Ramirez, Devon Romero, Gabriela Romero Uribe, Humberto Saenz, Kirk Schanze, Arturo Schultz, Kerry Sinanan, Maho Sonmez, Marie Tillyer, Zijun Wang, David Weber,

Absent: Whitney Chappell (excused), Ginny Garcia, Dmitry Gokhman, Rick Gretz, Jeffrey Howard, Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick, Tianou Zhang

Guests: Kimberly Andrews Espy, Heather Shipley, Amy Chanmugam, Alberto Cordova, Debra Del Toro, Angela Griffith, Liset Leal-Vasquez, Derek Plantenga, Debbie Rappaport, Sarah Ullevig, and Melissa Wallace (for Whitney Chappell)

Total members present: 50 Total members absent: 8

- II. Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting
- Approval of newly appointed Faculty Senate Executive Committee
The Minutes and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee were approved

- III. Reports

Academic Affairs Updates: Provost Kimberly Andrews Espy

Dr. Espy thanked the Faculty Senate for being able to attend and provide a preview for upcoming initiatives. She apologized, in advance, to those who many have already heard some of her presentation as she is going around to all of the colleges to meet with faculty.

Dr. Espy discussed the new class of faculty hired for 2022-2023 and how we continue to recruit and select those from Carnegie R1 and AAU member institutions. She discussed the difficulties we have all faced living and working with COVID-19 and reminded us all

to continue to do our part and to visit the Recovery Operations website for up-to-date information.

Dr. Espy updated the Faculty Senate on Student Success Initiatives, which include the expansion of the Bold Promise Program that includes additional funds from UT System and the MacKenzie Scott gift. Both allowed UTSA to increase the family income threshold from \$55K to \$70K which translated to over 1,110 incoming freshmen students eligible for funding through the BP program. She mentioned outreach programs to get students registered to complete their degrees and the Roadrunner Success Playbook as an available resource in Blackboard for students.

Dr. Espy discussed the classroom that have recently been renovate with new technology. She stated that due to supply-chain issues, some of the technology is not in place yet, but anticipate by December of receiving the equipment. In addition to the new classrooms, she reminded the Senate about the Academic Success District, which houses the student facing services which is clustered around the Sombrilla. This is coupled with each college having their own Student Success Centers which are tailored to their programs and career guidance. Dr. Espy stated all of these programs, coupled with great mentoring from faculty, improve our graduation rates and time-to-degrees.

Dr. Espy updated the Faculty Senate on the integration of the Southwest School of Art and the SACSCOC visit which was completed in August. In addition, through the COLFA visioning process, the departments of Art and Art History and Music will be renamed to the new School of Art and School of Music effective Sept. 1st. The Steering Committee for the ITC has delivered its final report to President Eighmy for three feasible scenarios which are being considered by professional subject matter experts and led by our CFO, Veronica Salazar. In the meantime, she is moving forward with conducting a national search for an Associate Vice Provost for Public Engagement and Research/Chief Curator.

The following are FY23 Outlooks. Dr. Espy mentioned that the plan is not to start new initiatives, but to instantiate

- Complete Campus Climate Initiative; gather feedback and college/division action plans and develop into a university plan. Townhalls sometime in October. Following townhalls the university plan will be developed that is reflective of all of the action plans.
- Continue to work with the Hispanic Thriving Leadership Council to develop framework. Working with our own Dr. Vanessa Sansone in Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies – how do we go to the next level to become a thriving institution. This data will be used to renew the Seal of Excelencia.
- Dr. Espy mentioned that the colleges are working on the promotion and tenure guidelines and annual review standards. The goal is to complete the process this year.
- UTSA Strategic Plan Refresh. Board of Regents require each institution to refresh its strategic plan every 10 years. Dr. Espy mentioned that we are at the midpoint of UTSA's Strategic Plan, so it's a time to celebrate accomplishments, reflect on where we are headed, and also to consider if there are goals we need to modify or fine-tuning. Timeframe is after the Campus Climate has been completed, so around November there will be initial meetings. Process will be led by the Deans of each

college. Main work on the refresh will start in the Spring. Lisa Jasinski in President Eighmy's office is overseeing the project.

- Academic Affairs advancing faculty success and mentoring. Welcome thoughts on the mentoring program.
- National Impact Travel Awards will be continued. There are two parts to the program. Academic Affairs and VPREDKE partner together to ensure we support professional development of faculty and staff. Goal is to tell our story.
- Academic Innovation is continuing its programs, grants, etc. New Academic Innovation Center across from the Tomás Rivera Center will open in October. It will be a living lab. There will be an opening ceremony.
- Reminder about the Undergraduate Research Student portal in Career Engaged Learning.

Finally, Dr. Espy will be hosting a reception following the October 13th Faculty Senate meeting at the Southwest Campus. Invitation will be forthcoming.

Dr. Zenteno thanked Dr. Espy for her presentation and for hosting the reception at next month's meeting. Dr. Zenteno opened the forum for questions to the Provost. At this time, there were no questions for the Provost.

Dr. Zenteno introduced and welcome Debbie Howard-Rappaport, Director of Academic Programs and Compliance and Angela Griffith, Assistant Vice Provost for Operations and Strategic Initiatives, who will be providing support to the Faculty Senate.

A. Chair's Report – René Zenteno

Dr. Zenteno stated that he will meet separately with the Provost and Dr. Shipley on a monthly basis. In his first meeting with the Provost, he was able to share the outcomes from the Faculty Senate retreat and the four priorities. The Provost was receptive to developing better communication between Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs. One of the committees will work on that as part of the shared governance issue. Also, he conveyed the Senate's desire to have less presentations at the meetings in order to be able to have fruitful conversations surrounding the priorities the Senate identified during the summer retreat.

Dr. Zenteno shared the list of the Executive Committee members and the membership list which can be found on the SharePoint Site. He emphasized that the Executive Committee worked to ensure all of the committees were balanced.

Dr. Zenteno mentioned that he and Dr. Chris Packham, Secretary of the General Faculty, attend the UT System Faculty Advisory Committee (SYSFAC) meetings in Austin with other members of UT System institution Faculty Senate committees. These meetings take place on Oct. 6-7, 2022, Jan. 26-27, 2023, and April 27-28, 2023. Many of the issues we discuss at our meetings, we will introduce at the meetings in Austin, such as our priorities.

Dr. Zenteno reiterated that the October meeting will be held in person at the UTSA Southwest Campus with a reception following the meeting hosted by Provost Kimberly Espy. He stated it is a wonderful opportunity to develop a sense of belonging as a group and also to tour the new campus. More information will be forthcoming. He further stated that this will be the only meeting this semester that will be in person as the Assembly Room is under renovation. Our goal is resume in person/hybrid when the Assembly Room re-

opens in the Spring. Our plan is to take the official Faculty Senate photo at the October meeting.

Dr. Zenteno address the comment in the Chat regarding adding a Building Committee to the other committees. It was pointed out that the committee that was formed last year was an ad hoc committee. Dr. Zenteno mentioned that the Executive Committee will discuss adding a new committee. He further mentioned that the Faculty Senate Chair participates on the Space Committee of the University, but we do want to have the ability to provide feedback on plans for future endeavors at the university to ensure the projects have sustainability.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Chris Packham

Dr. Packham said that the next SYSFAC meeting will occur prior to the Oct. 13th Faculty Senate meeting, therefore if there are any topics that should be considered at that meeting, please forward to both he and Dr. Zenteno for consideration.

Dr. Packham announced to the Senate that the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) recently selected Dr. Zenteno as a fellow for their La Academia de Liderazgo for 2022-2023. The Senate extends their congratulations.

C. University Curriculum Committee – Andy Lloyd

- Bachelor's in Social Work
- B.S. Nutrition and Health with a concentration 1) Child and Maternal Health or 2) Nutrition Sustainability and Food Systems

Dr. Lloyd uploaded the University Curriculum Committee's report in the chat. He said that the committee unanimously approved both proposals; however, the committee had questions on the B.S. in Nutrition and Health proposal. Dr. Liset Leal-Vasquez and Dr. Sarah Ullevig attended the meeting to address the concerns of the committee and satisfied their questions regarding the program. Dr. Leal-Vasquez and Dr. Ullevig explained the Nutrition and Dietetics programs, which is accredited, does not offer electives, and that this particular degree was developed for students who may wish to work in non-clinical settings. There will be courses that overlap, but will review the curriculum to see if they can add electives. Unfortunately, the degree is already at 120 hours, so there may some limitations. Further, the degree will provide a path for students who wish to pursue careers in graduate programs or medical school as those entities like to see nutrition in students' portfolios. As for the question regarding the higher-level sciences courses, the Nutrition and Dietetics programs does require the high-science courses (biochemistry, etc.) as pre-requisites. We do not require organic chemistry II, which is similar to most dietetic programs. The Nutrition and Dietetics degree has a strong clinical focus (clinical/hospital setting). The B.S. in Nutrition and Health will focus on Community/Public Health Nutrition practice settings. Both Dr. Leal-Vasquez and Dr. Ullevig stated that this does not prohibit students from being prepared for graduate programs or medical school.

With no further discussion regarding the two curriculum proposals, Dr. Zenteno confirmed that the Faculty Senate would conduct the vote on both proposals using the Chat in Zoom.

Andy Lloyd made a motion to approve, disapprove or abstain the Bachelor's in Social Work. Alex Godet seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion.

The Faculty Senate vote was as follows:

Approve: 35; Disapprove: 0; Abstain: 0

Andy Lloyd made a motion to approve, disapprove or abstain the Bachelor's in Nutrition and Health with concentration 1) Child and Maternal Health or 2) Nutrition Sustainability & Food Systems. Mary Dixon seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion.

The Faculty Senate vote was as follows:

Approve: 39; Disapprove: 0; Abstain: 0

D. Graduate Council Chair – no report

E. Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee– no report

F. Budget Committee – no report

G. HOP Committee – no report

H. Research Committee – no report

IV. Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business: Faculty Senate Priorities – René Zenteno and Chris Packham

Dr. Zenteno discussed the priorities that were determined by the Faculty Senate at the August retreat wants to continue that discussion, specifically of the top two priorities that were determined by the Senators. He stated that in order to communicate with university administration, we need clarity on these priorities.

Dr. Packham recapped the Faculty Senate August retreat and collated the flip charts and discussed the commonalities among the Senate members, the Faculty Senate Mission Statement and whether or not it should be revised into one that aligns with the Faculty Senate committees. A suggestion for the new version – “Faculty Senate is a representative body that cultivates shared governance to advance UTSA’s mission.” Discussed the role of the Faculty Senators and reviewed the list of priorities for the year. Dr. Packham identified the top two priorities:

- Faculty Equity and Compensation, Address Inflation, Retention/Salaries, and Resources – the faculty life cycle (Full Senate)
 - Ensure adequate funding to promote recruitment of diverse and talented faculty and retain and advance them once receiving tenure. Also, recruit and retain our FTT faculty;
 - Clarity, transparency and equity.

- Maintaining R1/NRUF (Full Senate)
 - What is UTSA's plan?
 - Administration and infrastructure; retain staff in the departments so you don't re-invent the wheel;
 - Recruitment of GRA's, competitive fellowships;
 - Improve research support/infrastructure.

The other priorities determined at the retreat are:

- Shared Governance (Academic, Freedom, Evaluation & Merit Committee)
- Effective use of meetings – fewer outside presentations, more deliberation, and more communications before the meetings (Executive Committee)
- Improve Transparency on budget, IRM, funding colleges, and hiring (Budget Committee)
- Greater research administrative support and funding (Research Committee)
- Advocate for Faculty (Full Senate)

These priorities have been assigned to each of the committees to think about during respective meetings and will be discussed over the course of the year.

At today's meeting, the Faculty Senate convened in break-out rooms via Zoom with the objective to identify 3 to 5 goals connected to Priorities 1 and 2 – goals should be stated as desired outcomes. Committee chairs to lead the discussion in their break-out rooms. The Faculty Senate will vote on the top priorities later in the week on the goals identified from the discussions in the break-out rooms.

Dr. Zenteno asked for the Committee Chair's to email the goals determined in the break-out sessions to him and Debbie Howard Rappaport so that the goals could be collated and sent out to the Faculty Senate.

VI. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Chris Packham, seconded by Marie Tillyer and the meeting concluded at 5:03 PM