**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Of March 10, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2021-2022 academic year was held March 10, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

1. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Present: Chad Mahood, Chris Packham, Matthias Hofferberth, Alex Godet, Richard LeBaron, Jurgen Engelberth, Curtis Brewer, Jeff Prevost, John Wald, Catalina Zarate, John Alexander, Whitney Chappell, Michael Doyle, Melissa Wallace, Diane Abdo, Rene Zenteno, Richard Gretz, Sonya Aleman, Victor De Oliveira, Sonia Saldivar-Hull, Andrew Konove, Sylvia Mansour, Roger Enriquez, Zhechao Liu, Kiran Bhaganagar, Dennis Lopez, Ginny Garcia-Alexander, Hector Aguilar, Kim Kline, Joel Meija, Humberto Saenz, Rica Ramirez, Raj Boppana, David Hansen, Karina Vielma, Candace Christensen, Devon Romero, August Allo, Felicia Castro, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Branco Ponomariov, Nicole Beebe, Becky Huang,

Absent: not available

Guests: Melinda Utoft, Debra Del Toro, Can Saygin, Bernard Arulanandam, Maggie Nerio, Jaclyn Shaw, Julie Sylvan, Omar Valerio, Kerry Sinanan

Total members present: 55 Total members absent: not available

1. Consent Calendar - No one objected to Consent Agenda

* Approval of minutes – February 17, 2022
* Technology for Language Education Certificate proposal

1. Reports

**University Leadership Updates:** Dr. Bernard Arulanandam, VPREDKE

* See PowerPoint Presentation
* VPREDKE snapshot of the close from last year; attaining Carnegie R1 and framework for Accelerate 2030 plan.
* Accelerate 2030 – a framework for Bold New Knowledge Enterprise
  1. **Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood**
* See PowerPoint Presentation
* Academic Freedom at UTSA – ongoing meetings with President, Provost, Faculty Senate Chair and other invited attendees; issues discussed include: support for tenure, free speech in the classroom and faculty rights
* This is just the beginning of these discussions with UTSA leadership.
* Currently there is not a statement before the Faculty Senate.
* JPL Assembly Room is being renovated for hybrid meetings; ready in Fall 2022.
* Faculty Senate will meet virtually for the rest of the spring 2022 semester.
* Climate Survey Update: focus groups will happen in March/April
* UTSA Giving Day Overview
  1. **Secretary of the General Faculty** – no report
  2. **Graduate Council Chair –** no report
  3. **Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –** no report
  4. **Budget Committee** – no report
  5. **HOP Committee** – no report
  6. **Curriculum Committee** – no report
  7. **Research Committee –** no report
  8. **Adhoc Governance Committee** – no report

1. **Unfinished Business:**
2. **Open discussion:** A discussion was opened up on the topic of whether the UTSA Faculty Senate should make a statement in support of academic freedom and Critical Race Theory (CRT).

* At the College of the Liberal and Fine Arts, a statement from the Diversity Committee has been drafted; the statement was read in the meeting by Sonia Saldivar Hull.
* Chad summarized that there a number of faculty who believe that the faculty senate needs to write a statement as soon as possible but there is currently not a written statement.
* There was a motion made on the floor that the Faculty Senate should craft a statement in support of academic freedom and CRT. It is up to the discretion of the Faculty Senate as what to craft in the statement and when to release the statement. AFEM will be charged with writing the statement.

***The Faculty Senate voted as follows:* Approve: 29; Disapprove: 0; Abstain: 1**

1. **New Business:**

* Diane Abdo shared that students have written an editorial in the Paisano in support of academic freedom, tenure and Critical Race Theory. The students have also interviewed faculty who are covering the topic.
* Rica Ramirez shared that a faculty member in her department asked her to present the idea to the Faculty Senate about forming a special committee or task force from representatives of each college that focus on actionable projects to support the people of Ukraine.

1. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 5:25 PM