



**2015-2016 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2016, 1:30-4:00 PM  
SBSC 111, Edinburg Campus**

Minutes: Prepared by Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

**SENATORS PRESENT:** James Boudreau, Dongyop Oh, Sam Sale, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Mohammad Azarbayejani, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Sanjeev Kumar, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Sandra Musanti, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Irasema Gonzalez, Rosalinda Hernandez, Bobbette Morgan, Jacob Neumann, Robert Gilbert, Donald J. Lyles, Britt Claude Haraway, Frederick Darsow, Justin Writer, Daniel Hunter-Holly, Brian Warren, Bailey Wang, Yasar Tasnif, Jameela Banu, Jeannean Ryman, Lilia Fuentes, Joe Lacher, Angela Scoggin, Wilma Mealer, Fidencio Mercado, Catherine Faver, Dora Saavedra, Thomas White, Rosalva Resendiz, Michael Weaver, Brent Campney, Ernesto Ramirez, David Anshen, Irina Armianu, Cory Wimberly, William Sokoloff, James Wenzel, Gary Leka, Aziza Zemrani, Stephen Merino, Margaret Graham, Sheila Dooley, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, John Newman, Christopher Vitek, Yuanbing Mao, James Bullard, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ranadhir Roy, Jasang Yoon, James Hinthorne, Volker Quetschke, Nicolas Pereyra, Wendy Innis, John VandeBerg, Michelle Alvarado, Kelly Leu

**SENATORS ABSENT:** Andrew Anabila, Sibin Wu, Mahmoud Quweider, Immanuel Edinbarough, Alexander Kazansky, Murat Karabulut, Jeffrey McQuillen, Matthew Terry, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Arden Dingle

**FACULTY SENATE OFFICE ASSISTANT III:** Vanessa Ceballos

**VISITOR(S):** Ala Qubbaj, Marie Mora, Kristin Croyle, Cynthia Brown, Havidán Rodríguez, Lisa Smith, Paul Sharpe, Linda Matthews

- I. Pre-Meeting (1:45):  
Senators Sign in for Attendance and for Travel Reimbursements (Harlingen & Brownsville Senators)
- II. President Saavedra convened the meeting at 2:14 pm
  1. President Saavedra summarized the President and President-Elect's conversation with Dr. Havidán Rodríguez in which they reviewed the topics raised at the December 4, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting.
  2. Senator Wenzel moved that the work session be removed from the agenda due to the Provost's expected visit to the meeting. Senator Caruntu seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Work Session HOP Review and Process Recommendations

1. President Saavedra explained the task will be to do an initial review of 19 policies (18 with implementation dates of Sept. 1, 2015, and 1 with a January 1, implementation date.) In addition there will be an opportunity to provide input on 2 issues (advising and Commencement ceremonies at Brownsville and Edinburg with suggestions on how to improve.)
2. President Saavedra explained the process of Hop review and the retroactive posting dates.
  - Of the 150 to 180 policies reviewed last year by faculty and sent to UT System Office of General Council and returned to UTRGV, there are 19 policies pertaining to faculty that need to be reviewed by faculty.
  - Senate working groups will receive copies of the policies with the original mark-up forwarded to OGC and the 'approved version' to review for substantive changes. (Merged versions will be prepared for distribution in time for FSEC meeting February 5, 2016)
  - The goal is to have completed the review by April.
3. Information Items:
  - The FY 2016 University level tenure and promotion committee was appointed by administration with brief review by FSEC. The Senate will be looking at the review process when reviewing the Tenure and Promotion Policy.
  - Note: All academic committees are ad hoc this year. In clarification, all committees are appointed by the provost. The Faculty Senate's role is to recommend membership.
4. Senator Hansmann moved that we could have a Blackboard course set up to facilitate communication and dissemination of documents. Senator Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Action Items:

1. Approval of the Minutes for December 4, 2015 Meeting. Senator Boudreau moved to approve the minutes as corrected. It was 2nded by \_\_\_\_\_. The motion carried.
2. Old Business: Motion to have technology enabled meetings

Senator Quetschke moved:

"I move that pending the following conditions, remote participation via videoconferencing in Faculty Senate meetings is allowed.

- A request by at least 1 senator is sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), prior to the FSEC meeting.
- The possibility of having remote participation for the senate meeting in question is approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and announced in the agenda for that Faculty Senate Meeting."
- Sites with appropriate IT support will be reserved and announced.

The motion is suspended until after guest participation (see V, Administrative Updates)

V. Administrative Updates (see Below: V. Administrative Updates)

2. Due to time constraints, Senator Caruntu moved to table consideration of the motion until the next meeting. Senator Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 abstentions.

VI. Updates on Meetings will be provided in written format to save time. We thank the WFN and Marie Mora for sharing the WFN Communiqué with the Faculty Senate. We are counting on Senators to **distribute this information to your department.**

1. Academic Affairs Council Meeting Notes
2. Academic Affairs Executive Council
3. Academic Affairs Leadership Program
4. University Leadership Council

VII. Announcements/Issues for Next Agenda.

1. President Saavedra noted the WFN announcements and thanked Dr. Marie Mora for her willingness to share the WFN minutes.
2. President Saavedra indicated that she received 3 or 4 reports for items discussed December 4th. She made a request for both issues and solutions, indicating we will place an order and priority on the issues. The following issues were noted:
  - Placement of limitations on use of facilities that may not be duplicated on all campuses.
  - Concern about lack of surveillance at the McAllen Teaching site - safety of faculty and students at risk.
  - Noted that some faculty on strategic planning also have administrative posts - is this equivalent to administration?

3. President Saavedra requested that the concern be carried back to the Strategic Planning Committee. She indicated that we will be looking at a Shared Governance Committee.
4. Senator Caruntu reminded everyone about committee membership - one university committee at a time.

VIII. Adjournment: President Saavedra adjourned the meeting at 4:41.

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#### V. Administration Updates

##### 1. Welcome Paul Sharpe—University Librarian

- Mr. Sharpe thanked the faculty for allowing the librarians to participate in the FS. Their role is to help the faculty shine and their goal is to make things easier.
- He answered questions from the floor about librarian hiring for ~10 open positions and ordering books for the library through library liaisons

##### 2. Update from Provost Havidán Rodríguez

- After greeting the senate, Provost Rodríguez thanked the senators and acknowledged the senate's critical role at UTRGV
- Provost Rodríguez shared the Strategic Planning Committee PowerPoint presentation. He made several points including that the current mission is provisional for accreditation purposes; the original working group reports serve as resources; there are an extensive group of individuals including 10 faculty representatives on the strategic planning committee (7 full and 3 alternatives), however everyone is encouraged to engage collectively
- Provost Rodríguez opened the floor to questions from the Faculty Senate. Questions and discussion included the Huron study (additional work was requested after an unsatisfactory draft was presented) and report; salary inversion and compression; the potential of merit to serve as a gesture of good faith; he discussed the extension of funding for graduate students and faculty development; work on PhDs and expansion of programs.
- The Provost concluded by saying that he is willing to come to talk at any meeting and he would like to make sure that the faculty hand is seen on the strategic plan. He encourages the senators to work with the form that Dr.

Croyle created about the strategic plan. President Saavedra thanked the Provost for involving people in the strategic planning process.

3. Update from Linda Matthews- Faculty Senate Representatives On Strategic Plan Committee

- Dr. Matthews reported that the Strategic Planning Retreat generated a lot of ideas and in the process of summarizing to use to feedback to people. The faculty on the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) are trying to figure out how to get information back and forth from the faculty. Although they do not know what it will look like, they want to discuss feedback and make it meaningful.

4. Update from Other Academic Affairs Officers

- Ala Qubbaj reported
  - over 100 faculty have been nominated for awards and 30 nominations for regents awards were received (UTRGV can nominate 15); The first faculty receiving the 'US Teacher of the Year Award' in the UT System is from UTRGV; 35 grants for faculty development were awarded and 30 - 40 awards for junior faculty travel/development will be awarded.
  - The kickoff for Advance Leadership Program has about 20 participants; 20 participants in associate to full faculty promotion program; he announced the summer writing program for women
  - There are ad hoc 3 committees formed and are working at forming other committees; Faculty Development Council will also review the Faculty Development Leave Requests
- Cynthia Brown thanked everyone for their help in assessment and the reported:
  - The curriculum revision process is on hold. Two committees will be formed: one undergraduate, one graduate. The first focus will be considering corrections and changes to existing degree plans. Any issues with the general education core will be sent to a 3rd committee. President Saavedra confirmed that the FSEC had reviewed two lists of candidates for membership on the 3rd committee. FSEC recommended the list with 'people in the trenches'. Dr. Brown that graduate faculty status is currently left to the department chairs to make the decision and this is not currently in a policy under consideration.
- Kristin Croyle reported

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

- UTRGV received permission from DOEd to support both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses with the focus on service learning, internships, and research experiences; looking at what processes are in place for internships; linking service learning to academic outcomes; building deeper infrastructure to support volunteerism
- She announced an engaged scholarship showcase where students can present research, service and creative works. (contact Drs. Amy Weimer and Robert Dearth for information or suggestions)
- Currently looking at contracting Degree Works to a vendor; Advising has been working on training advisors; the advisors do more than advisement; goal to let advisors provide more help for students in areas of probation, course selection; requesting a consultation group. Finally, Dr. Croyle requested: feedback about the highlights
- President Saavedra asked about increasing the number of advisors and requested that maybe the guidelines for internships could be addressed at a future Faculty Senate Meeting.