



2016-2017 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

International Room, ITT Building Edinburg Campus

November 11, 2016

2:00- 4:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Senator

SENATORS PRESENT: Andrew Anabila, Aziza Zemrani, Bailey Wang, Bobbette Morgan, Brent Campney, Britt Claude Haraway, Catherine Faver, David Anshen, Donald J. Lyles, DongYop Oh, Dora Saavedra, Douglas Timmer, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ernesto Ramirez, Fidencio Mercado, Frederick Darsow, Irasema Gonzalez, Irina Armianu, Jameela Banu, James Boudreau, James Bullard, James Wenzel, Jasang Yoon, Jeffrey McQuillen, Jorge Vidal, Joe Lacher, John VandeBerg, Jung-II Oh, Justin Writer, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Kelly Leu, Kip Austin Hinton, Lilia A. Fuentes, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Margaret Graham, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Michael Weaver, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Nicolas Pereyra, Ranadhir Roy, Rosalinda Hernandez, Sanjeev Kumar, Teresa Feria Arroyo, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, William Donner, Yasar Tasnif, Yuanbing Mao

SENATORS ABSENT: Alexander Kazansky, Arden Dingle, Bailey Wang, Brian Warren, Christopher Vitek, Cory Wimberly, Don Carlson, Jacob Neumann, John Newman, Katherine Decker, Mahmoud Quweider, Marguerite Dewitt, Michelle Keck, Murat Karabulut, Robert Gilbert, Sam Sale, Sandra Hansmann, Sheila Dooley, Sibin Wu, Volker Quetschke, Wendy Innis, Wilma Mealer

SENATORS ABSENT (EXCUSED): Rosalva Resendiz, Michelle Alvarado

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE ASSISTANT III: Vanessa Ceballos

VISITOR(S): Havidán Rodríguez, Lisa Smith, Shannon Pensa, Susan Bushnell, Maria Mora, Ala Qubbaj, Guy Bailey

I. Welcome/Introductions/Overview

II. Presentations/Reports

A. Presentations

1. UTRGV President, Guy Bailey
2. UTRGV Provost, Havidán Rodríguez
 - a. The Provost provided an update on faculty salary adjustments. There is a need to identify funding and look at some caps for the inversion and compression issue. Clinical faculty, primarily from College of Health Affairs, will be included in the faculty salary adjustments.

- b. Ala Qubbaj provided an update on faculty committees. He also discussed the faculty portal. He does not know yet if everyone will be using the portfolio system by Fall 2017.

Senator Zemrani commented that the electronic course evaluation system as currently stands has impacted online courses, thus it may also have an effect on tenure and promotion process. (Scores tend to be lower for online classes.)

Senator Saavedra recommended that we look at any gender issues with questions that are used across the UT system.

Provost Rodriguez stated when issues like these come up, they should be brought up. Senator Saavedra commented that at department meetings, faculty are “talked at” rather than involved in identifying problems and solutions.

III. Reports

1. American Association of University Professors Conference, Washington, D. C., September 29-October 1, 2016, Bobbette M. Morgan
 - a. President Morgan shared that the most effective senates are faculty. The faculty role is written in policy. Issues relating to faculty are: curriculum, subject matter, research, faculty status, and student educational processes. Advising is part of faculty role, and we need to watch this. We need to also form a budget and finance committee to understand the process and to be aware of the budget.
2. University of Texas Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), Austin, Texas, Dora Saavedra, President-Elect and Volker Quetschke, Parliamentarian
 - a. Senator Saavedra reported that dual credit is an issue (it is a “political hot potato”). Senator Saavedra was elected as Secretary for the FAC. The College of Health Affairs made contact with medical school in Austin. One of the UT System’s Quantum Leaps is in the area of student success; however, the FAC believe that faculty were left out of work in that area. She also reported that a team of FAC members and Tony Cucolo will be going to campuses to talk to faculty about shared governance.
3. UTRGV Ombudsperson, Meeting with Ala Qubbaj, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity, October 14, 2016

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- a. The idea to have an Ombudsperson is still alive, and there may pilot program in place for Fall of 2017, if the initiative is approved and if there is a budget support.
4. Texas Council of Faculty Senates, Austin, Texas
 - a. On October 28-29, President Morgan attended the meeting in Austin. She reported that vast majority of schools received a 2-3% raises. UTRGV was an outlier. This year we are looking at inversion/compression study. She shared that the documentary “Starving the Beast” was shown at the meeting. This documentary highlighted the current state of higher education. Budgets are being cut in higher education. She mentioned how Texas A&M University created a red and black report indicating which faculty are bringing in funding for the university. President Morgan indicated three new UTS Board of Regents will be appointed in February. She also reported that there is a potential 4% but in budget for higher education.

IV. Old Business (Action Items)

A. Minutes

1. Senator Weaver moved to approve all four sets of minutes and/or notes for the following dates: Minutes of May 29, 2016; Notes from July 23, 2016; Minutes from September 9, 2016, and Minutes from October 7, 2016. Senator Pereyra seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. The May 29, 2016 minutes were prepared by Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Past Secretary.
3. The Notes of July 23, 2016 were prepared by Dora Saavedra, President-Elect.
4. The September 9, 2016 minutes were prepared by Michelle Alvarado, Faculty Senate Secretary.
5. The October 7, 2016 minutes were prepared by Michelle Alvarado, Faculty Senate Secretary.

B. Closure: NextDecade LNG/MOU Issue

- a. President Morgan mentioned senate took on an issue. We spoke to President Bailey and Provost Rodriguez and we let them know that they need to be aware of the context in which they generate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- b. She also stated that as a senate we needed to be educated about this issue.
- c. The rest of the meeting was spent listening to presentations and discussing this issue.

C. Blue Ribbon Committee (Dora Saavedra, Bobbette M. Morgan, Marie Mora, Ala Qubbaj, Dean McHatton, Dean Block, Dean Diaz, Dean Grewal)

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- a. Senator Saavedra stated she was pleased to have the committee approved. The following policies will be reviewed by committee:

1. ADM 06-505, Tenure and Promotion (BRC)
2. ADM 06-504, Post Tenure Review (BRC)
3. ADM 06-502, Annual Evaluation (BRC)
4. ADM 06-111, Faculty Grievance (BRC)
5. ADM 06-101, Faculty Role in Shared Governance (Standard Review Process)

- b. Concerns from the floor were voiced regarding membership of the Blue Ribbon Committee. Senator Saavedra explained that after the Blue Ribbon Committee, the policies will go back to Faculty Senate for a vote and then to AALC. Will be asking for continuous input from the Senate during the Blue Ribbon Committee process.

Senator Weaver moved, and Senator Caruntu seconded the motion to approve ADM 06-102. Discussion ensued. This policy adds to the existing faculty titles. There will be Professors of Practice and other faculty titles approved by the UT system. President Morgan called for vote. The motion carried. This policy is important for SACS.

V. Meetings

- A. Faculty Senate Meetings: Friday, November 11, 2016, Edinburg and December 2, 2016, Harlingen at 2:00 pm
- B. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meetings: October 14, 2016, Edinburg, November 4, 2016, Edinburg, and November 18, 2016, Edinburg

VI. Other/Announcements

- a. The UT Board of Regents sent a new policy on workload. UTRGV needs to revise the campus policy as appropriate.
- b. Reminder: Faculty Senate meeting will be held in Brownsville on Nov. 18th.

VII. Closure and Processing

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.