

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**2016-2017 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2016, 2:00-4:30 PM  
HCEBL 1.100, Harlingen Campus**

Minutes prepared by Michelle Alvarado, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

**SENATORS PRESENT:** Aziza Zemrani, Bobbette Morgan, Brent Campney, Britt Claude Haraway, Catherine Faver, Christopher Vitek, Cory Wimberly, David Anshen, Don Carlson, DongYop Oh, Dora Saavedra, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ernesto Ramirez, Fidencio Mercado, Irasema Gonzalez, Irina Armianu, Jameela Banu, James Boudreau, James Wenzel, Joe Lacher, John Newman Jung-II Oh, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Kelly Leu, Kip Austin Hinton, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Michael Weaver, Michelle Alvarado, Michelle, Keck, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Murat Karabulut, Rosalva Resendiz

**SENATORS ABSENT:** Alexander Kazansky, Andrew Anabila, Bailey Wang, Brian Warren, Donald J. Lyles, Douglas Timmer, Frederick Darsow, Jacob Neumann, James Bullard, Jeffrey McQuillen, Jorge Vidal, Justin Writer, Katherine Decker, Lilia A. Fuentes, Mahmoud Quweider, Marguerite Dewitt, Margaret Graham, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Nicolas Pereya, Ranadir Roy, Rosalinda Hernandez, Sanjeev Kumar, Sibin Wu, Wilma Wealer

**SENATORS ABSENT (EXCUSED):** Arden Dingle, Jasang Yoon, John VandeBerg, Yuanbing Mao

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

**VISITOR(S):** Ala Qubbaj, Karin Lewis, Kristen Croyle, Linda Matthews

## **Welcome/Introductions/Overview of Agenda**

President Morgan convened the meeting at 2:06 p.m. President Morgan welcomed the senators and guests. Provided overview of agenda.

### **I. Guests/Announcement**

Senator Leu announced that the library on the Edinburg campus would be open 24 hours during finals week.

### **II. Presentation-Resolutions**

- A. Sanctuary University – Senators Haraway & Ramirez introduced a resolution to declare UTRGV an all-inclusive campus.
- B. Discussion ensued. Senator Ramirez shared a students' concerns about safety on campus especially with the outcome of the presidential election. Students concerns were sent to Vice President of Student Success Croyle. The Student organizations such as LUCHA are organizing to voice student concerns. Senator Ramirez asked Faculty

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Government Association (SGA) Executive Committee had discussed issues of declaring UTRGV all-inclusive campus. Senator Haraway shared a statement of support for DACA students from Pomona College and noted Dr. Guy Bailey & Chancellor McRaven had signed the document. Senators Haraway and Ramirez used the Strategic Plan language to draft the all-inclusive campus resolution. On the national level, there has been spike of hate crimes for ethnic groups, religious groups, LGBT community & women. Faculty Senate supports the all-inclusive university. UTRGV has the highest number of DACA students in Texas. Therefore, after reviewing the DRAFT document with the FS, Senators Haraway and Ramirez asked the Faculty Senate to consider the proposal to designate UTRGV as All-Inclusive Campus where all Vaquer@s .

Senator Weaver moved and Senator Anshen seconded the motion to approve the Resolution declaring UTRGV an all-inclusive university. Discussion ensued and questions were raised. Concern was raised regarding Governor Abbot's statement stating universities that declared themselves a "sanctuary" campuses could face budget cuts. Senator Saavedra stated Faculty Senate needs to take a stance and support our students. We need to help students feel safe. Senator Hinton brought up the point that we are not sure how the Texas Legislative will respond to the Governor's statement and reminded the Senate that we are asking to be all-inclusive campus not sanctuary campus. Senator Anshen stated we should vote for sanctuary campus and make statement public.

Senator Wenzel proposed a friendly amendment to the Resolution and Senator Weaver accepted the motion to accept changing safe campus to a welcoming campus for all. There was agreement to accept the friendly amendment.

Concerns were also raised about how the university would be a welcoming environment for all. Senator Haraway added he spoke to the UPD Police Chief and they would not assist the Border Patrol in removing undocumented students from campus. Concern was raised that faculty must also feel and that their status should not be questioned. It was noted that students need to hear that we support them, and we (Faculty Senate) need to be transparent and take a stance publicly supporting our students.

A vote was taken on the amended motion to declare UTRGV a welcoming and an all-inclusive campus. The Resolution passed unanimously.

Thank you to Senators Haraway & Ramirez for drafting the Resolution

President Morgan will send the resolution to Chancellor McRaven, President Bailey, and Provost Rodríguez. The Senate also needs to distribute the resolution to all UTRGV faculty/ and Vice President of Student Success. Senator Fowler stated we need to share the resolution with internal parties first before we publicize resolution outside of UTRGV community. Senator Wenzel recommended we send the resolution to the Rider and Student Government Association to go on record and be public with the statement. Vice President Croyle can facilitate student organizations meeting with President Bailey since he has stated he is willing to meet with student organizations.

**III. Reports**

**Blue Ribbon Committee Update**

A. Members: Dora Saavedra, Bobbette M. Morgan, Marie Mora, Ala Qubbaj, Dean McHatton, Dean Block, Dean Diaz, Dean Grewal - members of the committee who will be reviewing the following policies since no action is needed

B. Policies to be addressed

1. Tenure and Promotion
2. Annual Review
3. Grievance
4. Academic Committees and Councils
5. Post Tenure Review
6. Workload

**IV. Old Business (Action Items)**

A. Minutes

The minutes of November 11, 2016, were prepared by Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Past Secretary and Dora Saavedra, President-Elect.

B. Status of ADM 06-101: The Faculty Role in Shared Governance

This policy was passed by the Senate at the November 11, 2016 meeting and was forwarded to the Academic Affairs Executive Committee (AAEC) for review. It was accepted at that meeting with one change to the policy. The word “approved” was removed from statement since Faculty Senate does not have authority to give final approval to policies, Faculty Senate only reviews the policies and votes to approve or not approve them at our level. As part of shared governance, we do have the responsibility and the authority to put forth our objections to policies and work to negotiate mutually agreeable solutions to differences.

- a. Senator Saavedra stated we need clarification from Dr. Qubbaj – regarding which policies must be reviewed by Faculty Senate and which HOP policies can be changed without our approval. It was noted that ADM 01-101 needs to be added to website. Senator Quetschke recommended that Faculty Senate have direct **input** to any policies or guidelines if changes are going to be made.

V. **New Business**

A. Policies

*ADM 10-501 Copyright Materials* We consult the library copyright guide on the UTRGV library website, and reviewed the purpose of the policy.

Senator Saavedra moved for approval and Senator Wenzel seconded the motion.

The motion carried. *ADM 6-203 Shortened Course Guidelines*

The Senate reviewed the policy and discussion ensued regarding the exception & restrictions of the policy. Kristin Croyle informed us that she will provide Faculty Senate with the language used by the State. Ala Qubbaj stated that any exception must go through approval to the Undergraduate Committee.

Senator Saavedra moved for approval of ADM 6-203, and Senator Quetschke seconded the motion. During discussion, Kristin Croyle noted according to the state language, there must be 45 contact hours and there is a formal written policy addressing exceptions. Senator Fowler recommended the Senate make the language clearer and state we must meet 45 contact hours. President Morgan add the word “generally” to item D.c. Senator Saavedra called for a vote. The amendment was accepted and the vote on the policy was taken. The motion carried.

*ADM 06-208 Continuing Education Fees*

President Morgan went over the policy with the Senate. Senator Volker Quetschke suggested the policy be sent for an email vote since a quorum was lost. Ala Qubbaj stated we have a HOP committee and have identified stakeholders that will review policies appropriate for those stakeholders and all faculty-related policies will be reviewed by Faculty Senate (1.101). Senator Fowler stated ADM 01-101 must be added to website before the HOP committee meets. She questioned if the policy spells out that there is a HOP committee. Senator Saavedra suggested ADM 01-101 needs to be distributed to the Faculty and Staff Senates as well as the Student Government Association for review before the HOP committee votes on this policy in December. Senator Fowler stressed we need transparency on this policy. It needs to be sent to Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and Student Government Association for their review and input. Senator Saavedra added there needs to be transparency and shared governance.

*ADM 07-400 Intellectual Property*

President Morgan went over the policy with the Senate. The policy will only be reviewed. We will vote on approval or non-approval by email. The Faculty Senate needs to be involved if there are any changes made to the policy. Senator Leu questioned if the copyright goes to the creator of the intellectual property? Is the creator also the owner? Senator Saavedra asked does it (this policy) reflect

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Regents Rules. Senator Fowler stated it does not reflect Regents Rule. Senators Fowler and Leu will review this policy and compare it to the *Regents Rule* 90101

## *ADM 06-110 Acceptance of Money from Students*

President Morgan went over this policy with the Senate. Discussion followed and the question was posed: “What is Council of Chairs?” This reference to the Council of Chairs needs to be deleted. The focus is on instructional use only. Senator Saavedra recommended that we approve the policy. In the absence of a quorum, it was suggested that we vote by email. Ala Qubbaj added that one of the policies that was deleted was the one on Graduate Education since departments decide who teaches at the graduate level.

## **VI. Meetings**

- A. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meetings:** Edinburg Faculty Senate Offices, Library, January 13, 2017, February 10, 2017
- B. Faculty Senate Meetings:** February 3, 2017-Edinburg, Ballroom, February 17, 2017-Harlingen, RAHC Auditorium

## **VII. Other/Announcements**

- A. Update on White Paper-February 3, 2017- President Morgan will ask the Provost to give an update at this meeting

## **VIII. Closure and Processing**

Senator Hinton stated he is not okay that we don't have Faculty Senate meetings at the Brownsville campus. He believe that the Senate should meet at the Brownsville campus. Senator Saavedra added that if we do meet in Brownsville that we will need to carpool. We need to be mindful of gas reimbursement. Senator Fowler stated we need to meet in Edinburg, Harlingen, and in Brownsville. Senator Quetschke commented there is a shuttle bus that we can take to campus. He recommends taking the shuttle bus to assess the service provided. He noted the shuttle bus stops at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Senator Weaver added there is something happening with Registrar's Office and reserving classrooms in Brownsville is a problem. Senator Zemrani stated there is a problem with transportation between Edinburg & Brownsville and suggested Faculty Senate investigate the issue. She added faculty and students are being stranded on campus and she wants it to be on record that she caught the bus in Brownsville at 9:30 p.m. and arrived at home at 11:00 p.m.

Senator Saavedra recommended inviting Rick Anderson to our next Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the budget and the state of transportation between and among campuses. Senator Banu inquired about the possibility of video conferencing our

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

meetings in order to reduce the cost and time spent on traveling. President Morgan stated we could try zoom or videoconference.

President Morgan concluded the discussion by stating that the executive committee meeting will modify schedule of meetings to include Brownsville into rotation of the meetings.

The meeting adjourned 4:23 p.m.