



2016-2017 Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2017, 1:15-4:30 PM,
EACSB 1.106, Edinburg
BBRHB 1.222, Brownsville [WebEx]

Minutes prepared by Michelle Alvarado, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

SENATORS PRESENT: Andrew Anabila, Arden Dingle, Aziza Zembrani, Bobbette Morgan, Britt Claude Haraway, Catherine Faver, Christopher Vitek, Don Carlson, Donald J. Lyles, DongYop Oh, Dora Saavedra, Douglas Timmer, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ernesto Ramirez, Fidencio Mercado, Frederick Darsow, Jameela Banu, James Boudreau, James Bullard, James Wenzel, James Whittenberg, John Newman, Justin Writer, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Kip Austin Hinton, Laura Seligman, Margaret Graham, Maria Romero-Ramirez, Michael Weaver, Michelle Alvarado, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Murat Karabulut, Raquel Estrada, Saara Grizzell, Sanjeev Kumar, Sheila Dooley, Teresa Feria Arroyo, Volker Quetschke, Wendy Innis, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Wilma Mealer, Yasar Tasnif

SENATORS ABSENT: Alexander Kazansky, Bailey Wang, Brian Warren, Cory Wimberly, David Anshen, Frank Dirrill, Irasema Gonzalez, Irina Armianu, Irving Levinson, Jacob Neumann, Jasang Yoon, Jeffrey McQuillen, John VandeBerg, Jung-II Oh, Katherine Decker, Lilia A. Fuentes, Mahmoud Quweider, Marguerite Dewitt, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Michelle Keck, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Nicolas Pereyra, Ranadhir Roy, Robert Gilbert, Rosalinda Hernandez, Rosalva Resendiz, Sam Sale, Sibin Wu, William Donner

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE ASSISTANT III: Vanessa Ceballos

VISITOR(S): Wendy A. Lawrence-Fowler, Marie Mora

Faculty Senate Agenda

I. Welcome/Introductions/Overview

President Saavedra convened the meeting at 1:21 p.m. President Saavedra welcomed new senators and guests. Motion was accepted to approve agenda. Agenda was approved.

II. Report (Old Business):

A. Blue Ribbon Committee Members: Bobbette M. Morgan, Dora Saavedra, Marie Mora, Ala Quabbaj, Dean McHatton, Dean Block, Dean Diaz, Dean Grewal. Blue Ribbon Committee met and discussed all twenty-five (25) policies set for May 17th meeting. Marie Mora, Bobbette Morgan, Dora Saavedra, and Eleftherios Gkioulekas (honorary member) were part of the committee and meeting was very productive.

Results: Amendments that Senator Gkioulekas categorized are as follows:

- Blue – 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 16, 20, 22, 23
- Yellow – 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21
- Red – 6 (withdrawn), 7, 8 (tabled), 19 (withdrawn), 24, 25

Blue means small amendments to policy and as amended by the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Discussion ensued on the following policies.

1. **ADM 06-505 – Blue Amendments**

- i. Blue 1 – D. 1. c. p.2
- ii. Blue 2 – D. 1. e. p. 2
- iii. Blue 3 – D.1. e. iii p. 2
- iv. Blue 8 – D. 3. p. 6
- v. Blue 9 – D. 4. a. i. p .6

Comments: Term “merged” encouraged not to be used. UTPA and UTB were abolished and new university was created. What is there is a creation of a new program or school in the future? Will new faculty hired come in under the existing TNP policies?

- vi. Blue 16 - D. 5. E. p. 9
- vii. Blue 20 – E. 2. A. 2. p.16

Comments: What if there is only one tenure-track faculty in the department and he/she is the Chair? It is addressed in policy on page 17

What if no tenure-track or tenured faculty who want to represent their department? Concern was noted. Policies cannot address all issues.

Motion to accept amendments on Blue amendments with exception of #8. Motioned to accept Blue amendments was made by Senator Weaver and seconded by Senator Wenzel. Motion passed unanimously. Approved 8 amendments.

2. **ADM 06-505 – Yellow Amendments**

- i. Yellow 4 – D. 2. c. p. 4

Comments: Concerned was raised for women and men of color that they may not know how to negotiate. It was noted that the Deans and Department Chairs must explain to candidates how and what to negotiate.

Suggestion was posed to include this statement in policy, “In cases where a shorten period of service has been counted, faculty may opt out.” Marie Mora added statement to subset e.

Suggestion was made to add statement in policy using similar language, “In cases, credit from other institutions may opt out.” It was also noted that integrity training is needed for Department Chairs and Deans.

- ii. Yellow 5 – D. 3. d. p. 6

Comment: to change statement to, “develop and revise”

iii. Yellow 10 & 11 – D. 4. a. p. 7

Comments: Concerns regarding student evaluations were raised and noted. For example, students may not attend class and may still evaluate faculty and give faculty all 1s or 2s. There needs to be a committee to develop guidelines to address issues regarding student/course evaluations. It was also noted that we are giving student evaluations too much consideration and my need to address issue. It was pointed out that classes with fewer than ten (10) students skews results according to experts in fields. It was shared that in one department the Dean stated faculty must meet 80% on course evaluations in the agree/strongly agree categories. Another concern was raised what is we do not have control over classes and we receive poor ratings. Question was asked what if we exclude “agree and strongly agree” on course evaluations and it was stated we cannot since the Faculty Portfolio Tool (FPT) is automated and will not be able to throw out data. Concern was raised for faculty teaching dual credit courses. Another concern was shared regarding peer observations that a particular department does not allow outside peer observers for peer observations and to evaluate a faculty’s bilingual class. Language needs to address course evaluations that it may or may not be valid or reliable. It was suggested that we may want to include a written narrative that addresses: dual credit courses, online courses, bilingual courses, and peer observations.

iv. Yellow 12 – D. 4. B. ii p. 7

Comments: Integrity is an issue but not a HOP issue. Material from dissertation shall not be counted.

v. Yellow 13 – D. 4. b. i. 1 p. 7

vi. Yellow 14 – D. 4. c. ii. p.8

vii. Yellow 15 – D. 4. c. p. 8

Question: Is there a maximum limit to serving on university committees?
Yes, policy states a faculty member can serve on one (1) university committee.

viii. Yellow 17 – D. 7. a. & D. 7. b. p. 10

ix. Yellow 21 – E. 2. a.3

Entertained a motion to accept amendments as amended except 10 & 11 (need to address course evaluations).

Motion to accept amendments made by Senator Levinson and seconded by Senator Fuentes. Motions carries unanimously. Approved 18 amendments.

Comments: Wording is unclear in some of the policies. What will be negotiated needs to be clearly outlined since Deans and Department Chairs

may do the negotiation. It was also stated that co-authorship needs to be negotiated and accepted. We need to encourage collaboration. It was noted that service also needs to be include in offer letter. It was suggestion we need to develop guidelines for the offer letter.

Senator Fowler was recognized for her service as a faculty member and to Faculty Senate. Richard and Wendy Fowler will be retiring.

3. ADM 06-505 – Red Amendments

- i. Red 7 – D. 3. f. p. 6

Comments: It was noted that new hires should be given 3, 4, or 5 years to earn tenure. Need to keep same TNP policy that you were hired till you earn tenure unless the faculty member opts out.

Example:	3 years	2 people
	4, 5, 6 years	3 people
	Full 6 years	majority support

Discussion followed regarding the criteria and the length a faculty may take to earn tenure. Opinions varied on this issue.

Red 7 will go back to Blue Ribbon Committee for further discussion.

- ii. Red 24 – E.3. e. p.20
- iii. Red 25 – E. 3. f. p. 20

Motion to accept amendment 24 & 25 (Red 7 will go back to BRC)

Senator Weaver motioned to accept amendments and Senator Wenzel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Amendments were passed.

4. Purple Amendments (Additional Items)

Discussion ensued regarding amendments. Question was raised regarding amendment 13 & 18, do we really need that extra level (the university committee). One senator felt it was important to include. Regarding Annual Review, p. 9, it was suggested we need to add language to include that an issue can be reported if there is something inappropriate that occurred. Concern was raised regarding the selection of external reviewers. It was shared by President Saavedra that external reviews were tabled at BRC meeting. More specifics need to be determined and will need examples of issues.

Question was raised if there a level of appeal after Provost. Faculty can appeal at all levels. The structure of the appeal process is the following: the department committee-department chair-Dean-university committee-Provost. It was proposed to create a university committee between level of the Provost and President. Opinions varied on this issue. One comment

was made that there has to be a level of protection for faculty. It was pointed out what if at all levels, the committees said yes, but the Provost said no. Would faculty be able to appeal after the Provost's decision? It was recommended that a university committee come before Provost and add appeal committee after the Provost. The President's decision would be final.

Proposed TNP process: Department committee-Department Chair-Dean-University Committee-Provost- Appeal Committee-President

Motion to pass ADM 06-505 with amendments pending the 6 issues (7, 8, 10, 11, 24, & 25) and purple amendments. Purple amendments include confidentiality and Provost's level of appeal.

Senator Weaver motioned to pass ADM 06-505 and amendments pending the 6 issues and Senator Graham seconded the motion.

Discussion and concerns raised:

- Mexican American Studies only has three (3) full-time faculty
- One faculty member serves as Program Director and viewed as Department Chair.
- Units need to develop own guidelines.
- Define the role of interdisciplinary self-standing academic committees.

Can vote no if want to approve amendments only or voting yes will allow for open discussion on amendments and shows support for amendments.

Favor	Motion carries
Oppose	None
Abstain	None

5. **ADM 02-201** – Page 4, add Associate Librarian for Resource Management. Change name to Awards Committee and drop Internal/External. Page 6, add Collection Department Librarian.

Motion to accept 5 changes made by Senator Kumar and seconded by Senator Zemrani. Correction made by Senator Estrada, the title is Acquisition & Collection Development Librarian.

Favor	Motion passes unanimously
Oppose	None
Abstain	None

President Saavedra recognized Marie Mora and Senator Gkioulekas for all of their hard work on the amendments and policies.

III. New Business

- A. Evaluations – suggestion to establish a committee to work and develop evaluation guidelines.
- B. Shared Governance Team Visit – agenda have been sent out to Faculty Senate to review. Dates are May 30th Harlingen & Brownsville campus and May 31st Edinburg campus.
- C. Need communication from Faculty Senate – The purpose of the Sentinel is to report to the campus what was discussed at faculty senate meetings and to inform all faculty.
- D. Summer Meeting – motion to handle Senate business electronically over summer was accepted by Senator Seligman and seconded by Senator Graham. Motion passes.

E. Proposed Resolutions

- 1. Faculty Portfolio Tool (FPT) – motion to discuss was accepted by Senator Wenzel and seconded by Senator Tasnif. Discussion ensued. Issues and challenges regarding FPT were raised and discussed.

Vote to support or not support resolution

Favor 25

Oppose 4

Abstain 3

Resolution passes

- 2. Summer Service Resolution – motion endorse resolution was accepted by Senator Ramirez and seconded by Senator Quetschke. Discussion ensued. Faculty are working over summer and are not compensated for the work. It was stated we need for information and data.

Vote to accept resolution

Support 7

Not support 4

Abstain 18

Motion does not carry

- 3. Legacy Criteria Resolution – motion to endorse resolution was accepted by Senator Weaver and seconded by Senator Timmer. Discussion ensued. Stated it should be a joint decision between faculty senate and the Provost. Some departments are using legacy criteria for guidelines. It was stated that legacy criteria should not be used starting the 3rd year of UTRGV.

Call to question by Senator Quetschke and seconded by Senator Levinson.

Support 11

Do not support 11

Abstain 6

The President breaks the tie and votes against. Motion does not pass.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

4. Assistant and Associate Professors in Shared Governance – motion to endorse resolution was accepted by Senator Galstyan and seconded by Senator Weaver. Discussion followed.

Call to question by Senator Hinton
Motion passes

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.