

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Faculty Senate Minutes  
Meeting VII  
Edinburg: EACSB 1.104  
Brownsville: BBRHB 1.222 (WebEx)  
Friday, February 2, 2018  
2:00 pm- 4:30pm

Minutes prepared by Michelle Alvarado, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

**SENATORS PRESENT:** Michelle Alvarado, Andrew Anabila, Bruno Arthur, Jameela Banu, James Bullard, Don Carlson, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, Steve Chamberlain, Frederick Darsow, Frank Dirrigl, William Donner, Richard Edmonson, Raquel Estrada, Ibrahim Farooqi, Marcus Farris, Teresa Feria Arroyo, Lilia A. Fuentes, Anahit Galstyan, Laura Gephart, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Britt Claude Haraway, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Kip Austin Hinton, Elamin Ibrahim, Murat Karabulut, Mark Kaswan, Hale Kaynak, Sanjeev Kumar, Irving Levinson, Donald "Jerry" Lyles, Bobbette Morgan, John Newman, Jung-Il Oh, DongYop Oh, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Nicolas Pereyra, Volker Quetschke, Ernesto Ramirez, Rosalva Resendiz, Candace Robledo, Maria Romero-Ramirez, Dora Saavedra, Sam Sale, GarySchneider, Andrea Schwarzbach, Laura Seligman, Hilda Silva, Douglas Timmer, Annelyn Torres-Reveron, John VandeBerg, Jorge Vidal, Christopher Vitek, Bailey Wang, Michael Weaver James Wenzel, James Whittenberg, Justin Writer, Jasang Yoon, Michelle Zeager, Aziza Zemrani, Mohammadali Zolfagharian

**SENATORS ABSENT:** George Amorim, David Anshen, Elvia Ardalani, Sonja Arredondo, Arden Dingle, Saara Grizzell, Wendy Innis, Sunand Kallumadanda, Marci McMahon, Fidencio Mercado, Jacob Neumann, Mahmoud Quweider, Samuel Snyder, Garry Souffrant, Yasar Tasnif, Yingchen Yang

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Margaret Graham

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

**VISITOR(S):** Karin Lewis, WFN Liaison

- I. Convene Meeting and Welcome Senators & EC Members
  - a. The meeting was convened at 2:09 p.m.
  - b. Guests: President Saavedra introduced Senator Banu as the new College of Health Affairs Executive Committee Member and welcomed Karin Lewis from the Women's Faculty Network.
- II. Per FSEC consensus, there were no guest updates from Administration. Copies of the Academic Affairs Leadership Team (AALT) handout were provided.
- III. Executive Session/Discussion of Provost Candidates

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Proposed Action: Feedback to President Bailey & Provosts' Search Committee via Faculty Senate Analysis of Candidates Report

Senator Gkioulekas moved and Senator Lyles seconded the motion for the Senate to go into Executive Session to formulate Faculty Senate feedback and recommendations on the Provost candidates. These will be prepared and sent to President Guy Bailey. The motion carried.

IV. Brief Reports of Meetings attended and/or upcoming meetings:

- a. UT System Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) - Senator Quetschke stated the Quantum Leaps program will continue. He reminded the FS that Chancellor McRaven is stepping down as Chancellor at the end of May.
- b. UTS Chancellor's Network on Women Leaders - Senator Alvarado reported that Senators Alvarado, Zemrani and Feria attended the Women Leaders workshop in Austin on January 28-30.
- c. Texas Council of Faculty Senates - Senator Morgan reported that the Editor from the *Texas Tribune* hosted a panel on February 16<sup>th</sup> in Austin. She also reported that The Texas A&M University System, the Texas State System, and the University of Houston each donated \$5000 to the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.

V. Action Item: Approval of Minutes

- a. May 5, 2017 meeting (*with corrections*)  
Senator Weaver moved and Senator Wenzel seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2017 meeting. The motion carried.
- b. November 17, 2017 meeting  
Senator Caruntu moved and Senator Fuentes seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2017 meeting of the Faculty Senate. The motion carried.
- c. December 8, 2017 meeting minutes (no quorum)  
Senator Weaver moved and Senator Quetschke seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2017 meeting. The motion carried.

VI. Action Item: Motions - Mark Kaswan

- a. Motion on Faculty Senate Roster – Senator Kaswan moved and Senator Quetschke seconded the motion to validate the current 2017-2018 Faculty Senate Roster and Senator terms for the record. He explained the purpose of the motion. It was a way to check for accuracy on terms. A draft version of the roster was provided to the Senate in December. The Faculty Senate Secretary is officially responsible for the roster, but a staff member actually compiles the data for the roster.
- b. Motion on Constitutional Revision Committee  
Senator Kaswan moved and Senator Quetschke seconded the motion to establish a committee to review the Faculty Senate constitution. The motion carried unanimously.

## VII. Old Business:

- a. ModernThink Climate Survey and Administrator Evaluation Committee Progress  
Report Senators Seligman, Wenzel, Zemrani and Saavedra met with Vice Provost Ala Qubbaj to discuss the proposed ModernThink climate survey. They only found (3) questions on shared governance. The survey is still in development and should be distributed in March. Senators are invited to participate in developing both the climate survey and administrator evaluation.
- b. Pending HOP Policies: Representatives of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) will meet with the Associate Provost to discuss the status of the following HOP policies.
  - i. ADM 06-101 Faculty Role in Shared Governance
  - ii. ADM 06-304 Academic Committees and Councils
  - iii. ADM 06-502 Annual Faculty Evaluation- This item was not covered.
- c. University Tenure and Promotion Committee  
It had been recommended place the review by the University Tenure and Promotion Committee after the Provost review, but the previous Provost struck down that idea. The University Tenure and Promotion Committee currently has about fifty files to review, and they are asking for volunteers (Associate Professor or above) to serve on an auxiliary University Tenure and Promotion committee. If you are willing to volunteer, notify Senator Saavedra. As a reminder, faculty may not serve on more than one university committee at a time.

Senator Lyles moved, and Senator Kaynak seconded the motion to expand the current University Tenure and Committee by recruiting Associate Professors (and above) to add the auxiliary committee. Discussion ensued. A clarification question was asked: Does the faculty member who volunteers have to be from a different department/college than the faculty member being reviewed.  
Response: If you are from the same department/college as the faculty member being reviewed, you cannot vote. The vote on the motion was taken. The motion carried.

## VIII. New Business:

- a. Strategic Plan Presentation Committee Formation – Senator Kaswan:  
An email went out to Senators asking for volunteers. The Faculty Senate is an important part of institution, and we need to have an integral role implementing the strategic plan. If a Senator is interested in serving on the committee, she/he should email Senator Kaswan.
- b. Focus Groups on Facilities feedback  
We received email from Vanessa. Focus groups are being held to provide input on



facilities

- c. Committee to explore creation of Shared Governance Awards

This item was tabled.

- d. The H-E-B (Harlingen, Edinburg, Brownsville) rotation issue as well as the problems with WebEx was brought up. Several suggested arose:

- i. Form a committee to explore options;
- ii. Continue having multiple sites to meet;
- iii. Talk to IT to discuss improving technical issues.

- e. Dream Center Issue

An announcement for a Faculty Fellow was sent out and faculty had a three day window to submit an application. Senator Ramirez stated there is a need for dream center but administration does not support it. He referred to the multicultural center article that he had shared. The article was about a Dream Center at the University of Texas San Antonio. Senators Ramirez & Haraway will investigate the status of the safe zone and will report back at the next meeting. We need to support our DACA students.

- IX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.