



**2015-2016 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2015, 1:30-4:00 PM
University Center 2424 Boxwood, Harlingen, Texas 78550**

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

SENATORS PRESENT: Andrew Anabila, James Boudreau, Dongyop Oh, Sibin Wu, Mohammad Azarbajani, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Mahmoud Quweider, Sanjeev Kumar, Immanuel Edinbarough, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, Sandra Musanti, Irasema Gonzalez, Jacob Neumann, Robert Gilbert, Donald J. Lyles, Britt Claude Haraway, Frederick Darsow, Justin Writer, Daniel Hunter-Holly, Brian Warren, Alexander Kazansky, Jeannean Ryman, Lilia Fuentes, Wilma Mealer, Dora Saavedra, Thomas White, Rosalva Resendiz, Michael Weaver, Brent Campney, Ernesto Ramirez, David Anshen, William Sokoloff, Stephen Merino, Margaret Graham, Sheila Dooley, Christopher Vitek, Matthew Terry, Yuanbing Mao, James Bullard, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ranadhir Roy, Jasang Yoon, Volker Quetschke, Nicolas Pereyra, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Arden Dingle, Wendy Innis, John VandeBerg, Michelle Alvarado, Kelly Leu, Fuat Firat

SENATORS ABSENT: Sam Sale, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Rosalinda Hernandez, Bobbette Morgan, Bailey Wang, Yasar Tasnif, Jameela Banu, Joe Lacher, Angela Scoggin, Sandra Hansmann, Fidencio Mercado, Catherine Faver, Jeffrey McQuillen, Irina Armianu, Cory Wimberly, James Wenzel, Aziza Zemrani, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, John Newman, James Hinthorne, Murat Karabulut

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE ASSISTANT III: Vanessa Ceballos

VISITOR(S): None

Senators Alvarado and Leu called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm

1. Action Items:

1. Senator Lawrence-Fowler moved to suspend the rule of 3 years experience at a legacy institution; Senator White seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Election of the President of 2015-2016 Senate:** Emailed presidential nominations were presented. No nominations were made from the floor. Senator Saavedra made a statement concerning her experience and willingness to serve as chair. Vote was called and Senator Saavedra was elected to serve as President of the 2015-2016 UTRGV Faculty Senate.



President Saavedra presided over the rest of the meeting.

3. **Election of President Elect, Parliamentarian and Secretary.** President Saavedra presided over the election process.
 - a. Email candidate for President Elect, Senator Morgan, was presented. No nominations were made from the floor. Senator Morgan was elected to serve as the 2015-2016 UTRGV Faculty Senate President Elect by acclamation.
 - b. Two nominations for Parliamentarian were made from the floor: Senator Quetschke from COS and Senator Leu from the Library. Candidates made personal statements; the Vote was called by show of hands, resulting in a tie. The tie was broken by the President. Senator Quetschke is the 2015-2016 UTRGV Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.
 - c. Senator Caruntu nominated Senator Lawrence-Fowler from CECS for secretary; Senator Weaver moved to close nominations; Senator Kumar seconded. Senator Fowler was elected to serve as the 2015-2016 UTRGV Faculty Secretary.
4. **President Saavedra opened nominations for the remaining positions on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.** Representatives were nominated and appointed by acclamation.
 - College of Business and Entrepreneurship: James Boudreau
 - College of Fine Arts: Brian Warren
 - Health Affairs: Wilma Mealer
 - School of Medicine: Arden Dingle

President Saavedra announced that the first executive committee meeting will be November 20, 2015; the full senate will meet on December 4, 2015. Time and location forthcoming.

5. **Logistics:** President Saavedra introduced several topics of interest as outlined in the agenda. The first discussion involved the use of interactive video conferencing to facilitate senate faculty meetings. This was followed by discussion of the use of email for voting and invitations to administrators.

1. Senator Caruntu moved “As a faculty senate, we have the flexibility to use technology to hold faculty senate meetings and will do so when the executive committee determines that it is an appropriate mechanism for the purposes of a specific meeting.” Senator Quweider seconded. Discussion included benefits and challenges of using technology to support senate work. Concern for the wording of the as expressed.

Senator Weaver moved to table the motion until we have a well-defined motion. Senator VandeBerg seconded the motion. Motion passed. Original motion is tabled until December 4, 2015 meeting.

Senator Quetschke asked that motions be written and sent to the president to assure correct wording. President Saavedra asked the parliamentarian to provide a format for motions.

2. Senator VandeBerg moved that email voting not be allowed. Senator Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. President Saavedra presented practices of the legacy institutions. Senators from across UTRGV discussed the merits and challenges of administrative participation in the meetings. Senator Weaver suggested that an agenda structure might inform the discussion and decision. President Saavedra indicated that the executive committee would address an agenda structure at their meeting.

2. Announcement and Informational Items:

President Saavedra announced a 10 minutes recess; the senate reconvened for information items as listed on the agenda:

1. **Calendar:** The faculty executive committee will look at the calendar for spring.
2. **Budget:** The faculty senate executive committee will look at the faculty senate budget.

3. College Caucuses:

1. **Role of College Caucuses:** President Saavedra discussed the role of caucuses including forwarding issues of concern to the executive committee and determining the staggering of terms (1, 2, and 3 year terms) for senators in the colleges. President Saavedra will

forward the number of slots for each college by department to the caucuses to inform these decisions.

2. **Convening of Caucuses:** President Saavedra requested the college caucuses to convene for 20 minutes. The senate was reconvened at 3:35 for caucus reports.
 - COBE: many representatives were not present
 - COS: issues included teaching loads; HOP; new rules for graduate students; merit - no merit
 - COE - 16: introductions
 - Fine Arts: dean search; brochure & website & department input; joint appointments
 - Health Affairs: salary; leadership issues as people moved to deans office; space; parking in Brownsville; micro-management
 - Medicine: challenges of learning to function in a new organization including hiring and travel
 - Engineering and Computer Science: process for the new graduate success program; Texas A&M 2+ 2 program with TSC potentially leading to space issues on Brownsville campus
 - University College: Workload issues
 - Library: no issues
 - CLA: salary compression; P&T process; annual evaluation - what meets and exceeds means; lack of FRC funding for college

4. Committee Assignments

1. **Academic Committees:** President Saavedra discussed the importance of academic committees. Old UTPA HOP 3.4.4 now ADM (?) defines what committees are needed. The senate should assure that the committees have a defined code of ethics, by-laws, and processes.
2. **HOP policies** have been posted with the belief that faculty, staff, and student senates have ratified. She explained the process for review of the policies in preparation for UTRGV: policy review was completed in spring; sent to OGC and returned to campus in July; are reviewed in provost office prior to publishing. President Saavedra will attempt to get the 18-19 policies critical to faculty marked up prior to OGC review from Dr. Qubbaj for analysis of any changes and faculty senate ratification. Faculty own the



curriculum and have the right to focus on policies. For example, currently faculty are grandfathered for two years for implementation of the tenure and promotion policy leaving the 4th years in a problematic state. We will need at least 1 tenure track faculty member on the tenure and promotion policy committee. President Saavedra asked the senate to consider whether they wanted a constitution committee to facilitate change.

5. Other Information

1. President Saavedra suggested a shared governance model mini-conference to include participation of faculty, mid-level management and administration
2. President Saavedra indicated that one of the most powerful tools that the faculty senate has is the resolution.
3. Other issues from the floor included lack of raises, means to recognize work, concern with administrative bloat; workload for ITV and online courses and the misconception of how much work it takes; time on the shuttle is unrecoverable time.

President Saavedra thanked the senators and adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.