

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

## 2015-2016 Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes March 25, 2016, 9:30AM-12:30 PM RAHC 1.100, Harlingen, Texas

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

**SENATORS PRESENT:** Andrew Anabila, James Boudreau, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Sanjeev Kumar, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Irasema Gonzalez, Bobbette Morgan, Jacob Neumann, Robert Gilbert, Donald J. Lyles, Britt Claude Haraway, Justin Writer, Daniel Hunter Holly, Yasar Tasnif, Jameela Banu, Murat Karabulut, Joe Lacher, Angela Scoggin, Wilma Mealer, Fidencio Mercado, Catherine Faver, Dora Saavedra, Thomas White, Rosalva Resendiz, Brent Campney, Ernesto Ramirez, David Anshen, James Wenzel, Stephen Merino, Margaret Graham, Sheila Dooley, Yuanbing Mao, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ranadhir Roy, Jasang Yoon, Volker Quetschke, Arden Dingle, Wendy Innis, Michelle Alvarado, Kelly Leu

**SENATORS ABSENT:** Sabin Wu, Brian Warren, Bailey Wang, Alexander Kazansky, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Jeannean Ryman, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Matthew Terry, Cory Wimberly, Gary Leka, Aziza Zemrani, James Hinthorne, John VandeBerg, DongYop Oh, Sam Sale, Mahmoud Quweider, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Frederick Darsow, Sandra Hansmann, Jeffrey McQuillen

**SENATORS ABSENT (EXCUSED):** Nicolas Pereyra, William Sokoloff, Rosalinda Hernandez, Immanuel Edinbarough, Sandra Musanti, James Bullard, Mohammad Azarbayejani, Lilia A. Fuentes, Irina Armianu, John Newman, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Christopher Vitek, Michael Weaver

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

**VISITOR(S):** None

I. Pre-Meeting (9:15):

1. Senators Signed in for Attendance and for Travel Reimbursements (Edinburg and Brownsville Senators)

II. President Saavedra welcomed the Senators to a workshop to review the HOP policies at 9:30am. Senator Wenzel distributed a list of faculty issues and concerns for review.

President Saavedra convened the meeting at 9:45 when the quorum was met.

III. Approval of the Minutes for March 4, 2016 meeting was postponed until regular meeting on April 1, 2016

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## IV. New Business: (HOP Review Presentations from Senate Committees and Discussion/Action/Vote)

### 1. ADM 2-102 Academic Committees and Councils (3-3:20)

#### i) Highlights of Changes presented

#### ii) Recommendation to Senate

- (1) This policy sets up the structure: a number of minor changes are made throughout the document; the major changes include:
  - (a) addition of library representatives to the committees,
  - (b) addition of an academic advising committee because there have been issues with advising; the goal is to provide faculty input to the advising process
  - (c) modification of the Faculty Research Committee wording such that a recusal is only from internal funding requests and not from other committee work.
  - (d) addition of the General Education Core committee
  - (e) reinstatement of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
  - (f) Change the placement of the University Tenure and Promotion Committee in the tenure and promotion process
  - (g) Change in the grievance committee
  - (h) Addition of an Honors Council/Committee
- (2) Representation on committees, as stated in section D1 of the policy should be reviewed: keep the stated one representative from each college, including the library and school of Medicine or change to a proportional representation.
- (3) Senator White moved to approve the recommendations to the policy. Senator Wenzel seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Discussion of ADM 2-102 began; each committee was considered for inclusion in ADM 2-102

- (a) **Academic Advisement Committee:** conversation about advisement indicated a general discontent with advising; the general consensus is that there is a need for the committee
  - (i) Senator Campney moved and Senator Ramirez seconded motion to include the academic advisement committee.
  - (ii) The motion carries
- (b) **Academic Information Technology Council:** add Associate University Librarian as an *exofficio* member
  - (i) Senator Anshen moved and Senator Wenzel second the motion to include the Academic Information Committee.
  - (ii) The motion carried
- (c) **Academic Standards and Policy Committee:**
  - (i) Senator Lacher moved and Senator Graham seconded the motion to include the Academic Standards and Policy Committee.
  - (ii) The motion carried

- (d) **External Awards Committee:**
  - (i) Senator Karabulut moved and Senator White seconded to include the External Awards Committee.
  - (ii) The motion carried
- (e) **Faculty Development Council:** There was a general discussion about the role of the committee. Senator Anshen indicated that there needs to be clarification of the procedures. Currently there is no guidance. The Faculty Senate wants to ensure that bylaws and procedures are defined such that equity across campus departments/disciplines is assured. Information about what can be supported is required.
  - (i) Senator Merino moved and Karabulut seconded the motion to include the committee pending clarification and changes to the wording.
  - (ii) The motion carried.
- (f) **Faculty Research Council:** There needs to be clarification of the distribution process for internal funding. Senator Saavedra indicated that she will speak with Drs. Qubbaj and Maldonado about a faculty listserv.
  - (i) Senator Graham moved and Senator Morgan seconded a motion to include the Faculty Research Committee
  - (ii) The motion carried.
- (g) **General Education Committee:**
  - (i) Senator Wenzel moved to discuss the role of the committee, Senator Armianu seconded the motion.
  - (ii) The motion carried and discussion began.
    1. Issues related to the possibility of making a single committee to look at curriculum and a second committee to look at assessment
    2. Opinions to keep committee and to remove committee were expressed
    3. The motion to accept this committee, for the time being, carried (1-nay, 1 abstention)
- (h) **Graduate Committee:**
  - (i) Senator White moved and Morgan seconded to include the Graduate Committee.
  - (ii) The motion carried.
- (i) **Library Committee:** argued to have it be put back into policy
  - (i) Senator Morgan moved and Senator Lawrence-Fowler seconded the motion to include the Library Committee.
  - (ii) The motion carries
- (j) **Undergraduate Committee:** This is not the undergraduate curriculum committee, rather this is the committee that is replacing previous curriculum committees. While there is one representative from each college (see D1), it was suggested that the scope of work is very (too) large (curriculum, admission, retention, graduation); curriculum should be in the hands of the faculty for recommendations. Senator White suggests moving admission, etc.

to the Academic Standards and Policy Committee, leaving the committee to focus on curriculum.

(i) Senator White moved to rename the committee the *University Curriculum Committee*, and make the sole purpose to review undergraduate curriculum and the move the functions of admission, retention, and graduation to the Academic Standards and Policy Committee. Senator Lacher seconded the motion.

(ii) President Saavedra identified the discussion anchor point: to consider having one curriculum committee, rather than multiple curriculum committees. Senator Dingle suggested that the senate consider an overarching committee with subcommittees charged with looking at specific issues and reporting up. Senator Graham discussed the value of the core curriculum committee as it relates to consistent requests from THECB.

(iii) The motion carried with one abstention.

(k) **University Tenure and Promotion Committee:** This committee represents significant changes from prior University Tenure and Promotion Committee. This committee's role is to review all final applications for Tenure and Promotion, after the Dean and College and prior to the review at the Provost's level. This change appears to **remove the ability for the faculty member to appeal** after the Provost has made his/her decision. Discussion points included: potential positive and negative impacts of the committee review before Provost's review and after the Provost's review; if placed after the Provost, could the committee serve as an appeals committee; need for justification for decisions that were not favorable or varied from lower levels at the higher levels of review (Provost and President).

(i) Senator Lawrence-Fowler moved that The University Tenure and Promotion Committee become the University Tenure and Promotion Review Committee that provides an independent review after the candidate has been reviewed by the provost. The candidate has a right to waive the review. Senator Morgan seconded the motion. Senator Wenzel made a friendly amendment to consider the University Tenure and Promotion Committee as an appeals committee that reviews the dossier after the provost's recommendation. The friendly amendment was accepted.

(ii) The motion carried with two abstentions.

(iii) President Saavedra noted that other specific details would be addressed when the Tenure and Promotion Policy is reviewed as a whole.

2. Discussion: Two issues were identified in prior discussion, but postponed until the Senate completed the review of ADM 2-102

i) The issue of Section D1 of ADM 2-102, membership on committees

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- (1) The question was raised about one representative per college or should there be proportional representation.
- (2) Senator Wenzel moved that the language of D1 be retained as currently written. Senator Haraway seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Senator Quetschke called the question. Vote: For- 20; Against- 11 The motion carried. The current language of one representative per college is retained.
- ii) The issue of keeping two committees: General Education Committee and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, or merging the two into a single Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
  - (1) Senator White moved to keep the two separate and Senator Wenzel seconded the motion. Discussion identified roles for the two committees: the general education committee deals with issues related to what should be in the core, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee decides on all undergraduate curriculum
  - (2) The motion carried.

### 3. ADM 6-111 Faculty Grievance

- i) Highlights of Changes
- ii) Recommendation to Senate
- iii) Action: Senator White moved to table the discussion. The motion was seconded.
- iv) The motion carried.

Items 4 and 5 below were handled simultaneously: Senator Quetschke moved and Senator Writer seconded that ADM 6 -302 and ADM 6-201 be accepted as presented because they have not changed. Senator Morgan called the question. The motion carried.

### 4. ADM 6-302 Appointment of Deans (for c, d, and e 3:40-4:00)

- i) The Clean Copy is identical to the Tracked Copy
- ii) Recommendation to Senate: accept
- iii) Action: see above

### 5. ADM 6-201 Academic Program Standards and Approval

- i) The Clean Copy is identical to the Tracked Copy
- ii) Recommendation to Senate: accept
- iii) Action: see above

Due to time constraints, the following ADMs were not addressed:

### 6. ADM 6-104 Faculty Resignation and Modified Service

- i) Highlights of Changes
- ii) Recommendation to Senate
- iii) Action:

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7. ADM 06-505 Tenure and Promotion

- i) Highlights of Changes
- ii) Recommendation to Senate
- iii) Action:

8. ADM 06-501 Faculty Workload

- i) Highlights of Changes
- ii) Recommendation to Senate
- iii) Action:

9. Other policies that may be ready.

V. Senator Saavedra noted that the Senate still has a lot of work to complete. The Grievance and Tenure and Promotion Policies will be addressed when we meet April 1, 2016 at the ITT Building on the Edinburg Campus.

VI. Faculty Senate Working Group Workshop Session (Senator Wenzel) Update

Senator Wenzel provided an update on the faculty issues and grievances. He provided a list of issues submitted to date and requested that feedback be provided as soon as possible. The goal is to have a draft White Paper for the next senate meeting.

The following items were not addressed:

VII. Staggering of Senate Terms and Report on Attendance (postponed to April 1 meeting)

- 1. Ideas for staggering terms (25 seats need to be 1 year; 25 seats 2 year; 25 seats 3 year terms)(1, 2, and 3 year terms with 25 seats each)
- 2. Attendance report
- 3. Increasing Representation of Brownsville colleagues on Senate

VIII. There was a question about the Huron Report. Senator Morgan reported on the Provost's response made during the Academic Affairs Executive Council meeting. The Provost has not yet shared any information with the President. Senator Morgan notes that in a Feb 19th email, Dr. Bailey indicated that HR, Academic Affairs, and Huron were in the final stages of looking at salary issues.

IX. Senator Saavedra adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.