



**2015-2016 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**April 1, 2016, 2:00-4:40 PM**  
**ITT Bldg. International Room, Edinburg Campus**

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

**SENATORS PRESENT:** DongYop Oh, Sibin Wu, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Mohammad Azarbajejani, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Sanjeev Kumar, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Sandra Musanti, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Irasema Gonzalez, Rosalinda Hernandez, Bobbette Morgan, Jacob Neumann, Robert Gilbert, Donald J. Lyles, Justin Writer, Daniel Hunter Holly, Brian Warren, Bailey Wang, Jeannean Ryman, Lilia A. Fuentes, Joe Lacher, Angela Scoggin, Sandra Hansmann, Wilma Mealer, Catherine Faver, Jeffrey McQuillen, Dora Saavedra, Thomas White, Rosalva Resendiz, Michael Weaver, Brent Campney, Ernesto Ramirez, David Anshen, Irina Armianu, William Sokoloff, James Wenzel, Gary Leka, Aziza Zembrani, Stephen Merino, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, John Newman, Christopher Vitek, Yuanbing Mao, James Bullard, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ranadhir Roy, Jasang Yoon, James Hinthorne, Nicolas Pereyra, John VandeBerg, Michelle Alvarado, Kelly Leu

**SENATORS ABSENT:** Andrew Anabila, James Boudreau, Sam Sale, Mahmoud Quweider, Immanuel Edinbarough, Frederick Darsow, Yasar Tasnif, Jameela Banu, Alexander Kazansky, Murat Karabulut, Cory Wimberly, Matthew Terry, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Arden Dingle, Wendy Innis

**SENATORS ABSENT (EXCUSED):** Margaret Graham, Sheila Dooley, Fidencio Mercado, Volker Quetschke, Britt Claude Haraway

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

**VISTOR(S):** Jean Braithwaite, Ala Qubbaj, Havidán Rodríguez, Cynthia Brown, Kristin Croyle, Marie Mora

- I. Pre-Meeting (1:45):  
Senators Sign in for Attendance and for Travel Reimbursements (Brownsville & Harlingen Senators)
- II. President Saavedra convened the meeting at 2:07 p.m.
- III. Approval of the Minutes for March 4, 2016 and March 25, 2016 Meeting(s) (Senator Wendy Lawrence-Fowler) Senator Wenzel moved to postpone the approval of the March 4 and 25 meetings. Senator Caruntu seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- IV. ACTION ITEM: Staggering of Senate Terms and Report on Attendance: President Saavedra began the discussion with several points:

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- a. The goal is to create a rotation of current Senate seats such that each year approximately 1/3 of the three year terms expire. This requires that for this inaugural year, the Senate will have to determine which seats will be considered in their '1st, 2nd, and 3rd' year, respectively. For the staggering, approximately 25 seats need to be identified as expiring in Academic Year (AY) 2016, 25 in AY 2017, and 25 in AY 2018. Based on faculty distribution, approximately 20 – 25 senators should be from the Brownsville campus.
  - b. Approaches for determining the staggering were discussed. We have a departmental model of representation, thus the faculty must determine who will represent the department. Each college must make sure that not everyone rotates off at the same time. Senator Weaver moved that the Executive Committee send a form to senators requesting their preference on serving a one, two, or three year term. A friendly amendment was made by Senator Lawrence-Fowler to place a response deadline on the form. The friendly amendment was accepted. The motion carried.
- V. Upcoming Elections of 2016-2017 Faculty Senators and Executive Committee Members: A slate of officers for the Executive Committee will be presented at the April 29th Senate meeting. Then, college representation on the executive committee will be determined.
- VI. To expedite the review process, the Senate began work on New and Continuing Business, specifically the review of ADMs.
- a. Senator Morgan moved that we accept the readings on ADM 6-302 and ADM 6-201. Senator Lacher seconded the motion. There was discussion on committee appointments. Discussion was suspended to recess for the AY 2016 Senate portrait.
- VII. Recess for Picture of 2015-2016 Faculty Senate Members at 3 p.m.
- VIII. President Saavedra reported that Senators Saavedra, Morgan, and Wenzel had an open and frank discussion with the Provost concerning the 80 plus items that have been brought forward as faculty concerns. There still needs to be a White Paper and milestones enumerated for response by administration.
- IX. Administrative Updates
- a. Havidán Rodríguez, Provost
    - i. Having no comments, the Provost asked for questions. His responses follow:
    - ii. He is currently reviewing the results of the Huron Study. They have started looking at colleges where discrepancies or potential issues have been identified. The differences between campuses will also be reviewed, although no significant differences have been identified at the aggregate level. This does not mean that there are no differences at the individual level. He noted that the overall study is ongoing and the process of identifying peer and aspirational institutions continues. Because the study will be provided to the UT System, it will be available for distribution.

- iii. The Provost referred the faculty to President Bailey's comments with respect to merit. No determinations have been made yet on whether merit pay will be allocated for the upcoming academic year. Currently there is no set budget for AY 2016-2017. There are no external funds allocated from system to address these types of issues.
- iv. The Provost reviewed the budget process and indicated that within Academic Affairs, new money requests are made by the Deans. For AY 2016-17 have received 17 million dollars in new requests.
- v. The Provost stated that there is a feasibility study for a football team for UTRGV. A group will be assembled (faculty, staff, students, community members) to complete a comprehensive review. The university has received feedback from a broad range of stakeholders. He sees no impact on the Academic Affairs budget if there were to be a football team. The start time (if a football team is approved) ranges from 5 to 10 years from now.
- vi. Price Waterhouse Cooper consultants are working with the School of Medicine (SOM) in a variety of areas to make sure that everything is in place to welcome the first cohort on the first class day.
- vii. There is funding for five buildings across the campuses: the SOM, the music building in Brownsville, the Science quad completion in Edinburg, and an expansion for chemistry and environmental science are in progress. Planning is ongoing for an engineering interdisciplinary building in Edinburg and a similar multipurpose academic building is in the planning stages for the Brownsville campus. The last building in Edinburg will go west of the Library and south, forming the edge of quad. Purchases have been made in Brownsville to provide office space, etc., as well as other facilities near campus.
- viii. **We no longer receive Higher Education Assistance Funds (HEAF). Therefore, the UTRGV budget, excluding the School of Medicine, is slightly larger than the previous UTPA and UTB budgets combined. The legislative apportionment was what made it possible to open the SOM. In an analysis of the impact on costs (human), given the combining, there are more associate deans than there were before the consolidation (as well as 4 new deans, 3 were at UTB, 1 at UTPA.) He noted that the size of the College of Liberal Arts today is the size of UTB with 8000 students and 400 faculty. Number of FTE faculty at UTRGV is greater than the total of UTPA and UTB, and there are still a number of searches underway. Generally, he would estimate that 65-75% of the positions will be filled.**
- ix. **The Provost addressed new tenure and promotion standards and the meaning of scholarship for an emerging research institution.** First, we are not pursuing a Tier One research university status at this time. The goal is to become an “emerging research university” within the next 5 to 7 years. There are specific benchmarks in the state of Texas with implications for funding from the state including research expenditures, doctoral programs, graduation rates, etc. The Provost suggested that we are not changing the criteria overnight. We do, however, have to look at the standards so that we can assure growth. He reminded the Senate that we were able to use the

legacy annual evaluation process and criteria for one year. Faculty evaluated next year will use criteria currently under development in the departments; some colleges have developed annual evaluation documents. The criteria should be proposed at the faculty level, and are then reviewed, in order, by the faculty, chair, dean, and the Provost and colleagues.

He reminded the Senate that the faculty workload is determined at the department level and adjusted at the department and college level. The default workload is 60% teaching, 20% research, 20% service. The workload policy has to be aligned with the Regents Rules and other policies.

- x. The Provost explained that the change in the tenure and promotion review process was made so that there would be a set of peers who could sit at the university level (the University Committee) and have a holistic view across the university. Prior to this change, there was the only one person, the Provost, who had the perspective of looking (at these processes) across the campus.
- b. Cynthia Brown, Deputy Provost
  - i. Curriculum committees are meeting: the Undergraduate Committee meets Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>; the Graduate Committee met April 1. Each committee will meet one more time. The Graduate Committee reviewed a proposal for preliminary authority to plan a Ph.D. in applied linguistics. The Regents will vote on a Ph.D. in Physics and hopefully a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology this spring. Resources for planning doctoral degrees are available on the UT System website.
  - ii. Dr. Francisco Guajardo was named the Executive Director of the B3 Institute.
  - iii. Dr. Brown provided proposed occupancy dates for the new buildings: April 2018 for buildings currently under construction and January 2019 for the two buildings in the planning phase. The Engineering and General purpose building in Edinburg will include classrooms, faculty offices, and some teaching labs. She will verify a 1% set aside for ART in the new buildings budgets as required.
  - iv. Dr. Brown recommended that departments make their hiring priorities reflect the way they see themselves moving forward.
  - v. The degree restructuring was placed on hold this year, except for those changes necessary so that students could graduate. She reminded the Senate that it is not in the best interest of the students to change a new degree program now. However, minor changes can be made this year, including adding elective courses and correcting errors in prerequisites.
- c. Kristin Croyle, Vice President for Student Success
  - i. Dr. Croyle reminded the Senate of the upcoming Engaged Scholars Symposium where several hundred students will showcase their research, creative works, and service learning. She also mentioned the Distinguished Speakers Series. The founders of Ben and Jerry's will be presenting April 12, 2016.
  - ii. Registration opened for summer this week. Prerequisites were turned on for the first time and 'it did not go well.' Issues were addressed and the system should be stable

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- now. Summer and fall were split this year, with Fall registration opening April 18, in anticipation of possible challenges. Additionally, according to Dr. Croyle, advising is smoother this semester as compared to last semester. Specialized advising is provided by the most experienced advisors, who serve as liaisons with the colleges. Groups of advisors will also be trained in highly complex degree programs. She has been contracted and analyses are currently working to correct errors in Degree Works.
- iii. Dr. Croyle announced work on two big ideas: they are working with school district partners for dual credit (concurrent enrollment. She suggested looking at Elon University's transcript for all experiences as a model.)
  - iv. Dr. Croyle referred the Senators to the April 1, 2016 *Highlights* electronic newsletter for upcoming events and dates.
- d. Ala Qubbaj, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity
- i. Dr. Qubbaj announced that the review pathways for AY 2017 are posted on the Provost's website. He noted two changes for next year: the promotion of lecturers will be done in the fall with annual evaluation, as will post-tenure review. This aligns all evaluations. The faculty who are doing post-tenure have received a letter from the Provost.
  - ii. There will be three workshops for tenure and promotion for the fall.
  - iii. His office is in the process of finalizing awards; 15 were submitted for the Regents' Teaching Award, and an outside committee is evaluating applications for the other awards.
  - iv. Dr. Qubbaj reminded Senators of the summer writing retreat on South Padre Island and announced an additional summer writing program with a \$500 award upon completion. A notice is forthcoming.
  - v. Upon request by Dr. Marie Mora, Dr. Qubbaj explained the role of his office.
- X. New & Continuing Business: (HOP Review Presentations from Senate Committees and Possible Action/Vote) The final readings of ADM 6-302 and ADM 6-201 were addressed above. Discussion was suspended for a recess.
- a. Update and Possible Final Vote on ADM 2-102 Academic Committees and Councils
  - b. First Reading on ADM 6-111 Faculty Grievance
  - c. Final Reading of ADM 6-302 Appointment of Deans
  - d. Final Reading of ADM 6-201 Academic Program Standards and Approval
  - e. ADM 6-104 Faculty Resignation and Modified Service
  - f. ADM 06-505 Tenure and Promotion
  - g. ADM 06-501 Faculty Workload
- XI. Update from Faculty Senate Working Group/White Paper Session
- Senator Wenzel provided an update on the White Paper. The most recent list of concerns was posted. The committee is looking at themes to make a smaller group of 5 to 6 themes. Updates of documents will be available on Blackboard.



Senator Lawrence-Fowler made a motion to hold a special meeting of the Faculty Senate on April 15, 2016 to address the White Paper and the ADMs. Senator Pereyra seconded the motion. Senator Wenzel made a friendly amendment to make it a working session only. The friendly amendment was accepted. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 4:42pm.