



2015-2016 Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2016, 12:00-5:00 PM
STAC 1.103, Edinburg Campus

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

SENATORS PRESENT: Andrew Anabila, James Boudreau, Sanjeev Kumar, Micky (Dumitru) Caruntu, Lionel "Javier" Cavazos, Irasema Gonzalez, Bobbette Morgan, Robert Gilbert, Donald J. Lyles, Britt Claude Haraway, Frederick Darsow, Justin Writer, Daniel Hunter-Holly, Jameela Banu, Jeannean Ryman, Lilia A. Fuentes, Joe Lacher, Angela Scoggin, Sandra Hansmann, Wilma Mealer, Catherine Faver, Jeffrey McQuillen, Dora Saavedra, Thomas White, Michael Weaver, Brent Campney, Ernesto Ramirez, David Anshen, Irina Armianu, Cory Wimberly, William Sokoloff, James Wenzel, Stephen Merino, Margaret Graham, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Christopher Vitek, Yuanbing Mao, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Ranadhir Roy, Jasang Yoon, Volker Quetschke, Nicolas Pereyra, Arden Dingle, John VandeBerg, Michelle Alvarado, Kelly Leu

SENATORS ABSENT: DongYop Oh, Sibin Wu, Mohammadali Zolfagharian, Sam Sale, Mahmoud Quweider, Immanuel Edinbarough, Yasar Tasnif, Alexander Kazansky, Matthew Terry, Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Wendy Innis, Mohammad Azarbajani, Wendy Lawrence-Fowler, Rosalinda Hernandez, Sheila Dooley, Bailey Wang, Gary Leka, Aziza Zemrani, John Newman, James Hinthorne

SENATORS ABSENT (EXCUSED): James Bullard, Fidencio Mercado, Murat Karabulut, Brian Warren, Rosalva Resendiz, Sandra Musanti, and Jacob Neumann

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE ASSISTANT III: Vanessa Ceballos

VISITOR(S): None

- I. Pre-Meeting Lunch and Sign In (Noon-12:45):
Senators Sign in for Attendance and for Travel Reimbursements (Brownsville & Harlingen Senators)
- II. Convene Meeting: Senate President Saavedra convened the meeting when a quorum was reached at 12:45 p.m.
- III. Item VIII on the agenda was covered first since Senator Wenzel had to leave early. He presented a draft of the White Paper. Some of the issues/themes/feedback from faculty and staff included: 1) the need for transparency; 2) the need to eliminate the "culture of fear" that is pervasive across campuses and across constituencies (staff, faculty, middle and upper administration); 3) perceived inappropriate interventions by the Provost/Deputy Provost and/or other high level Administration in matters should be the primary responsibility of the

faculty (Regents Rule 40101)/arrogation of faculty control over curriculum; 4) a need for an administrative cost-ratio analysis given the number of positions that have been created; 5) perceived cronyism in hiring practices at the higher administration level; 6) faculty exhaustion; 7) tremendous pressure to enact Research I productivity without adequate resources (release times, travel funds, graduate assistants, laboratory space, working equipment, etc.)

- a. A new draft of the issues should be available April 29th
- b. Two action items were then discussed:
 - i. A request that the President of UTRGV meet with Faculty Senate and with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee at least once a semester to identify and work collaboratively to remedy campus climate, trust issues, transparency, internal communication issues, and shared governance issues.
 - ii. A request that the President and his administrative team respect and implement faculty decision making processes and faculty vetoes at all levels (ex. P&T, hiring, policy development and implementation, etc.)
 - c. Weaver presented a motion to accept these two items with some wordsmithing. It was seconded by Wenzel. The motion carried. ACTION Needed: The FSEC will wordsmith the two action items

IV. Progress Report: Staggering of Senate Terms Issue

(25 seats need to be 1 year; 25 seats 2 year; 25 seats 3 year terms)

- V. Upcoming Elections of 2016-2017 Faculty Senators were discussed. The Executive Committee Members will be elected at the April 29th Meeting.

VI. New & Continuing Business: The Senate reviewed h. ADM 06-102 Faculty Files, b. First Reading on ADM 6-111 Faculty Grievance, and part of f. ADM 06-505 Tenure and Promotion (HOP Review Presentations from Senate Committees and Possible Action/Vote)

b. First Reading on ADM 6-111 Faculty Grievance (Senators White, Roy, Zemrani, Anshen, Morgan & Saavedra)

- i. Highlight of Changes
 - a. Eliminated version that had no faculty input
 - b. Added protection for faculty via provisions for due process and appeals
 - (1) At each level, the grievant has the right to a written response to the administrative response if they pool (Motion made by Anshen and seconded by Weaver) Motion carried.
 - (2) Random Tribunal Pool (100) should be considered

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(3) Change wording from “required” to faculty cannot be asked to serve if already served 3 years; faculty will not serve more than once every 3 years.

- iii. Action: Consider Resolution “Policies not approved by the Faculty Senate are not to be considered official policies of the University until such time the Faculty Senate votes on them.” We need to check Regents Rule on time line to approve policies.

NOTE: Quorum lost at 3:55 p.m. Review of ADM 06-505 (Tenure and Promotion) was continued in workshop session. No official votes were taken.

f. First Reading of ADM 06-505 Tenure and Promotion Senator Gkioulekas

- i. Highlights of Changes
 - a. Write out AAUP (American Association of University Professors)
 - b. Use “sustained achievement” in place of “excellence” (p. 3/29)
 - c. Replace “research” scholarship and creative activity/work
 - d. Move teaching to beginning of list
 - e. Clarify position titles in School of Medicine (SOM)
 - f. Consider section in this policy for Non Tenure Line Faculty (lecturers,

etc.)

- g. Negotiate years that count toward tenure
 - h. Sense of Senate: 28 for; 2 against; 1 abstention for idea that” the criteria under which person was hired should remain in place throughout the tenure review period.”
 - i. Delete Section E 5 references since they were from an older version of the policy and do not correspond to this policy version
 - j. Question: Can you grieve P & T extension?
 - k. Consider changing service to service and/or community engagement
- ii. Recommendation to Senate: Britt Haraway will research Arlington, San Antonio and El Paso policies
- iii. Action: We will start on page 9 next time.

h. ADM 06-102 Faculty Files (This policy was covered before b and f above-- ADMs 06-111 and 06-505--but placed here in the order of the agenda.

- i. Highlights of Changes
 - a. Reinstate stakeholder section
 - b. Remove from item 2A “to extent authorized by law”
 - c. Replace item 2A with “the cost of reproducing faculty materials shall be borne by the university” [Moved by White and seconded by Anshen; motion passed]
- ii. Recommendation to Senate: Accept the policy [Moved by Micky and seconded by Wenzel; motion passed]

- iii. Action: ADM 06-102 will be presented for final vote at the April 29th meeting

The following policies and items (with the exception of b, f, and h below) were not covered during this meeting.

- a. Second Reading and **Possible Final Vote** on ADM 2-102 Academic Committees and Councils
- b. **First Reading** on ADM 6-111 Faculty Grievance (Tom White et al.)
 - i. Highlights of Changes
 - ii. Recommendation to Senate
 - iii. Action:
- c. **Final Reading of 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:
 - iii. Action:
- d. **Final Reading of ADM 6-201** Academic Program Standards and Approval
 - i. The Clean Copy is identical to the Tracked Copy
 - ii. Recommendation to Senate:
 - iii. Action:
- e. ADM 6-104 Faculty Resignation and Modified Service
 - i. Highlights of Changes
 - ii. Recommendation to Senate
 - iii. Action:
- f. ADM 06-505 Tenure and Promotion (See above)
 - i. Highlights of Changes
 - ii. Recommendation to Senate
 - iii. Action:
- g. ADM 06-501 Faculty Workload
 - i. Highlights of Changes
 - ii. Recommendation to Senate
 - iii. Action:
- h. ADM 06-102 Faculty Files (See above)
 - i. Highlights of Changes
 - ii. Recommendation to Senate
 - iii. Action:
- i. Other Policies that may be ready

VII. Adjournment: Saavedra thanked all the Senators for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 5 p.m.