



2018-2019 Faculty Senate Meeting VI

Edinburg: EACSB 1.104

Brownsville: BBRHB 1.207 (Zoom)

Friday, November 16, 2018

2:00pm – 4:30pm

Minutes

Minutes prepared by Ernesto Ramirez, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

Senators Present: Punit Ahluwalia, Andrew Anabila, Bruno Arthur, Sandra Atkins, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Karl Berg, Chinwendu Chineke, Mircea Chipara, Abdoulaye Diallo, Arden Dingle, William Donner, Richard Edmonson, Raquel Estrada, Louis Falk, Ibrahim Farooqi, Teresa Feria Arroyo, Firat Fuat, Anahit Galstyan, Laura Gephart, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Margaret Graham, Jonathan Guist, Kip Austin Hinton, Elamin Ibrahim, Wendy Innis, Dongchul Kim, Kye-Hwan Lee, Irving Levinson, Karin Lewis, Richard Longoria, John Luna, Donald Jerry Lyles, Jung-il Oh, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Volker Quetschke, Ernesto Ramírez, Candace Robledo, Maria Romero-Ramirez, Sam Sale, Gary Schneider, Andrea Schwarzbach, Hilda Silva, William Sokoloff, Annelyn Torres-Reveron, John Vandeberg, Jorge Vidal, Michael Weaver, James Whittenberg, Jasang Yoon, Michelle Zeager, Aziza Zemrani

Senators Absent: George Amorim, Elvia Ardalani, Jameela Banu, Dumitru Caruntu, Steve Chamberlain, Frederick Darsow, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Marcus Farris, Lilia A. Fuentes, Maria Miriam Herrera, Sunand Kallumadanda, Junfei Li, Theresa Mata-Pistokache, John Newman, Denise Silcox, Samuel Snyder, Garry Souffrant, Owen Temby, Yingchen Yang,

Senators Absent (Excused): Sonja Arredondo, Mark Dantzker, Elizabeth Deven-Hernandez, Hale Kaynak, Murat Karabulut, Dae Kim, Marci McMahon, Laura Seligman

Visitor(s): Robert Allen, Michelle Alvarado, Donna Ceglar, Jeff Graham, John Krouse, Ala Qubbaj, Mata Salinas, Oscar Villarreal

Office Assistant III: Vanessa Ceballos

I. Convene Meeting and Welcome Senators and Guests

- a. Convene: 2.03PM
- b. Welcome of guests to FS meeting

II. Report from EVP Dr. John H. Krouse w/ Q&A (25 mins)

The EVP was present to give an overview of the Division of Health Affairs, focusing on division wide elements and then SOM with collaboration of other elements. The Health Division is a new division with the SOM, includes the School of Nursing, School of

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Social Work, and the College of Health Professions. There are now four units in Health Affairs and six in AA; each EVP oversees these separate divisions. There are a number of new departments in SOM, moving toward a discipline base. This is to focus research in these areas as well. Organization change for new degrees as well. There are also a number of new degree programs. This month 5 new proposals: DPT, Masters in Bioethics, planning authority for Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, planning for PhD in nursing practice, and a planning in PhD for Occupational Therapy; submitted for PhD in human genetics in Brownsville, DPT will be in Harlingen, Podiatry and PharmD in McAllen and Edinburg. Things to come: masters in biomedical engineering, PhD in therapeutic sciences, and a Doctor of Optometry. There are new UT Health locations --- expanding across the valley, 20 locations and more in the spring to open. The purpose of these new locations is to serve the community and to generate revenue. A new logo is being released to be more inclusive. Focusing on the research side, a new building in McAllen for research is about to open. A new institute for neuroscience in Harlingen will be opened on a gift of land. The Division of Health Affairs will also be taking over the site in McAllen for Cancer and Women's Services.

q. Can you share this presentation?

a. Yes, it will be made available for Faculty Senate.

q. Tell us about your recruitment

a. Faculty recruitment has been very successful, many interested in coming here to do this work with this population and region.

q. Can you improve communications with all parties?

a. The email for our Chief of Staff sofia.hernandez@utrgv.edu is the contact point. We also have a newsletter too which you can receive.

q. Do you have any plans to include actual students from other colleges in the health emphasis around the community?

a. Yes, John Ronnau works with community to address needs, there is work now also with Ala Qubbaj to develop a program with students in engineering.

q. How are those community health clinics are staffed?

a. Nurse practitioners mostly cover them with PA's; the physician supervises once per week. Those specialty sites are purely physician based.

q. How are you going to ensure that we don't drain resources away from students already in the SOM before we continue to grow?

a. We continue to invest.

q. Question about workload

a. Workload is assigned by percent, 90% clinical means 9 half days in clinic.



Others have different assignments and therefore have different percentage expectations.

Comment. It is important to make sure that you are keeping faculty aware of this and other issues

Reply. Please bring these to faculty assembly, I should hear about this there and not here in this venue.

q. A number of faculty have concerns about their evaluations, contracts, T&P, and the new organization structure. Are we going to have separate plans, will there be one overall plan.

a. Is there a uniform T&P, no! Each college will have their own plan. Each needs to review and revise with a T&P plan that focuses on our pursuit of status as an emerging research institution.

q. Bringing in new programs requires a large funding source to get started. Once students come in revenue is generated. Where is the funding coming from for these new programs? How do you prioritize these?

a. You are right we need an influx of capital. DPT will probably be the first, then PharmD. We are searching for a founding dean in pharmacy now. Source funding comes from foundations, the presidents office has promised to pay for the founding dean of pharmacy. It is Dr. Bailey's agenda to move rapidly on these programs. We are partnering with hospitals and have some grants.

Followed on discussion about podiatry program and disagreement about its appropriateness in our university. Dr. Krouse suggested that this discussion be brought up in the Faculty Assembly in the SOM.

*Technology issues with noise from Brownsville

III. Presentation from Marta Salinas-Hovar, Associate VP Facilities Planning & Operations, on Sugar Rd. Street Improvements w/ Q&A (25 mins)

Presentation for AVP Facilities – traffic study was conducted in fall 2017 along Sugar between University and Schunior. There have been three studies since the late 2000s. There are currently five crossings for pedestrians on Sugar by the university. Since 2015 there have been 21 accidents auto/pedestrian; nine accidents occurred across from the UREC.

The recommendation is to eliminate the crosswalk at McIntyre and to increase the visibility of the current crosswalk. Further, to eliminate the crosswalk at the Village Apartments.

Plan: remove McIntyre crosswalk, improve the Kuhn crossing, adjust the timing at the unity hall crossing, remove the village apartments crosswalk



The most troublesome intersection is not going to be removed there has been an issue in that this is not university property, but city property.

q. We need to think about the right turn on westbound Van Week, it does not work as people circumvent it, how about a light there?

a. We have thought about it, but the city will not place a light or stop as the traffic study does not warrant it.

q. The lighting on Sugar road is horrible, it is dark at night, as a pedestrian or driver it is difficult to see far ahead. Part of the problem is also the lack of attention to the environment, but instead to the phone, that students exhibit.

a. PSAs are being designed and maybe some markings on the ground. Some of the accidents are caused by bicyclists who move across the intersection without waiting for vehicles to recognize them.

q. From the parking lot by MAGC there are a lot of students coming across from the buildings and in the evenings you have students walking between vehicles

a. We have considered shutting down vehicle traffic there, but Van Week is a shared property half to the university and half to city. Two private residences still there which keeps the city from turning over that property. There are funding issues with lighting, to convert to LED will cost more than is available at this time.

q. On Sugar road, the center lane is not used, it should be repurposed for traffic.

a. It is used for left turns into facilities.

q. Please involve us in these processes, there are no faculty on your committee. Also please try to involve our students. Two of our larger cities used our engineering students to help conduct their traffic study, we should do the same to increase the learning opportunities for our students.

a. We have requested with the city to conduct a larger traffic study around the entire campus.

IV. Remarks from Dr. Jeff Graham Chief Information Officer or representative on the state of ITV equipment at UTRGV (5 min)

Dr. Graham provided a quick update on classroom technology. Consultant came back with sound as an issue, classrooms are not designed for sound and we are not tuning the rooms to sound. A new consultant is coming in to create these new classrooms, so costs have moved from \$15000 to \$100000 for these classrooms. New rooms are being designed not just with IT but with materials in the room to improve IT performance. When we became UTRGV, Brownsville was behind, but has since improved; now Edinburg is in need of upgrades. This includes remote access to



hardware for support.

ITV rooms will have panels that are identical in every ITV room. Standardization of hardware across campuses and audio are concerns. Sabal hall has new rooms upgraded. This should result in an improved experience. Zoom is also new. Everybody on campus can use Zoom. Go ahead and go to the online training to learn how to better use zoom.

We have a committee that is helping prioritize the expenditures.

q. ELABS 341 is bad for this work. Materials are not physically placed where you need them.

a. New designs are being put in place to address these problems.

q. There are problems when one side doesn't work, then we have to wait for x2020.

a. New response from IT is remote access to fix these problems.

q. You should address ITV with the needs of the faculty teaching and their needs.

a. the registrar is supposed to match ITV classes to the rooms that are equipped.

q. ITV teaching has been terrible, we have audio and video problems, have had to cut classes short because we have to wait for a response during class time.

a. We are working on these issues.

q. Is IT also responsible for lighting in the rooms?

a. No, that is facilities, but we work with them for IT issues, such as screens being white out.

q. When you deal with sound, does that mean the offices next to the classroom will also be addressed, my office is filled with sound from classroom. Also, calling in advance for repair service I have been told to call back when you are in the classroom.

a. We are hiring someone now for helping with classroom technology, we are short of resources right now.

V. Welcome of new President-elect

- a. We needed a runoff, second election, the results: 46 email votes, 2 abstentions, 24 for Arden Dingle, and 20 for Dumitru Caruntu. Senator Dingle is our new President Elect.
- b. Nomination of vacated FSEC seats, Engineering college must nominate a caucus designee for FSEC

VI. Action Item: Approval of Minutes- Tabled for corrections

VII. Report from the Faculty Senate President- Nothing new to report

VIII. Announcements- none

IX. Business

- a. Shared Governance Award – we are working on the shared governance award. Vanessa read the text of the award for FS.
- b. Constitution Committee – D. Saavedra, senators will receive information so that we may all provide feedback
- c. Chair Survey Committee – nothing new to report; meeting on 11/26 to have a spring release of the survey. We should have a draft at the December meeting for the FS.
- d. Whitepaper report Card – Senator Weaver is looking at the whitepaper from two years ago, Senator Lyles and Jim Wenzel (former Senator) will join to do this work. Need a Brownsville representative, doesn't have to be faculty.
- e. Workload policy – What are the next steps?
Possibly remove MOA from resolution; we also had approval of the policy draft though so do we need a resolution? We need to point out, October 19th meeting; the regents rules require us to have an MOA. For the record we need to state that other colleagues in UT system says we don't need MOA's, the link was dead before. The only response received from UT FAC was that this was a template that was being used in the Health Science Centers., The EVP response was that this was boilerplate. We need to find out if she was misinformed about the need for the document. The best practices document was that there is no exploitation of faculty at any record. When we stated that chairs are not necessarily qualified to the work that they are asked to do, we were told we need to train chairs, we responded that we may need to change chairs --- hence the need for chair evaluations. We need to get ahead of this issue. We need to make sure that the minutes of each meeting of the committee is brought forth to the FS for our consideration immediately.
- q. Is there a policy that chairs should be served only 3 years?
 - a. There was a HOP that said that chairs needed to be reviewed. These have not been followed.
- q. The best practices is where?
 - a. On blackboard and it has been emailed out. There are three documents, the Regents rules, the UT FAC letter, and the best practices document.
- q. Who is doing these policies at the department level?
 - a. The department must create a policy committee, this is not T&P. Some have these already.



Comment. I think we made an error when we accepted a workload policy based upon what I promise to do rather than what I did.

Reply. The MOA committee is being charged with alignment within the university; because what you do is also based upon what you have the ability to do when there is a need for changes that take your time, such as a new course appointment.

So, FSEC will meet to discuss all of this and draft a document for FS consideration

q. There is an issue with Annual review, Senator Lyles reported that a faculty member was working with a graduate TA, closely; in student evaluations the TA had complaints, negative responses which as a result of being the instructor of record had a negative impact on the faculty member. This is not equitable. Have other departments had a similar problem? Email Senator Lyles with your experiences.

f. AOB- none

X. Adjournment 4.10 PM

XI. Next meeting

Faculty Senate Meeting V: December 7, 2018

Harlingen Clinical Education Building: HCEBL 1.100 (Auditorium)