



**2017-2018 Faculty Senate Minutes
Meeting VIII**

Edinburg: EACSB 1.104 [WebEx]

Brownsville: BBRHB 1.222

Friday, March 2, 2018

2:00 p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Alvarado, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

SENATORS PRESENT: Michelle Alvarado, George Amorim, Andrew Anabila, Elvia Ardalani, Sonja Arredondo, Bruno Arthur, Jameela Banu, Don Carlson, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, Steve Chamberlain, Frederick Darsow, Richard Edmonson, Raquel Estrada, Ibrahim Farooqi, Marcus Farris, Teresa Feria Arroyo, Lilia A. Fuentes, Anahit Galstyan, Britt Claude Haraway, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Wendy Innis, Mark Kaswan, Hale Kaynak, Sanjeev Kumar, Irving Levinson, Donald "Jerry" Lyles, Fidencio Mercado, Bobbette Morgan, John Newman, Jung-Il Oh, DongYop Oh, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Nicolas Pereyra, Mahmoud Quweider, Ernesto Ramirez, Candace Robledo, Maria Romero-Ramirez, Dora Saavedra, Sam Sale, Gary Schneider, Andrea Schwarzbach, Douglas Timmer, Annelyn Torres-Reveron, John VandeBerg, Jorge Vidal, Michael Weaver, James Wenzel, James Whittenberg, Justin Writer, Jasang Yoon, Michelle Zeager, Aziza Zemrani, Mohammadali Zolfagharian

SENATORS ABSENT: David Anshen, James Bullard, Arden Dingle, Frank Dirrigl, William Donner, Laura Gephart, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Saara Grizzell, Kip Austin Hinton, Elamin Ibrahim, Sunand Kallumadanda, Marci McMahon, Jacob Neumann, Volker Quetschke, Rosalva Resendiz, Laura Seligman, Samuel Snyder, Garry Souffrant, Yasar Tasnif, Bailey Wang, Yingchen Yang

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Margaret Graham, Murat Karabulut, Hilda Silva, Christopher Vitek

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE ASSISTANT III: Vanessa Ceballos

VISITOR(S): Karin Lewis, Cynthia Brown, Ala Qubbaj, Patricia McHatton, Guy Bailey, Kristin Croyle, Isai Ramirez, Rick Anderson

- I. Convene Meeting and Welcome Senators and Guests
 - a. President Saavedra convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m.
 - b. She also welcomed administrators and guests.

- II. Updates from Guests
 - a. UTRGV President Guy Bailey

President Bailey shared information about the reorganization of the university administration and introduced Interim Provost McHatton. President Bailey also shared a few updates. The College of Health Affairs and the School of Medicine will be led by the Dean of School of Medicine and Vice President for Health

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Affairs, Dr. John Krouse. The feedback President Bailey received regarding the provost candidates was very similar across the campuses and are in line with what he has observed. Both Drs. McHatton and Grewal are very talented with great strengths, and this institution needed both of their leadership skills. He has a plan to place interim Deans and other administrators in certain administrative positions.

President Bailey entertained questions and comments. A request was shared regarding the new workload policy. The university needs to establish a workload policy that supports learning communities and interdisciplinary teaching. Dr. Bailey's responded faculty can be creative with workload so we do not penalize for creative teaching. A question was asked about what process we are using to develop the new workload. The faculty workload should be tied holistically into the faculty evaluation. A concern regarding the workload policy was raised. Workload needs to be negotiated with individual faculty members to reflect teaching and/or research. Workload expectations need to be clearly defined. Faculty are encouraged to propose ideas and the new Executive Vice Presidents can addresses concerns. It was stated that November 2018 was the deadline for the UT System to receive the new workload policies. A question was asked: Is the university going to implement differential tuition across colleges? Dr. Bailey stated that Vice President Rick Anderson is the best person to address tuition and fees. Tuition should reflect differences across disciplines.

b. Interim Provost/VPAA Patty McHatton

Her new position as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Success, and P-16 Integration will officially begin April 2, 2018. She is thrilled and honored to accept this new position. She reported that a task force has been providing feedback on developing the climate survey. The student, staff, and faculty climate survey will allow us to do benchmark studies with other institutions that gives us preliminary data. We will be transparent with data. The executive leadership team will meet with the consultant on March 7th to discuss the survey. The survey will be distributed on March 26th and should have results in May.

A Dean's retreat was held to engage in substantive discussion regarding the needs on the three campuses. There is a need to identify how we maximize talents on the campuses and transparency regarding how decisions are made. They will schedule appointments with departments to seek faculty input to identify possible interim deans and to make decisions with the departments who are searching for chairs. Departments need to submit textbook adoptions in a timely manner. Concerns were raised regarding textbook adoption. Faculty do not receive acknowledgement when orders are received. The bookstore website has not been updated. Communication with bookstore staff has been difficult. Dr. Qubbaj's office will work on streamlining communication regarding textbook adoptions. It was recommended that each department have a designated contact person for communication with the bookstore.

c. Deputy Provost Cynthia Brown

The university received its probation letter in mid-February from SACS/COC, and it is what the university was expecting. External auditors will be looking at financial audit findings. The auditors will also examine the internal audit and will send report to SACS/COC. The audit is posted on the state auditor's website.

There are several new programs at various stages of the THECB approval process. It is hoped that these programs will be approved in time to begin offering courses in Fall 2018.

The College of Business Dean's search is preparing for campus visits. The search committee conducted 11 Skype interviews and will meet to make recommendations to the Interim Provost. The College will host three candidates during the week of March 19-26. She stated they had a very good pool of applicants.

The proposed Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology will have an external site campus visit. This proposal will then be going to the THECB March meeting and then to the UT Board of Regents meeting in April.

d. Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity Ala Qubbaj

Tenure and Promotion. There were 52 faculty reviewed for Tenure and Promotion. Twenty-five cases were for tenure, and 27 cases for promotion. Dr. Qubbaj thanked the Faculty Senate for increasing the University Tenure and Promotion committee membership. The university will conduct Tenure and Promotion workshops for the next academic year.

Awards. There were 36 nominations submitted for the UT Regents Award and 4 of those will be sent to the UT System. For the University Excellence Awards, we received 58 nominations and are currently finalizing awards. We will have 2 excellence teaching awards, one for tenured faculty and one for non-tenured faculty. The Awards celebration will take place May 3rd. His office also processed 10 faculty development leave awards. They sent 70 notifications for travel awards to faculty. The faculty colloquium series has been a success. We had 4 colloquiums this year, and each faculty member who presented received a \$1000 travel award.

Faculty Searches. There are currently 151 searches that have been approved. Sixty OYA (one-year appointments) were converted to three-year appointments. March 15th is the deadline to complete searches. The new faculty orientations are scheduled for August 16-17, 2018

e. Isai Ramirez, Q and A on PeopleSoft

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The systems are in the build stage, and we will be testing system. Faculty will not be able to see students on system until a year from now, but Human Resources will begin using the system on September 1st. They have developed a rough draft copy of the training manual.

- f. Pamela Anderson-Mejias, Chair, Course Scheduling Committee may be invited to present at the April meeting.

- g. Peg Graham (or designee), Chairs Workgroup Update

The Workgroup Report has been submitted to the Interim Provost.

- h. Mr. Rick Anderson, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration

The UT System will meet to discuss the increasing tuition and fees. The university is talking to the local community and state legislators about the need for the tuition and fee increase. UTRGV has the 3rd lowest tuition in the state and will be the 2nd lowest if the new tuition plan is approved by the UTS Board of Regents. The recommended tuition and fee is only for four years and will be affordable for students. About 36% of our students are taking 15 hours or more with tuition capped at 12 hours. This is an incentive for students to earn their degrees in four years.

- i. Volker Quetschke and Bobbette Morgan

The Texas Council of Faculty Senates officers and membership met on February 14, 15, and 16th in Austin. The TCFS received \$5,000 from Texas A&M, University of Houston, and the Texas State System to support its mission. Senator Morgan shared that some faculty senates have only 8 senators; others have 125 senators. UTRGV has 78 senators.

III. Action Item: Approval of Minutes - February 2, 2018

1st motion to accept minutes as presented was made by Senator Morgan.
Senator Sale seconded the motion.

Senator Kaswan pointed out a correction that needed to be made under item 4 of the minutes. Therefore, a friendly amendment to the motion was made by Senator Kaswan “to accept minutes pending corrections.” The minutes were approved pending making the pending correction.

IV. Old Business

a. Administrator Evaluations Update

President Saavedra stated the committee is looking at different sources to develop the evaluation. We cannot evaluate new administrators. At this point, the proposal is that we will evaluate the University Librarian, the Deans, Vice Presidents, and other administrators including the President.

b. Dream Center Update – Senators Ramirez and Haraway

Senator Ramirez stated that in 2016 students expressed a need for a dream center on campus. With the threat of DACA ending, students want reassurance there will be a secure and safe campus for them. Students have met with Dr. Bailey to share their concerns. The administration is looking at establishing a multicultural center instead of dream center. Senator Ramirez shared that currently there is a Dream Center at UTSA.

Dr. Croyle also spoke about the issue of a dream center. Students have requested a dream center, but some students have stated they would not feel safe or welcome at a dream center. The creation of a multicultural center that will accept all identities and serve the needs of students from diverse backgrounds has been proposed. Dr. Croyle mentioned there is a website available for undocumented students that lists the available resources on campus. Currently, there is dream zone ally training program on campus to support undocumented students. The Dean of Students will identify a faculty fellow to work with undocumented students and multicultural issues. A concern was shared with Dr. Croyle that we need trained individuals on campus who can focus on working with students from diverse backgrounds, particularly students who are undocumented.

c. Strategic Plan Committee Update—Mark Kaswan

The committee has not met. He announced that Senators are needed to serve on this committee and share their input in the Strategic Plan. Only one person has volunteered.

d. Constitution Committee Update—Mark Kaswan

Senator Quetschke announced the committee will be meeting soon.

V. New Business

a. Proposed Process for Faculty Workload Policy Development

The Blue Ribbon Committee that was established under the former Provost may not continue but it is hoped that a task force will be established to seek faculty and faculty senate input to establish the workload policy in conjunction with administrators. The deadline to establish the workload policy and to submit to the UT System is November 2018.



b. Faculty Recruitment Manual procedures

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will share with Interim Provost McHatton that, in certain instances, the procedures outlined in the manual are not being followed.

c. Election of Senators for 2018-2019

If a senator's term is expiring this spring, all new elections need to be conducted either in March or April. New senators need to be in place by the May meeting. We currently have a departmental model of representation. We need to ask department chairs to solicit nominations for faculty senators and to facilitate elections for the department.

d. Shared Governance Awards Idea (AAUP document)

President Saavedra asked for ideas for this award and who should be nominated for this award.

A motion was made by Senator Haraway to give at least one award this year to an individual. Senator Gkioulekas seconded the motion. It was stated we need a procedure to nominate and to select an individual for this award.

The motion to have a 2018 Shared Governance Award passed.

e. College Caucus Issues – Due to time constraints, the College caucuses did not meet.

VI. Adjournment

a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.