



**2017-2018 Faculty Senate Meeting X
Brownsville: BBBRHB 1.222 (Zoom)**

Edinburg: EACSB 1.106

Friday, May 4, 2018

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

Minutes

Minutes prepared by Michelle Alvarado, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

Senators Present: Michelle Alvarado, Andrew Anabila, Elvia Ardalani, Sonja Arredondo, Bruno Arthur, Jameela Banu, Don Carlson, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, Steve Chamberlain, Frederick Darsow, Abdoulaye Diallo, Frank Dirrigl, William Donner, Richard Edmonson, Raquel Estrada, Ibrahim Farooqi, Marcus Farris, Lilia A. Fuentes, Anahit Galstyan, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Margaret Graham, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Maria "Miriam" Herrera, Elamin Ibrahim, Murat Karabulut, Mark Kaswan, Sanjeev Kumar, Irving Levinson, Donald "Jerry" Lyles, Fidencio Mercado, John Newman, DongYop Oh, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Nicolas Pereyra, Volker Quetschke, Mahmoud Quweider, Ernesto Ramirez, Rosalva Resendiz, Maria Romero-Ramirez, Dora Saavedra, Sam Sale, Hilda Silva, Andrea Schwarzbach, Douglas Timmer, John VandeBerg, Christopher Vitek, Bailey Wang, Michael Weaver, James Wenzel, James Whittenberg, Justin Writer, Aziza Zemrani

Senators Absent: George Amorim, David Anshen, James Bullard, Teresa Feria Arroyo, Laura Gephart, Kip Austin Hinton, Wendy Innis, Sunand Kallumadanda, Marci McMahon, Jacob Neumann, Jung-Il Oh, Candace Robledo, Gary Schneider, Laura Seligman, Samuel Snyder, Garry Souffrant, Yasar Tasnif, Annelyn Torres-Reveron, Jorge Vidal Mohammadali Zolfagharian

Excused Absences: Kathy (Kathleen) Carter, Arden Dingle, Britt Claude Haraway, Hale Kaynak, Yingchen Yang, Jasang Yoon, Michelle Zeager

Faculty Senate Office Assistant III: Vanessa Ceballos

Visitors: Cynthia Brown, Ala Qubbaj, Patricia McHatton

- I. Convene Meeting and Welcome Senators and Guests
 - a. Meeting was convened at 2:01 p.m.
 - b. Senator Timmer Parliamentarian reviewed the protocol for the meeting. Invited guests will be given 10 minutes to speak to the senate.
 - c. President Saavedra recognized Cynthia Brown for her retirement and service to the university.

II. Guest(s) and Faculty Senate Updates:

a. Executive VP for Academic Affairs, Student Success, and P-16 Integration Patty McHatton

- We had a good response on climate survey: 40% response from faculty and staff and 9% from students. We should receive data this month (May) from consultant firm.
- Looking at two campus initiatives:
 - 1) Campus connect – will have conversation with faculty how to bridge all the campuses for students and programming. Will ask Faculty Senate for feedback and participation in this initiative.
 - 2) Undergraduate advising – we need to improve the process of advising and determine what advising looks like for UTRGV. We need to look at advising from a PK-20th lens and process. We also need to focus on advising for graduate studies.
- We will have a Chair Council to improve communication within the university from top-to-down and down-to-up. We need clear, accurate, timely communication within our university.

Questions and concerns from the faculty senate were shared with Dr. McHatton.

- Faculty need merit raises. The need for raises has been overlooked for years.
- There must be faculty input to develop a new workload policy to establish a fair and balance workload
- There is a concern about how we generate SCHs.
- We need clear and detailed memoranda of appointment. Faculty need to understand what is expected of them and what the university expects. The university needs to capture the amount of time of faculty are spending on research. Faculty and chairs need to have meaningful conversations on differentiated workload.
- There is a concern about joint appointments.
- We need to include non-tenure track faculty (NTTF) in the discussion of balancing workload, merit raises, and the development of workload policy.
- Teaching is important. We need transform our conversations about teaching and recognize how our teaching makes a meaningful

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contribution to the University.

- As we evolve into a research university, how much teaching can faculty do if we need to focus on research? We to have this conversation. Some faculty may prefer teaching and others research. We must meet students' needs, but we can find a balance between teaching and research.

b. Senior Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs & Diversity Ala Qubbaj

- President Saavedra thanked and recognize Ala's service and dedication to faculty.
- Dr. Qubbaj stated he wants to support faculty senate. Tenure and promotion trainings are available, and his office can do one-to-one trainings. Deadline to submit FPT is deadline is September 12th. New faculty orientation is scheduled for August 16th-17th.

III. Action Item: Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2018 and April 6, 2018, it was suggested the minutes be postponed until the next meeting.

- a. Senator Caruntu moved to make this a motion. Senator Quetschke seconded motion. The motion carried.

IV. Old Business

a. Chair Evaluation Discussion: Possible Action

- Discussion ensued regarding chair evaluations. It was suggested to have pull-down menu. Question was raised do we include Chairs in the evaluation?
- Senator Lyles moved that the evaluations include the Chairs. Senator Wenzel seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

It was suggested the Senate committee work with the Council of Chairs to develop the Chair evaluation. There was discussion if all Chairs must be included. Faculty must have input in the Chair evaluation. Concern was raised for small departments where faculty could be identified. Policy states Chairs should be evaluated in their 3rd year.

Senator Lyles called the question. Senator Quetschke called for the vote.

Yes 31 (29 in Edinburg, 2 in Brownsville, 1 WebEx)

No 10

Motion carried

- Senator Ibrahim moved to act on the chair survey. Senator Kumar seconded the



motion. Discussion followed. Senator Ibrahim withdrew the motion. Motion died.

V. New Business

a. Faculty Workload Policy Development Process

There must be Faculty Senate representation on the workload policy committee. Developing the workload policy must be a collaborative effort between administrators and faculty. Faculty Senate are partners with administrators and must work with administration to develop the workload policy to ensure shared governance. The workload policy must be completed November 2018 and submitted to the UT System. It was proposed that each executive committee member serve on the workload policy committee. Concern was raised that administration may work on the policy over summer when faculty are not on campus. It was stressed that faculty must have input and representation developing the workload policy. Concern was raised that non-tenure track faculty must be included in developing the workload policy to avoid NTTF teaching 5/5. Some NTTF are currently teaching 5/5. The new workload policy will go into effect 2019-2020.

There was also a discussion about the Faculty Senate's role in voting to support or not support whatever policy is written if the FS chooses to, it can vote to not support or "veto" the proposed policy.

Motion was made by Senator Quetschke, and Senator Weaver seconded the motion to use Share Point or Blackboard to distribute information instead of e-mail to avoid being bombarded by e-mails.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Senator Wenzel recognizing Faculty Senate President Saavedra for all her work and dedication for Faculty Senate. Senator Caruntu seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

VI. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.