



**2019-2020 Faculty Senate Meeting VII
Edinburg: International Room (EITT) 1.102
Friday, January 24, 2020
2:00pm - 4:30pm
Minutes**

Minutes prepared by Ernesto Ramirez, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

Senators Present: Khalid Aada, Andrew Anabila, Bruno Arthur, Sandra Atkins, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Jameela Banu, Karl Berg, Dumitru Caruntu, Mircea Chipara, Cynthia Cripps, Amy Cummins, Elizabeth Deven-Hernandez, George Diaz, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Raquel Estrada, Louis Falk, Mohammad Ibrahm Farooqi, Marcus Farris, Zen Faulkes, Fuat Firat, Christine Gerin, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Rene Gonzalez, Margaret Graham, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Kip Austin Hinton, Elamin Ibrahim, Hale Kaynak, Daejoon Kim, Dean Kyne, Irving Levinson, Karin Lewis, Donald Jerry Lyles, Rachel Mann, Theresa Mata-Pistokache, Randal Monty, Nancy Nadeau, Michael Persans, Ernesto Ramirez, Candace Robledo, Clarissa Salinas, Andrea Schwarzbach, Denise Silcox, William Sokoloff, John VanderBerg, Yingchen Yang, Soo Yoo, Michelle Zeager

Senators Absent: Punit Ahluwalia, Elvia Ardalani, Sonja Arredondo, Steve Chamberlain, Mark Dantzker, Frederick Darsow, Anahit Galstyan, Alejandro Garcia, Laura Gephart, Wendy Innis, Sunand Kallumadanda, Murat Karabulut, Dongchul Kim, Kye-Hwan Lee, Salma Mahmood, Arnulfo Mar, John Newman, Charles Olney, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Volker Quetschke, Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Miguel Salazar, Sam Sale, Samuel Snyder, Garry Souffrant, Owen Temby, Linda Williams, Randy Williamson.

Senators Absent (Excused): Junfei Li, John Luna, Laura Seligman

Visitor(s): Karen Adams, Patricia McHatton, Selina Mireles

Past President: Dora Saavedra

Office Assistant: Vanessa Ceballos

- I. Convene Meeting and Welcome Senators and Guests 2:05PM
- II. A moment of Joy and Mindfulness – Nancy Nadeau

Placing ourselves in a mindset of joy and appreciation/readiness

- III. Action Item: Approval of Minutes
- IV. Guests:

- a. Cynthia Jones, Director of UTRGV's Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP) - Present on the mission and work of the OVAVP as well as its significance to faculty at the university (10 mins).

A **confidential** office on campus providing advocacy services for the UTRGV community (students, staff, & faculty). The services are primarily for those that have experienced violence (does not mean being a victim of violence). Sometimes this office will request faculty to provide accommodations, always at the behest of the student. Provide counseling services to students. If a student comes to an employee with a report about violence perpetrated against them, **we have a duty to report**, remember that.

Questions/concerns:

What is the process for informing the faculty of this need? The office will send an email to the faculty (cc or bcc the student) that the student would like assistance, it is a call to communicate with the student and faculty.

Different from disability accommodations, there are none required on the faculty part as with accessibility services.

Even if you do not know particulars such as names (even of the reporter) you must file a report.

- b. Karen Adams, UTRGV Chief Legal Officer – Address the requirements of Senate Bill 18, passed in the 85th regular Texas Legislative Session and ask for assistance from the Faculty on ADM 02-300 HOP Policy on Speech, Expression, and Assembly. (10 mins)

Moved our campus from limited public forums to public forums, allowing not just those affiliated with the institution, but all persons the same rights.

Members of the public can come on campus now and are protected with free speech guidelines as laid out by the legislature. The system and school are therefore making new adaptations of rules. To be compliant then the school must have its policy complete by March 1.

Suggestions: small group to review and discuss to then bring to senate for vote; use electronic media to share the document with Senators; place on Blackboard for those that are interested in this work; give a due date; and committee to receive feedback and make recommendations.

Senator William Sokoloff, Senator Randall Monty, and Past President Dora Saavedra volunteer for the committee

Senator Sokoloff moved to create a committee to provide feedback for a campus free speech policy in response to legislation

2nd Senator Levinson

vote: motion carried (vote by hands)

V. Announcements

a. Update on meeting with Dr. Selina Mireles

FSEC met with Dr. Mireles in December to discuss shared governance. FSEC requested to be a part of faculty orientation to describe the work of a self-governing body, will be so starting fall 2020. Also making transparent who is on various committees (AA and others). Then AA is working to make sure that nothing is made mandatory during the time that FS meets, toward a goal of all offices being just as helpful.

WFN made a suggestion that for new faculty hires that there be a new faculty handbook, a FS informed document could be useful for that work. New faculty do have a BB site.

FPT, Digital Measures, Syllabi are all issues to be addressed. As are the graduate students assigned courses with faculty mentorship – their evaluations will be linked to your record and impact you. It is the function of SACS/COC. Additional information will be provided about the SACS/COC requirements for instructor of record.

Some of these issues need to be addressed at the departmental level, they will be considered by the Teaching Evaluation Committee led by Senator Caruntu.

b. Raise awareness about academic baiting attempts – Cynthia Paccacerqua

Beware of answering an email that concerns controversial issues as it may be a baiting incident. An attempt to get a faculty member to make a statement on what may be an area of public debate in what may be considered a safe environment and not as judicious a response as would be given in a public venue.

VI. Policy readings, updates and votes

a. Emergency resolution of inconsistency in ADM 06-505

Changes made to obtain consistency across policies.

In point 8 add language to reflect both levels are included in the discussion rights.

Point 7 may be limiting a person's vote, as college guideline may state that a person in the college and department level can only vote at the departmental level.

Discussion on the merits and concerns of limiting votes and participation in discussion as well as limiting service to one level only. Clarification of the intent of ADM was to provide clarity of service at all three levels.

Is there any indication in the policy that there should be diversity of membership at each level of this process?

The issues is in place to prevent the arbitrary application of favoritism rather than the application of objective review. This may be hampered by limiting service to one level of committee service.

Motion to table

Motion: Senator Caruntu

2nd: Senator Gkioulekas

vote carries, tabled to next meeting pending feedback from senators

- b. Latest ADM revisions from Blue Ribbon committee (see blackboard and/or handouts)

No new information to report at this time.

VII. Business

- a. Discussion of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities ADM 06-106. Office hours, climate, engagement, service and residency. Possible creation of Ad-hoc committee

Does a faculty member have to be physically present to be a member of the faculty? There are more activities than teaching, ideally then maybe we should have a presence on the campus. Maybe this is discipline specific. Use of technology is the trend, virtual meetings, teaching online, and therefore a virtual presence. The perception then becomes that we are an online university, such as those that already exist. We want a vibrant interactive campus, we should also have a right to work with our colleagues. No one policy may be useful here because of the variety of needs we have in disciplines and teaching methods.

- b. Transparency in Budget affairs – sub-committee to investigate best practices and status in other UT System members. Chair Owen Temby.

No report.

- c. Constitution Committee Status Report. Chair C. Paccacerqua.

No report

- d. Teaching and Teaching Evaluation – sub-committee chair Dr. Caruntu.
 - i. Status of changing of course evaluation questions

No new information to report, meeting next week. Alyssa Cavazos, Director CTE will work with the committee. Dr. Mireles has also reached out to the committee to assist with the issue.

VIII. AOB

Approval of minutes:

Senator Gkioulekas made a motion to give FS a period of time to review the minutes; then to vote online.

2nd: Senator Ramirez

vote: passed

IX. Adjournment: 4:22