



**2019-2020 Faculty Senate Meeting VIII  
Edinburg EACSB 1.104/Brownsville BMAIN 2.306F (Zoom)  
Friday, February 14, 2020  
2:00pm - 4:30pm  
Minutes**

**Minutes prepared by Ernesto Ramirez, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary**

**Senators Present:** Khalid Aada, Andrew Anabila, Sonja Arredondo, Bruno Arthur, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Karl Berg, Dumitru Caruntu, Steve Chamberlain, Mircea Chipara, Amy Cummins, Mark Dantzker, Frederick Darsow, George Diaz, Raquel Estrada, Louis Falk, Marcus Farris, Zen Faulkes Fuat Firat, Christine Gerin, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Rene Gonzalez, Margaret Graham, Sharon Helsley -Mcginley, Kip Austin Hinton, Elamin Ibrahim Wendy Innis, Murat Karabulut, Hale Kaynak, Daejoon Kim, Dean Kyne, Kye-Hwan Lee, John Luna, Donald Jerry Lyles, Salma Mahmood, Arnulfo Mar, Theresa Mata-Pistokache, Randall Monty, Nancy Nadeau, Charles Olney, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Michael Persans, Volker Quetschke, Ernesto Ramirez, Miguel Salazar, Clarissa Salinas, Laura Seligman, William Sokoloff, Owen Temby, John VandeBerg, Yingchen Yang, Soo Yoo, Michelle Zeager.

**Senators Absent:** Punit Ahluwalia, Elvia Ardani, Sandra Atkins, Cynthia Cripps, Elizabeth Deven-Hernandez, Miriam Espinosa-Dulanto, Mohammad Ibrahim Farooqi, Anahit Galstyan, Alejandro Garcia, Laura Gephart, Jonathan Guist, Sunand Kallumadanda, Dongchul Kim, Karin Lewis, Junfei Li, John Newman, Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Candace Robledo, Sam Sale, Denise Silcox, Samuel Snyder, Garry Souffrant, Jorge Vidal, Randy Williamson, Linda Williams.

**Senators Absent (Excused):** Jameela Banu, Rachel Mann, Andrea Schwarzbach.

**Visitor(s):** Paul Sharpe, Claudia Garcia, Dr. Patricia McHatton, Diana Chairez

**Past President:** Dora E. Saavedra

**Office Assistant III:** Vanessa Ceballos

**Friday, February 14, 2020  
2:00pm - 4:30pm  
Agenda**

Convene Meeting and Welcome Senators and Guests

4:15

Action Item: Approval of Minutes for January 24, 2020

Remember to check your email regarding the minutes on Helios; maybe in your Clutter folder.

Guest(s):

Paul Sharpe – Present initiative on statewide academic library coalition to negotiate with publishers. (10 min)

UC system and Elsevier negotiations were underway last year. Something that is happening in the future. The UC System stated they provide about 10000 articles per year, which then Elsevier then sells back to them for access and use. Elsevier wants to charge an additional fee to make these works open access. The system spends about 10 million per year on these journals. The negotiations broke down, Elsevier cut off UC system access by summer. Access has been hampered, but not denied as other resources are used to get the information. The UT system pays about the same for these same services. At UTRGV 750000 is spent. We access about 1710 journals in this agreement.

If the other systems in Texas came together to leverage its joint purchasing power it may be able to improve our stance with Elsevier. Others have done this (academic and state entities). Our statewide contract will expire 2021. At this time we are only discussing how a new arrangement would work.

Discussion about what UC wanted and what publishers do. Is there a possibility of the university paying for costs associated with open publishing processes? In response, the EVPRGS has not been approached, but it is also important to recognize that there is a need to be wary of predatory publication ventures.

Documentation will be shared with us by email later to provide us with as much information as possible.

Faculty need to be informed of changes in database availability as these are sometimes used for measuring the value of some journal publications in relation to promotion and tenure decisions.

Announcements

Report by the Senate President – Volker Quetschke

Nothing to report at this time. The SOM Senators need to elect someone for service on the FSEC.

Business

a. Discussion and Possible Vote on Resolution on SOM

Need feedback from SOM senators and maybe school assembly.

There are three issues that are raised. What is the chain of command as the Dean of SOM and EVP are the same, how does this work for situations where there is a grievance or disagreement? How do we address the climate issue and fears of retaliation; less aggressive than a vote of no-confidence? The additional issue is that Dr. Dingle was not renewed, and others are also on contracts of one year or a number of years, can we institute a terminal year if there is a decision to non-renew so that they can find other employment?

Dr. Krouse has created a climate committee in the SOM. He has also decided that a heads up is warranted for non-renewal; a proposal at this time is that of one year. UTFAC is proposing a 6 month lead up for Health Affairs, and there is a recommendation of a three-year contract in place for AA non-tenure faculty.

Question, is the FS in communication with the SOM FA EC? There is a need to make sure that the two bodies are working together. This reinforces the need for the SOM to elect a senator to the FSEC.

#### b. Discussion on Graduate Coordinators and policies

In one school there is a general feeling that the coordinator position may be best served with a financial reward as the work of the coordination for the MFA program is very involved for which the current financial incentive is not enough. Others believe that a time incentive may be more useful. A one course reduction and a summer stipend are not enough to do the work.

In the last graduate coordinator meeting a draft policy was presented about graduate coordinators.

In the CLA the stipend was replacing the course release. This was actually across the board with all colleges. The problem that often comes up is that even with a monetary incentive, you still cannot find enough time to get the job done. This leads to ineffectiveness in the position as a result. There is too much work, across two campuses, with too many factors (curricular, admissions, faculty) for a coordinator to get the job done with the time that is available.

We should also consider what this work is, service or administrative? This is important for workload and has implications for merit.

This could be both, giving two releases and allowing the person to do the work effectively. But there also should be some financial remuneration as well.

This is a good time to reevaluate where we are going as an institution. As graduate programs, schools, coordinators, and as a university. For success, this is a systemic response and requires coherent planning.

In some regard, this is an ongoing problem where we may need full time personnel to handle these duties; work study or secretary or administrative staff.

In addition, perhaps the Graduate School should have a Graduate Committee as any other college council or assembly. The current perception is that members of the Graduate Committee are appointed in a vacuum, without faculty input. This body is also limited in its scope to approval rather than governance.

We need to invite EVP Graduate Studies to discuss these issues with us.

c. Transparency in Budget affairs – Committee to investigate best practices and status of Budget at other UT System Institutions-Chair Owen Temby.

Comparing institutions over time to seek out trends. Identifying similarities among the institutions. Currently UTRGV budget indicates a pay increase which offsets losses in pay, although there is a lack of clarity as where the money was lost (reallocation, losses of personnel, pay reduction). It is difficult to discover this from the documents that are available. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Michael Muller can be contacted for invitations to the senate.

d. Constitution Committee Status Report- Chair Cynthia Paccacerqua.

Nothing new to report, but as for governance an email was sent to meet with the President Elect and college senators.

e. Teaching and Teaching Evaluation – Committee Chair Dumitru Caruntu.

Meeting report of the committee – working on an evaluation and defining exceeds expectations. Having boundaries that may place something like no less than a 50% rating on student evaluations. Some of the questions discussed: What do you do with small classes? What about courses assigned to a faculty that are taught by some other person (TA)? What does the neutral score selection mean?

Evaluation is comprehensive when done appropriately. Not just the score of student evaluations, but including other elements that departments should develop.

Issues are being addressed by administration: coding courses so that faculty are not negatively impacted; and a new section on the annual review to provide a narrative to clarify the role of the faculty member in the courses listed in this fashion. Two other committees are also working on elements that are similar or tangential to this work.

f. Speech, Expression, and Assembly Ad Hoc committee Progress Report and

Procedures for Voting before March 1, 2020 deadline

An updated proposal was shared with the FS ad hoc committee. Areas addressed today:

- Clarification of terms that show up and have legal value
- Clarifying how this relates to academic freedom
- Getting rid of points that don't address free speech
- Including faculty representation at every stage of adjudication or implementation

A near finalized draft will be provided next week.

#### All Other Business

When will we know of the impact of the tuition program in place that exists? It has potential impact on enrollment and recruitment.

An email has been sent out about graduation location and date/time.

Deans have been tasked with reviewing workload policy, we will receive timeline information.

Adjournment 4:30pm