



Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen

## **2023-2024 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 3:00–5:00pm CST Via Zoom**

### **Senators Present:**

Mohamed Abdel-Raheem, Jair J. Aguilar, Antonio Aguirre, Mataz Alcoutlabi, Michelle Alvarado, Bruno Arthur, George Atisa, Roseann Bacha-Garza, Norma Beardwood-Roper, Ben Brown, Erica Buchberger, Joel Chirinos, Ruth Crutchfield, Laurie De Leon Escobedo, Louis Falk, Fuat Firat, Marcus Farris, Christopher Gabler, Suad Ghaddar, Jonathan Guist, Cynthia Lopez Guerrero, Marcela Hebbard, José Esteban Hernandez, Kip Austin Hinton, Wanrong Hou, Krista Jobson, Pauline Jojo, Ulku Karabulut, Jeong Han Kim, Megan Keniry, Marisa Palacios Knox, Sanjeev Kumar, Dean Kyne, Qinyu Liao, Denise Longoria, Salma Mahmood, Pedro Martinez, Ferenc Moldovanyi, Randall Monty, Nancy Nadeau, Noushin Nouri, Tamer Oraby, Cynthia Paccacerqua, George Padilla, Mahmoud K. Quweider, Monika Rabarison, Genaro Ramirez-Correra, Padmanabhan Rengasamy, Jack Ruelas, Jeannean Ryman, Laura Seligman, Silvia Patricia Solís, Hooman Tabatabai-Mir, Owen Temby, Mohammed Uddin, Viren Vejaya, Sarah Williams-Blangero, Aaron Wilson, Haiyan Zhou

### **Guests Present:**

Maggie Cronn, Guadalupe Flores, Giorgio Gotti, Fay Kennan, Raissa Kouam, Gilbert Lopez, Alma Rodriguez, Cinthya Saavedra, Paul Sale, Paul Sharpe, Luis R. Torres-Hostos, Maria Luisa Trinidad, Dina Vera, Luis Zayas

### **Senators Absent:**

Mataz Alcoutlabi, Sonia Chapa, Mircea Chipara, Jimmy Gleason, Elizabeth Deven-Hernandez, Joseph D. Hovey, Kye-Hwan Lee, Lisa Longoria, Gladys Maestre, Nilanjana Paul, Ricardo Pizzinato, José Antonio Rodriguez, Clarissa Salinas, Ahmed Touhami, Robert Velez Christian Zuniga,

### **Minutes:**

#### **I. Meeting Called to Order at 3:01pm**

- II. **Report of FS Parliamentarian – Senator Falk**
  - a. Introduction
- III. **Report of FS Secretary – Senator Monty**
  - a. Workload survey
  - b. Elections
  - c. Copilot
  - d. Approval of March minutes
  - e. Motion to approve: Gabler; Seconded: Rabarison
  - f. Approved: 25 Against: 3 Abstain: 0**
- IV. **Report of FS President — Senator Paccacerqua**
  - a. Elections: three departments didn't submit nominees; four didn't meet quorum and are still voting
  - b. Workload survey: gauge faculty service time and effort so that faculty can negotiate workloads with their departments
  - c. Library survey: want data to understand what faculty like about the library, what we need, and what we can anticipate needing going forward to advocate at every level
  - d. Ongoing issues: With new admin and leaders coming in, there will be new policies implemented; Provost helping us get more staff; Hoping to get stipends for presidents and secretary during the summer; research support; faculty presence on campus
  - e. What is to come: Everyone will be receiving nominations for vacancies for university committees and councils
  - f. Computer Science & Engineering needs to nominate an executive committee members
  - g. Executive Committee & Officers: everyone consider serving, and be ready to nominate and vote at...
  - h. May 7 meeting in-person in Brownsville; Bailey and J. Charlton will be guests
  - i. No longer have access to LinkedIn, UTRGV moving towards Coursera
- V. **Report of FS Past-president – Senator Hinton**
  - a. SB17: Anti-Diversity Law; Faculty Support for Diversity is now Office of Title IX & Equal Opportunity; Students support services may be under Dean of Students (more info to come)
- VI. **Report of FS President-elect – Senator Gabler**
  - a. SB18: We're All Getting Fired Edition
  - b. Don't have as much time as we hoped for; want to move this through quickly
  - c. Works through document edits and revisions (29:19 - 1:13:33)
    - i. Section 4, related to good cause, are important
    - ii. For tribunals, we want majority (2/3 or 3/5) to come from faculty pool
    - iii. Ramirez-Correa: How are we protecting faculty from false accusations?
      - 1. Gabler: We were given a model and existing policy to work with; all redline changes are attempts to help faculty more.

- iv. Tabatabai-Mir: Will students be warned and required to sign documents indicating they may be bringing a false allegation? We do not have enough procedures at UTRGV to protect faculty.
  - 1. Gabler: Those may be more related to our grievance policy, which also needs to be revisited and revised. Nothing in this policy explicitly about perjury. Concerns about bad actors, anywhere in the process, is why we tried to make every step as democratic and resilient as possible.
  - 2. Paccacerqua: We need to have a clear understanding about the different grievance policy processes. There might have to be some consequences for lying.
  - 3. Falk: There are many things in place to stop individual cases from escalating to this level.
- v. Kumar: UT Policy wanted 5 panel members. We should emphasize diversity on panels. Can we have a vote of full Senate?
  - 1. Gabler: Opinions of Council and executive committee that it should be five. UT system is not bending on their being more than three people on the panel.
  - 2. Paccacerqua: Important to get FS on record on their positions even though they can't be negotiated.
- vi. Motion to move forward with draft w/ light revisions **Falk**; seconded **Ghaddar**; Approved: 43/58; motion passes
  - 1. Firat: FS has the moral force but, unfortunately, not the legal force. Maybe we can make the statement that whether 5 or 3, we won't give up on a majority of the panel being from the FS elected pool.
  - 2. Gabler: Not in the text, but it is in the document
  - 3. Ghaddar: I understand rationale for requesting what's achievable and negotiable, but we're going to have to accept what's imposed. We should not communicate that we will accept three.

## VII. Guest Presentations:

- a. Gilberto Lopez and Fay Kennan, [UREC: Health and Wellness Expo](#)
  - i. Kennan: Expo (Tuesday, April 16, Brownsville; Wednesday, April 17, Harlingen; Thursday, April 18, Edinburg); open to students, faculty, staff
  - ii. Lopez: email us with questions
- b. Cinthya Saavedra, Vice Provost Faculty Affairs
  - i. Maggie Cronn added to team Associate Vice Provost; Christy Leha new administrative assistant
  - ii. Changes to AR: Tenured faculty submitting AR in the Spring, everyone else in Fall; working on a template to help departments streamline policies and have a structured policy
  - iii. Falk: When you move AR to spring term, is that for the previous whole year, or does that include fall?

1. Saavedra: It will only include the previous academic year; the preceding fall will be reviewed in the subsequent annual review.
- iv. Falk: Do NTT lecturers move to Spring?
  1. Saavedra: Not yet, but we're working on it; Would like to see all "action review" (promotion, post-tenure, etc.) in the Fall, and then all "reviews" (NTT and tenured) in the Spring.
- v. Paccacerqua: In the past, comprehensive post-tenure review was viewed as a simplified bookend to all the previous years' reviews
- vi. Falk: Would be nice if we didn't have to reupload every file again!

VIII. **Old Business**

- a. FS Committee Reports

IX. **New Business:**

- a. NONE

X. **Meeting adjourned**

- a. Motion to adjourn: **Gabler**; Seconded: Falk
- b. Meeting adjourned at **5:01pm**; closed at **5:02pm**
- c. Next meeting:
  - i. May 7, 2024