

2021-2022 Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 3 pm – 5 pm CST Via Zoom

Community Agreement

The UTRGV Faculty Senate is brought together in the spirit of shared governance to move forward in a positive open manner for input that allows all stakeholders to speak regarding policy and process formation. To create a safe environment where everyone's opinions are valued and considered, let us observe the following:

- 1. Try to be on time to the meeting and actively participate*
- 2. Review the pre-reading materials to be discussed, and if you plan to comment have your thoughts organized in advance*
- 3. Assume positive intent, seek to understand, be inclusive, bring productive energy to discussions*
- 4. Only one person speaks at a time (use raise hand feature to be recognized)-chat is not part of the official record (will not be included in the minutes).*
- 5. Respect and acknowledge everyone's opinions, even if they differ from yours*
- 6. Confidentiality: some things shouldn't be repeated outside the meeting*

Senators Present: Khalid Aada, Tony Aguirre, Stephanie Alvarez, Andrew Anabila, Sonja Arredondo, Jameela Banu, Grant Benham, Sarah Blangero, Ben Brown, Lucia Carreon, Dumitru Caruntu, Joel H. Chirinos, Mircea Chipara, Cynthia Cripps, Amy Cummins, George Diaz, Louis Falk, A Fuat Firat, Christine Gerin, Rob Gilkerson, Sergey Grigorian, Jonathan Guist, Marcela Hebbard, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Kip Austin Hinton, Michiyo Hirai, Ulku Karabulut, Hale Kaynak, Sanjeev Kumar, Dean Kyne, Karin Lewis, Qinyu Liao, Yu Liu, John Luna, Michael Machiorlatti, Mike Magee, Salma Mahmood, Rachel Mann, Arnulfo Mar, Theresa Mata-Pistokache, Randall Monty, Nancy Nadeau, Nilanjana Paul, Emma Perez, Volker Quetschke, Padmanabhan Rengasamy, Sam Sale, Clarissa Salinas, Andrea Schwarzbach, Dana Shackelford, Owen Temby, Jorge Vidal, Vejaya Viren, William Yaworsky, Soojin Yoo, Aziza Zemrani

Administrator: Vanessa Ceballos

Senators Absent: Jair J. Aguilar, Narayan Bhat, Jimmy Gonzales, Rene Gonzalez, Fred Guerra, Tekla Hawkins, Kye-Hwan Lee, Hansheng (Jet) Lei, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Diana Paz, Riccardo Pizzinato, Abdullah Rahman, Henry Reinhart, Miguel Salazar, Manuel Saldivar, Paul Valadez, Aaron Wilson, Yingchen Yang

Guests: Michael Abebe, Robert Allen, Janna Arney, Linda Belau, Bruno Arthur, Guy Bailey, Jonikka Charlton, Kevin Crouse, Gabby Hernandez, Betty John, MaryJane Lewitt, Karen Martirosyan, Lance Nail, Sarah Patel, Gabriel Pena, Carol Pool, Ala Qubbaj, Monika Rabarison, Isai Ramirez, Melinda Rodriguez, Margaret Rubi, Shawn Saladin, Luz Silva, Cathy Vale, Christina Villalobos

Convene meeting 3:00 pm

I. Welcome by Faculty Senate President Karin Lewis:

- Please mute microphones and rename zoom tile to include: **"*Guest [name]..."** or **"[name]: (FSEC), title, college/department"**
- Volker Quetschke (Parliamentarian) will moderate the discussion
- Cynthia Cripps (Secretary) will monitor the chat
- The chat is not part of the official record
- Amid the ongoing Pandemic, unprovoked war in Ukraine, unsettling political moves against education, and real and present toll on mental health reaching crisis levels, thank you for the work you do and for being here today.

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II. Report of FS Parliamentarian- Volker Quetschke

- a. Roberts rules & Zoom guidelines reminder:
 - a. (2) 90 second question/comment(s) per topic, per senator
 - b. Please write and send all motions, resolutions etc. via email or in the chat so it can be copied and pasted succinctly and be placed on the zoom screen and avoid confusion during the discussion and voting process

III. Report of the FS Secretary-Cindy Cripps

- a. February 8, 2022 Minutes (pre-reading handout 2.)
Micky Caruntu move to approve with amendment suggested by Ulku Karabulut, second by: Louis Falk
Approve: 34/42 81%
Reject: 0/42 0%
Abstain: 8/42 19%
Motion carries with 81% approval of the February 8, 2022 minutes, with noted amendment.
- b. December 4, 2020 Minutes (pre-reading handout 3.)
Micky Caruntu: move to approve the minutes from December 4, 2020, seconded by Louis Falk
Approve: 39/42 93%
Reject: 0/42 0%
Abstain: 3/42 7%
Motion carries with 81% approval of the December 4, 2020 minutes.

IV. Report – President-Elect Kip Hinton

- a. “Covid-19 Remembrance” – UTRGV Covid -19 Memorial Committee
 - a. March 23 at noon – will take place simultaneously on the campuses - flags and ribbons will be distributed to represent loved ones that we have lost to Covid-19
 - i. Share the event with students and professors
 - ii. Representatives for each campus:
 - 1. Brownsville: (BSTUN – Plains Capital Bank – El Gran Salon) – Kip Austin Hinton
 - 2. Edinburg: (EUCTR University Ballroom) – Emmy Perez
 - 3. Harlingen: (HCEBL 1.100 Auditorium) – Carol Pool

V. Report - President Karin Lewis– (pre-reading handouts 4., and 5.)

- a. We will be conducting senator elections next month, so please keep that on your radar. The FSEC will assist in facilitating elections as necessary.
- b. Faculty survey to get feedback on our intentional improvements to FS that we initiated last year and throughout this year. We will be working on that to send out later this spring.
- c. Students or faculty with Covid-19 questions regarding what to do if you test positive or have symptoms, please contact the covid response team. They advise on a case-by-case basis.
- d. As per the motion that passed during our February FS meeting, a resolution is being drafted and we anticipate that it will be brought to the senate floor for discussion and vote at our April meeting. Today, we have invited President Bailey and Provost Arney to address us regarding the recent concerns about politicians threatening tenure and academic freedom.

VI. Guest Presentations

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a. President Guy Bailey's comments regarding tenure and academic freedom:

- a. Within 2 hours of the Lieutenant Governor's comments the UT System Presidents joined conference call.
 - i. Timing of remarks: these were made in conjunction with "primary" voting. We can assume that it was meant to create an issue to favor a candidate or a political position. Dr. Bailey doesn't think the comments reflect anything on the upcoming legislative session but instead on the primary.
 - ii. The second thing to look at is who else is in support of this: Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and Governor? There was no further comment from the Speaker or the Senate Representatives, and when asked, the Governor made minimal comments.
 - iii. Dr. Bailey believes that there is no serious attempt to do anything to tenure. We strongly support the continuation of the tenure system and will do so as publicly as we needed. What is happening right now can be called "Political Theater." Our goal is to preserve tenure and not get caught up in political theater.
- b. Critical Race Theory: It has not been picked up in Texas as it has in other states.
- c. It bears watching and monitoring things on a daily basis with our local and state government. It is important to stay involved in the real politics of it, but not the "political theater". "You" will be the first to know if there is any danger.

Senator Comment: Not as optimistic as Dr. Bailey. These comments have surfaced before, and legislation has already passed at the primary and secondary levels of public education.

Dr. Bailey:

- It is a serious matter, but Dr. Bailey does not think it is a threat now.
- Public school is different than the University level... all parents are involved, and school boards are elected.
- Legislature has always stepped back from being too involved in higher ed.
- The real serious threat to tenure is the decline in enrollment that we anticipate. Decline in birth rate in 2008, which didn't rebound completely. We don't anticipate a drop, but we do anticipate more competition to enroll local students and keep them at UTRGV.

Senator comment: Immigration contributes to increase in population.

Dr Bailey: This is not the best time to curb immigration. Dr. Bailey gives an example about laws that threatened DACA students a few years back. Point being – we have to get down to what is "political theater" and what is real politics.

Senator comment: We are fearful of what is being said about critical race theory. Decisions made (regarding critical race theory or anything) taught at the primary and secondary levels of education will and does affect higher education and how professors teach.

Dr. Bailey – UT Presidents have discussed critical race theory many times. My suggestion is to continue as you have been teaching. Don't change anything until we must address the issue. If one person (Lieutenant Governor) mentioned it once or twice, we monitor it. If it is discussed and addressed by many and keeps resurfacing, then it may need to be confronted.

b. Dr. Martirosyan: Limited Submission Technical Committee Proposal (pre- reading materials handout)

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- a. Proposal for submission review and selection of the best grant submissions for restricted grants
 - i. Limited submission proposals will be submitted on-line this fall.
 - ii. Submittable platform/portal/website will be used to manage the submissions and will allow faculty to review previous proposals and follow the process to the “winner” for the particular opportunity
 - iii. Allows for faculty to receive feedback on their submission
 - iv. Research Review Committee (comprised of full-time senior faculty from each college/school). College Deans will be accepting membership to this committee.
 - v. Review Committee will establish criteria and procedure for the limited selection process
 - vi. Selection of committee member reviewers will be monitored for potential conflicts of interest, if a faculty member plans to submit a proposal to be reviewed, they cannot serve on the committee.
 - 1. Self-nomination for membership to the review committee – submitted to the Dean of the college.
 - 2. Faculty may not serve on the committee for more than one three-year term
 - 3. 2 committee member seats per college
 - 4. Suggestions? Send email to Karen Martirosyan
 - 5. If there is one submission, the committee still will review the application and encourage that person or group to submit.
- c. **Isai Ramirez, Assistant CIO for IT Governance & Project Portfolio Management (post-reading slides)**
 - a. New Statewide Program: State Risk and Authorization Management Program TX-RAMP Certification – relates to cloud computed software venders.
 - i. TEXAS Government Code 2054 - effective Sept 2021: Texas Department of Informational Resources (DIR)
 - ii. TEXRAMP: A program designed to ensure that cloud computing vendors have security controls in place to protect our data
 - iii. Levels of CCS (Cloud Computing Solution)
 - 1. Level 2 vendors – confidential/regulated (certified by January 2022)
 - a. Banner and Peoplesoft - onsite
 - 2. Level 1 vendors – public/nonconfidential data (certified by January 2023)
 - a. Blackboard and DocuSign – cloud based
 - iv. Requirements:
 - 1. Requires (state agencies) UTRGV to hold contracts with companies who have appropriate certification and compliance
 - 2. Must retain certification when product renewal takes place
 - v. How will UTRGV (faculty, staff...) comply with requirement
 - 1. Identify new software or renew existing software
 - a. Submit a software assessment request form
 - i. Submit a request before initiate the purchase or renewal
 - ii. ALL software must be accessed
 - iii. notify@teamdynamixapp.com or check status through IT Support Center
 - b. A team that reviews requests (IT, ISO, PCI) and determines if it requires TX-RAMP
 - c. Then it goes for approval for purchase/renewal or moves to check vender certification.

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Senator Concern: Some programs and instruments work best with Windows 7, how can we continue to use these with windows 7? Answered by Kevin Crouse (Chief Information Security Officer): We are approving them as “Logically Segmented Network Segment with limited access”. Windows 7 has major security vulnerability and cannot be on campus open network. To start the process for approval, file a “security exception form”.

Senator Concern: What about “free” software that can be downloaded by faculty? The wording mentions software that is purchased, but this requirement applies to ALL software. A form needs to be submitted for all software: purchased or free. The turn-around time on a download or purchase request depends on communication from the vendor and what the intended use of the software is. It could take as little as a few days.

How to access the request form:

1. sign into: My UTRGV portal
2. click on: “IT Support Center”
3. click on Information Technology
4. click on “Software Assessment Request”

Direct questions to: pmo@utrgv.edu

(PMO stands for Project Management Office)

- You can attach the software assessment approval to the ishop requisition.
- Use these expense types (E- types/Account Codes) when purchasing **software**:
 - 63141 – Computer Software Expensed
 - 88210 - Computer Software Capital

VII. Old Business – Updates: Drafting Resolution; UTRGV faculty survey: (Tabled)

IX. FS Committee reports/motions discussion

- a. FS Welfare Committee - Outdoor workout space proposal – (pre-reading handouts 6., 7.)
 - a. Linda Belau – sent a committee report regarding faculty member’s interest in outdoor exercise equipment
 - Senator questions and discussion:
 - Why was the Edinburg campus selected? Committee was concerned that the suggestion didn’t take into consideration the equal distribution of resources and would be better if it was considered for both campuses.
 - Will people use it? Is there data supporting the use of the equipment?
 - The committee identified that some research suggests the equipment is gender specific, used earlier in the day, and often underutilized
 - Funding and maintenance are a concern. Equipment falls into disrepair and can be dangerous.
 - Can faculty and staff be notified of wellness center and resources available to them?
 - This outdoor workout space proposal came from when the campus was opening back up but the indoor spaces (racquetball courts, weight room, pool, REC were still closed or understaffed)
 - As campus opened back up, faculty found some spaces had been repurposed.
 - Edinburg Swimming pool and Weight room in HPE I and II with limited hours

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- Suggest to administration to build an indoor pool near the Edinburg campus wellness center. Faculty may pay a membership if they have open access/time.
- Suggest that we try to get someone from the FS (Welfare) Committee onto the committee that is determining where/how the infrastructure money will be invested.
- Please contact Linda Belau if you would like to join this committee.
- Suggestion: overhead walkways to cross over Sugar from the dormitories to campus.
- Separate issue: faculty and students are on campus, but much of the staff is still working from home. Karin – mentions there is an on-going assessment of which staff is needed on campus and which can work remotely or from off-campus locations.

b. Research Policy Committee

Sergey Grigorian moves to approve the creation of the Limited Submission Technical Committee, Micky Caruntu seconds the motion.

Approve: 33/40 83%

Reject: 0/40 0%

Abstain: 7/40 18%

Motion carries with 83% approval of the Limited Submission Committee.

X. New Business New HOP Policy Impact Statement – Family Leave Pool (pre-reading handout 8.) – (Tabled)

- Request for someone from the appropriate office (administration/police department/security) to come to discuss the timely warning notifications. Please address how is 4 days after the incident/arrest of a suspect admitting to a shooting plot on campus, considered “timely” and how to address student and faculty concerns regarding this notice.

XI. Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 (3 pm-5 pm) via Zoom

XII. Meeting adjourned (5:00 pm) Motion to adjourn made by Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, seconded by Louis Falk.