



2020- 2021

Faculty Senate Meeting IX

via zoom

Friday, February 11, 2021

2:00pm - 4:30pm

Minutes prepared by Nancy Nadeau, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

Senators Present:

Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Amy Cummins, Andrea Schwarzbach, Andrew Anabila, Arnulfo Mar, Ayleen Godreau, Aziza Zemrani, Bruno Arthur, Clarissa Salinas, Charles Olney, Christine Gerin, Cynthia Cripps, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Dae Joon Kim, Dana Shackelford, Dean Kyne, Denise Silcox, Diana Paz, Donald Lyles , Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Emmy Pérez, Fuat Firat, George Diaz, Grant Benham, Hale Kaynak, Irving Levinson, Jameela Banu, John Luna, John VandeBerg, Jonathan Guist, Jorge Vidal, Junfei Li, Karin Lewis, Karl Berg, Khalid Aada, Kip Austin Hinton, Kyehwan Lee, Linda Belau, Louis Falk, Lucia Carreon, Marcela Hebbard, Michael Machiorlatti, Michiyo Hirai, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, , Mircea Chipara, Monica Garcia-Ramirez, Nancy Nadeau, Narayan Bhat, Owen Temby, Paul Valadez, Punit Ahluwalia, Sam Sale, Rachel Mann, Randall Monty, Raquel Estrada, Rene Gonzalez, Robert Gilkerson, Robert Magee , Sandra Atkins, Sergey Grigorian, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Sonja Arredondo, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Tekla Hawkins, Teri Pistokache, Ulku Karabulut, Vejoya Viren, Volker Quetschke, Wendy Innis, William W. Sokoloff, William Yaworsky, Yingchen Yang.

70 faculty

Senators Absent: Salma Mahmood, Soojin Yoo, Hansheng Lei, Mark L Dantzker, Michael Persans, Miguel Salazar, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Veyoya Viren

7 faculty

Visitors(s): Aubrey Murray

President: Cynthia Paccacerqua **Past President:** Volker Quetschke

President-Elect: Karin Lewis **Faculty Senate Liaison:** Vanessa Ceballos

I. Convene Meeting Started at 2:00 pm

II. Minutes Updates: January 15, 2021 available under UTRGV Blackboard Faculty Senate 2020-2021. Under content

A. Vote

III. Guests

A. Nicole Englitsch, Organizational Development Specialist, Human Resources and Talent Development at UTRGV (absent replaced by Aubrey Murray)

Topic: Campus Climate Survey: Your Voice Matters

<https://www.utrgv.edu/strategic-plan/strategic-initiatives/campus-climate/action-plans/index.htm>

Updates February 2, 2021

- Purpose to revisit and see the progress through all the departments and divisions.
- Done in partnership with ModemThink, consulting firm via email directly from them for confidentiality
- 60 questions – 15-20 minutes to take the survey. It is part of the UTRGV's Strategic Plan promoting a welcoming and inclusive campus climate, engagement, shared governance, leadership, inclusion and well-being.
- Current response rate: 22% - in 2018 was over 50% only the division of academic affairs
- If not received to contact HR so they can find out what happened as everybody should have gotten them at this point – started February 8th, 2021.
 - Senator John VandeBerg reports the SOM is doing its own survey – separate survey
- Website: utrgv.edu/campusclimate if you want more information (FAQ page)
- If fulltime employee & student status: you received 2 surveys (different)
- Student survey also has been sent - mobile friendly
- Division of Health Affairs started on February 9th – StandPoint Engagement Survey by AAMC – Contact Dr. Sethi at sj.sethi@utrgv.edu

Faculty representation in the design of the survey in addition staff and students were all involved in the formulation of questions in 2018, try to keep same format to be easier to compare with and adding Covid questions this time.

B. Justin White, Scholarly Communications Librarian, University Library

Topic: Open Access and Scholarly Publishing - Absent

III. Report from FS President

A. Associate Provost for Faculty Success and Diversity Search

- a. Short discussion with the faculty senate about the meeting presentation by the 4 candidates on February 10, 2021 with 30 Senators present. Recommendations about our preference and strengths of each candidate will be sent to Dr. Arney.

B. SoM Resolution (Thanking the School of Medicine for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program)

- a. To be presented to Dr. Krouse, c.c. the President and Dr. Arney during the faculty assembly of the School of Medicine on Thursday and have a hard copy for them.

- b. Senator Firat suggested to add the term administrators like Dr. Nelson or administration leadership and supported by Senator Vandenburg.
- c. Senator Linda Belau introduced the idea to have a second resolution to recognize the UTRGV upper administration dealing overall with the response Covid pandemic resulting faculty academic freedom, flexibility with course modalities, financial management, dealing with students, etc.
- d. President Cynthia is reminding us about the closeness of UTRGV and UTRGV SOM to make the vaccination happen and both should be praised to be added in the resolution.

Motion by Senator John Vandenburg

Make a small revision to the existing document to be done by the FS Executive Committee to recognize the upper administration explicitly for the vaccination and that FSEC prepare a new resolution which will broadly recognize the university administration dealing with all the facets of the covid pandemic and to be approved by the Senate.

Seconded by Senator Linda Belau

Vote: 51 people participated – 46 yes – Motion is approved.

C. Draft Survey of Chairs Performance: Qualtrics done by Senate Prunit

- a. D. Report from FS President and Past-President- Volker Quetschke

IV. UT System Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) Spring Meeting report summary

Attended by the President and past-president Volker and Cynthia

1. Need to address intellectual property by collecting best practices to learn due to changes on course modalities in the UT system and legal council. The question is who owns the materials development by the faculty with online teaching.
2. Patent rights – currently all rights go to UTRGV – not the faculty nor the students so nobody wants to do business with us.
 1. Senator Lee suggests creating a Patent committee to investigate fairness in shareable intellectual property.
 2. Senator Volker: Intellectual property belongs to the Board of Regents, the President of the universities have their individual rights to negotiate individually on their own. UTRGV should be looking at this closer and act.
 3. Senator Volker, also reporting as a member of the Research Committee, is working on finding common ground among all UT system universities by talking with each other. First meeting was to figure out which direction and how to coordinate. Plan to meet with Vice Chancellor of Research to talk about the lack of coordination and make constructive suggestions.

V. Report from FS President-Elect- Karin Lewis

A. Vaccination Program and Student Success

1. UTRGV vaccination portal was redesigned as > 56,000 people signed up including the general community. SOM urged all to go into the portal to fill out the profile, it is

Creation of UTRGV vaccine portal, it needed to be redesigned to address the huge demand as it is open to the community. More than 56,000 people responded. It is confidential as it is identifying medical conditions that help prioritize who will be getting vaccinated first and facilitating that people now can pick their own appointment. There is no longer a need to call to confirm your appointment only to show up to when you received your email confirmation, and the system will schedule both vaccines dates. It is important to know the demand, over 4000 people had filled their profile. UTRGV encourages everyone to get a vaccine. It's a personal choice and by no means UTRGV is saying you have to get it.

1. Edinburg SoM location is giving 2000 doses a week and Harlingen has been designated a rural hub with 1000 doses of the Moderna shot.
2. Waiting for the Johnson and Johnson one shot with regular refrigerator to arrive.
3. The goal is if we get close to 75% of the population vaccinated, UTRGV will be back on campus in Fall 2021.
4. They will open the portal to the students soon and the rest of the community.
5. Vaccine Edinburg: Pfizer – vaccine Harlingen: Moderna

VI. Old Business

New Faculty Senate Committee Membership and Work

1. Academic Freedom and Responsibility
2. Educational Policy
3. Faculty Welfare
4. General Faculty Rules and Governance
5. Research Policy
6. Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight
7. Faculty Advisory Committee on Budgets

Time to start working by selecting a chair & secretary. Make sure you keep contact with President Cynthia when you meet. Faculty Senate can choose based on their experience and knowledge and interest. Still working on the chart of responsibilities. It is open to general non-senators if needed for expertise after the committee meets and decides it's needed to be looked at by non-Senators. There are no guidelines yet.

8. Special University Faculty Committee on Annual Review
 - a. Faculty membership recommendations composition:
 - i. Dr. Rebecca Coberly, Dr. Jacob Newmann, Dr. Hale Kaynak, Adrian Sandoval and Non-Tenure track faculty representative at Large. Also ex-officio members: FS President-Elect and President and Women's Faculty Network: Chair-Elect and Chair

VII. Tentative Item: Tenure and Promotion Policy - Minor Revisions (2019)

- A. Volker Quetschke presented the 2 reading. Need to work on a better version and improved tenure promotion policy. Reported he collected the comments of faculty.
 - 1. Discussion: departmental criteria will be used to evaluate faculty (precedence over college). Aware that not all colleges have bylaws or criteria. The department can choose to adopt it if they don't have criteria in place.

Motion to support the document with minor amendment in section C by Senator Volker and seconded by Senator Eleftherios Gkioulekas

Vote: 95% pass

VIII. FS Bylaws on the Election of Senators Draft (Feb 12, 2021) presented by the President Cynthia.

- A. Establishes a standard process for the election of Faculty Senators that complies our Faculty Senate Constitution (ADM 05-100). There is currently no standard process.
- B. We propose the following process (responsibility on the FSEC) to satisfy this function in such a way that ensures equity, democratic participation and faculty governance.
 - 1. FSEC initiates the process by contacting the units with vacancies
 - 2. Faculty have 1 week to send nominations or self-nominations to FSEC
 - 3. FSEC announces the candidates and schedules the election dates to begin no earlier than one week after candidates are announced
 - 4. FSEC facilitates an anonymous electronic vote
 - 5. Qualified faculty voters will have 48 hours to submit their vote
 - 6. 75% participation/send reminders
 - 7. The yearly elections of Senators will follow the FS established Timeline for Elections
 - 1. Senators Jorge and Falk – discussion when department has a system already
 - 2. Senator VandeBerg and Senator Kip – discuss when department does not have a process so this document will provide better guidance to departments and some oversight to ensure that the departments follow the bylaws of the Senate.

VII. Adjournment: Motion by Senator Irving Levinson, seconded by Senator Louis Falk

IX. Next Meeting: March 12, 2021