



2020-2021

Faculty Senate Meeting II

via zoom

Friday, June 19, 2020

2:00pm - 4:30pm

Minutes

Minutes prepared by Nancy Nadeau, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary

Minutes approved on December 4th, 2020 by:

- Senator Sharon Helsey-Mcginley, seconded by Aziza Zemrani.
- Approved by the majority: 38/55 senators present.

Senators Present: Amy Cummins, Andrea Schwarzbach, Andrew Anabila, Arnulfo Mar, Ayleen Godreau, Bruno Arthur, Charles Olney, Aziza Zemrani, Christine Gerin, Cynthia Cripps, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Dae Joon Kim, Dana Shackelford, Dean Kyne, Denise Silcox, Dumitru Caruntu, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Fuat Firat, George Diaz, Hale Kaynak, Irving Levinson, Jameela Banu, John Luna, John VandeBerg, Jonathan Guist, Jorge Vidal, Junfei Li, Karin Lewis, Karl Berg, Kip Austin Hinton, Kye-hwan Lee, Linda Belau, Louis Falk, Marcela Hebbard, Michael Machiorlatti, Michael Persans, Miguel Salazar, Mircea Chipara, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Nancy Nadeau, Owen Temby, Paul Valadez, Punit Ahluwalia, Rachel Mann, Randall Monty, Raquel Estrada, Rene Gonzalez, Robert Magee, Sandra Atkins, Sergey Grigorian, Sharon Helsey-Mcginley, Sonja Arredondo, Soojin Yoo, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Tekla Hawkins, Teri Pistokache, Ulku Karabulut, Vejoya Viren, Wendy Innis, William Yaworsky, Yingchen Yang, Zen Faulkes,

Senators Absent: Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Clarissa Salinas, Donald Lyles, Hansheng Lei, Khalid Aada, Mark L Dantzker, Narayan Bhat, Randy Williamson, Salma Mahmood, Sam Sale,

Visitors(s): Guy Bailey, Janna Arney

President: Cynthia Paccacerqua

Past President: Volker Quetschke

President-Elect: Karin Lewis

Faculty Senate Liaison: Vanessa Ceballos

- I. Convene Meeting
Message from the FSEC to commemorate Juneteenth – It happens in Galveston, Texas. There has been a historical silencing of the experience of African American in the Deep South Texas and today we want to take a moment of acknowledgement to reflect on the impact of race & racism in the Rio Grande Valley as many senators

shared their experiences with this date. We are not considering this day as a Holiday like the University of Virginia, but we are proposing to invite faculty/students to share their experience talking of the significance locally and nationally for the African/Black Americans' end of slavery.

II. Action Item: Approval of Minutes (postponed Fall 2020)

II. Guests:

a. Dr. Guy Bailey, UTRGV President (3pm)

- i. Introduction to Dr. Arney (Brownsville native) – helped with the transition from UTB/Southmost – helped with UTRGV on how to restructure – natural choice as deputy president to move to interim Provost role

b. Dr. Janna Arney, UTRGV Deputy President and Interim Provost (3pm)

- Vision of shared governance: guidance & help in variety of topics
- Budgeting – decentralizing to the colleges
- New student money, faculty retention/professional development opportunities, new programs/research, advisement incentivized
- Back 10% return/cut -Reallocation: compression of salaries/preserve jobs
- Communication plan for Fall 2020: disseminating information when it is needed
- Faculty: hiring for improvement
- New Programs – unit in the Academic Affairs
- Policies: Blue Ribbon – learn about it
- Leadership cabinet: institutional (sept-oct-nov) sharing/communication

Open discussion:

- Senator Dumitru: Indirect costs/budget cuts per department, 2nd: faculty retention/new hired faculty, 3rd: new programs to get new students and student retention
- Senator Nancy: role DHA and Academic Affairs – centralized to have access to UT system & decentralized to unit for a quick response to student's needs
- Senator Mircea: new situation and future uncertainty/waiting for vaccines –
- Senator Dumitru: Advisors role
- Senator Fuat: faculty – budget allocation/research budget & travel/doctoral program – President Council – financier officer – discretion funds: no oversight by faculty – where is the decision-making for budget?
- President Bailey: Discretion budget was used for money compression/merit and hiring faculty – now we have budget cut but not lost of faculty
- Senator Michael: retention of faculty & students
- Senator Marcela– lecturers have no opportunity for research
- Senator Punit: Thank you for Dr. Bailey leadership during COVID – guidelines with county, state & federal.

- President Bailey: Taskforce to Return Back to School groups, one Volker & Cynthia are in on how to be prepared
- Senator Cynthia: workload policy & 3 years & concerns about workload in the fall 2020/COVID-19
- Senator Dimitru: Students & research: PUF money available (petroleum money went down) – good shape (PhD program), Budget cut: hope limited in 1 budget cycle, planning started in February for the pandemic/economy collapse and 2 years with vaccine=will gradually get better.
- Senator Mircea: PhD from abroad – Mexico / teaching for our programs: stability/not competing with salaries/family life research & education/evolution of computer/AI
- Senator Volker: education of our own PhD students
- Senator Ulku: Research space in Brownsville: 4 labs – renting and we need our space future plan
- President Bailey: Have space but not the right kind of space – total square footage/fine but not performance space – want to get out of all the renting possibility – buying space from TLC but not working – we are working on it.
- Senator Dumitru: Need more buildings – pandemic & economic crisis – no allocation for any facilities for the 2 – 3 years depending on the recovery

IV. Report of the FS President

- FSEC Meeting Schedule for Summer 2020 is weekly (report to us on Wednesday)
- “Return to Campus” Task Force Guidelines from upper administration no faculty senate involvement at this time
- Working document might work or not work – to reach Deans of the colleges and the team to accommodate the students and faculty needs
- Fall 2020 – communication with and among faculty is crucial, workload, future Spring 2021, degree completion for Spring 2021 – accreditation
- FS Response & Requests Items: Faculty Senators Role is communication and sharing among Senators and to disseminate to faculty any documents (except if it said: Do not share)
- Legitimate and have input to any documents – waiting for feedback for Research link
- Senator Firat: proposed after approved Faculty minutes to be sent to all faculty so the faculty have access to them to see what is going on. To send email blast to all – we need to ask permission.

FSEC Meeting with UTRGV President Bailey

- Listening to us – reaffirm no interest for UTRGV for staffing (academic partnership) for Blueprinting – COLTT will be used to facilitate the process
- Interested in meeting with us once a month – open to discussion
- Academic affairs Executive Council continue to be cancelled
- No representative for the UTRGV budget/Department- College level – Dr. Bailey agreed to review with FSEC how to read the data – input before the next budget 2021-2022

- New Interim Provost Dr. Arney nomination – no search due to CoviD-19
- White Paper
- Relationship with the Division of Health Affairs/School of Medicine & rest of the schools/college

Summer 2020 Blueprinting Master Courses Agreement

- Draft Ownership Agreement Document (author and UTRGV – no restrictions – verbal commitment who will be teaching) – meeting with Karen Adams to address concerns
 - Senator Eleftherios: Copyright: faculty (co-create – joint ownership – academic freedom)
 - Senator Jorge: Quality Matter Rubrics workshop for 4 weeks for 16 weeks course had its challenge to attain the deadline.
 - Senator Mircea: concerns with plagiarism and real copyright
 - Senator Ulku: can't do change
 - Senator Linda: adding the subtitle, accessibility will apply, copy of my lecture,

vii. COLTT discussions: in other universities technical knowledge as advisors and faculty make decisions on the quality of online courses, however, this is not what is happening here. Faculty has control of content and COLTT has the structure delivery & design content (quiz/video). COLTT should clarify why Quality Matter courses vs academic freedom. Accessibility is the law and the right thing to do. QM is accreditation.

VIII. Adjournment at 4:27 pm by Senator Volker and second by Senator Dimitru

IX. Next Meeting: Friday July 17th, 2020 (Tentative)