



2020- 2021

Faculty Senate Meeting X

via zoom

Friday, March 12, 2021

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Nancy Nadeau, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary (edited 1 pm 4/9/2021)

Senators Present: 62 faculty

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, Dean Kyne, Denise Silcox, Diana Paz, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, 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, Khalid Aada, Kip Austin Hinton, Kyehwan Lee, Linda Belau, Louis Falk, Lucia Carreon, Marcela Hebbard, Michael Machiorlatti, Michiyo Hirai, , Mircea Chipara, Nancy Nadeau, Owen Temby, Paul Valadez, Punit Ahluwalia, Rachel Mann, Randall Monty, Raquel Estrada, , Robert Magee , Sandra Atkins, Sergey Grigorian, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Sonja Arredondo, Soojin Yoo, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Teresa Pistokache, Ulku Karabulut, Vejoya Viren, Volker Quetschke, Wendy Innis, William Yaworsky, Yingchen Yang.

Senators Absent: 17 faculty

Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Dana Shackelford, Donald Lyles, Hansheng Lei, Karl Berg, Mark L Dantzker, Michael Persans, Miguel Salazar, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Narayan Bhat, Randy Williamson, Rene Gonzalez, Robert Gilkerson, Salma Mahmood, Sam Sale, Tekla Hawkins, William W. Sokoloff.

Visitors(s): Dr. Janna Arney, Samantha Allen, Veronica Cano.

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

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

I. Convene Meeting at 2:00 pm by the President

II. Minutes

February Minutes: update available to Blackboard Senate under March – will be sent to faculty prior to next meeting to vote.

III. Invited Guests

A. Dr. Janna Arney, Deputy President and Interim Provost

- a. Welcome to Samantha Allen, Chief Compliance Officer, Division of the President

Topics:

a) Office of Faculty Success & Diversity

- Call for nomination for new Council for Faculty Success and Diversity
- Thanks all senators who participated in the search of the candidates for Associate Provost for Faculty Success & Diversity
- New Council will have representation from a variety of different disciplines in a variety of perspectives with list of priorities – participatory model advocating for faculty.

b) Fall 2021 Semester

- Talk to review about modalities for faculty & students.
- Post-covid: start to talk how it will be with the deans and welcome suggestions.

c) Summer Pilot Program/Summer Teaching and Revenue

- Create mechanisms to create discretionary funds for the colleges.
- Faculty paid will be the same – reconciling the budget and redistributing.
- Not the intention to hire adjuncts at a lower salary to increase profit.

d) SoM/UT Health UTRGV Vaccination Program

- a. Big picture from December 2020 with UTRGV portal with 65,000 registered and 10,000 scheduled and 13,008 declined. Changes were made to improve access to the portal and vaccines administration according to criteria. UTRGV survey was done to know the number of people who want the vaccines. It is not a mandatory vaccine.
- b. Misinterpretation in the guidance provided to the UTRGV clinic regarding residency citizenship as a screener which was not. The team was notified and made the proper correction. We identified anybody who has been turned away and reach them. It was recognized, we send an apology. The things reported have been corrected and continue to work to increase easier access to the vaccine such translation of material posted on the site and on site, publicity with the radio, out in the “colonia”, social media in Spanish, etc. It was confusion over the use of the social security number, we request the information for FEMA or our insurance.
- c. UTRGV CoVID will continue with Pfizer and Moderna, Johnson & Johnson will be going to the pharmacies. Family of faculty & students, it is coming in a few weeks.
- d. Senator Kip presented information (PowerPoint presentation) from his point of view on how it was received to the public and expressed his concern that vaccines will be out of reach for Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. His recommendation is:
 - i. All UTHealth vaccination personnel and leaders should attend the dreams advocate training.
 1. <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentlife/faculty-staff-resources/support-for-students-who-are-undocumented/index.htm>
 2. <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentlife/student-support-services/center-for-diversity-and-inclusion/dream-zone-advocates/index.htm>
- e. Senator Perez: Expressed concern about photo ID as the need to ensure the right person who made the appointment is the one receiving the vaccination. Dr. Arney will review the community message regarding photo ID vs state photo ID.
- f. Senator Gkioulekas expressed his view on how UTRGV might inform the community about the use of alternative prevention of COVID19 for people who do not want the

emergency use authorization (EUA) vaccine for any reason such as hydroxychloroquine or remdesivir. He referred to Dr. McCullough as one of the experts on COVID-19 illnesses from Dallas. <https://www.heartplace.com/dr-peter-a-mccullough>

- g. Senator Lee expressed his concerns if there is financial support for vaccination for the undocumented people. Dr. Arney reassured that vaccination is at no charge to the community. UTRGV can be reimbursed from either FEMA or insurance to pay for the infrastructure of the vaccination clinic. Education is provided via UTRGV COVID website.

B. Veronica Cano, Faculty Ombuds

- a. Informal neutral and confidential resource for faculty when there are concerns about them that involve conflict management or dispute resolution. Dr Cynthia Jones and Ms. Cano are the contact people and desire to create faculty chat to bring faculty together such as post-covid for Fall: return to campus, open conversation with faculty about concerns, channel of communication with leadership, work schedules, or any other needs to be addressed.
 - Senator Lewis recommended inviting Nicole Englitsch.
 - HR to be invited in one of the sessions.
 - Keep a public forum or larger group or to be invited to the faculty meeting.
 - There will be a mail out from Office of Faculty with schedule of events.

IV. Report of the FS President

A. New Committees Updates

- a. Committee of Academic Freedom and responsibility – Chair: Cynthia Crips
 - i. Reviewing documents and policies from past archives
- b. Committee Educational policy – Chair: Kip Hinton
 - i. Issues with languages requirements & proficiency
- c. Faculty Welfare: no report
- d. General Faculty Rules and Governance: no report
- e. Research Policy: no report
- f. Technology-enhanced Education Oversight: no report
- g. Faculty Advisory Committee on Budgets: no report

V. Texas Council of Faculty Senates Spring Meeting Report:

FS President will write a report on the update.

VI. Old Business

A. SoM Resolution- Recent events (Resolution)

FS President reported:

- a. It was discussed at the FSEC: ***no consensus*** about when to send the resolution to SOM with addressing additional concerns at the same time.
- b. FS President expressed her concerns about her received emails from faculty & conversation with faculty such as:
 - Timing as UTRGV made the national news about vaccine refusal/proper documentation for undocumented people such as photo state ID & social security were asked at the pre-screening.

- Practice of turning undocumented immigrants away from getting access to vaccine.
 - Faculty expressed concerns being affected by this practice at UTRGV with undocumented status with community members and family relatives.
 - Trust in future successful recruitment of local students and other universities students & faculty.
 - Potential difficulties with getting resources for engaging research or community programs.
 - Timing is the issue, not the resolution itself.
 - Ensure UTRGV is a place there is not discrimination related to racial identity or ethnicity.
 - Some faculty expressed concerns about institution climate and fear of retaliation – “people did not speak up out of fear” or “stopped volunteering at the sites because of this happening.”
- c. FS President opened the floor to faculty senate to express how to move forward reflecting celebrate and condemn at the same time.

Discussion ensued. The following motions were made:

- i. Resolution was passed by the Senate on February 12, 2021 – agreed as part of the motion that there would be a small revision.

Senator Chipara (zoom/chat) “my motion is to proceed immediately with the approved resolution”.

Senator Hebbard (zoom/chat) “I second Mircea’s motion”

Zoom Poll was set up by the FS Secretary:

3/12/2021 16:22 *Motion: To move the intended ~~the~~ original SOM resolution voted from February 12, 2021 to be sent as intended originally within 2 weeks.*

Vote Time: 4:22 to 4:30 pm in the zoom – VOIDED as procedure not properly followed as per Robert’s rules and parallel conversations with live zoom and the chat.

The zoom poll results (& send to me privately) were 8 NO - 27 YES = 35 Total/53 people

Senator Gkioulekas made a motion (zoom live) to revise the motion to indicate to “develop a second resolution” (2:34 min zoom/chat) to address the issue of the vaccine’s denial for 14 undocumented people (*institutional discriminatory practices*), we as faculty senate do not agree with what happened by supporting measures to resolve this issue and to have this resolution written within 2 weeks.

Seconded by Senator Kaynak (2:16 min zoom live)

Seconded by Senator Falk (2:19 min zoom live) & (confirmed again 2:27 min zoom live)

Zoom Poll was set up by the FS Secretary:

3/12/2021 16:37 Develop a second resolution to address the current situation and release both resolutions simultaneously if approved within 1 week

Vote Time: 4:33 to 4:37 pm

The poll zoom result: 8 abstain - 15 NO - 23 YES = 46 Total/53 people currently on the zoom

- d. Parliamentary Senator Caruntu suggested continuing either by email or at the next meeting as it is passed today the meeting time.
- e. FS President expressed her concerns about timing as it is Spring Break next week and to be realistic in writing the second resolution.

B. Elections of Senators

- a. To discuss at the next meeting

VII. New Business

A. Climate Surveys

- a. To discuss at the next meeting

IX. Adjournment by Senator Falk (zoom live) - seconded by Senator Levinson (zoom live) at 4:50 pm.

X. Next Meeting: April 9, 2021