



**2020-2021**

Faculty Senate Meeting V  
via zoom  
Friday, October 9, 2020  
2:00pm - 4:30pm

Minutes

**Minutes prepared by Nancy Nadeau, UTRGV Faculty Senate, Secretary**

**Senators Present:**, Amy Cummins, Andrea Schwarzbach, Andrew Anabila, Arnulfo Mar, Ayleen Godreau, Aziza Zemrani, Bruno Arthur, Charles Olney, Christine Gerin, Clarissa Salinas, Cynthia Cripps, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Dae Joon Kim, Dana Shackelford, Dean Kyne, Dumitru (Micky) Caruntu, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Emmy Perez, Fuat Firat, George Diaz, Hale Kaynak, Irving Levinson, Jameela Banu, John Luna, John VandeBerg, Jonathan Guist, Jorge Vidal, Junfei Li, Karin Lewis, Karl Berg, Khalid Aada, Kip Austin, Kyehwan Lee, Linda Belau, Louis Falk, Lucia Carreron, Marcela Hebbard, Mark L Dantzker, Michael Machiorlatti, Michael Persans, Miguel Salazar, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Owen Temby, Paul Valadez, Punit Ahluwalia, Rachel Mann, Randall Monty, Raquel Estrada, Rene Gonzalez, Robert Gilkerson, Robert Magee, Salma Mahmood, Sam Sale, Sergey Grigorian, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Soojin Yoo, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Tekla Hawkins, Teri Pistokache, Ulku Karabulut, Vejoya Viren, Volker Quetschke, Wendy Innis, William Sokoloff, William Yaworsky.

**66 faculty attended**

**Senators Absent:** Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Denise Silcox, Donald Lyles, Hansheng Lei, Mircea Chipara, Randy Williamson, Sandra Atkins, Sonja Arredondo Yingchen Yang  
**9 faculty**

**Visitors(s):** Glenn (Rick) Gray, Janna Arney

**President:** Cynthia Paccacerqua

**Past President:** Volker Quetschke

**President-Elect:** Karin Lewis

**Faculty Senate Liaison:** Claudia Garcia

I. Convene Meeting Started at 2:02 pm – 66/75 senators attended the zoom meeting

II. Guests

A. Health Services Director Glenn Gray

1. UTRGV Student Health Services & UTHealth RGV Employee Health: Transfer to the School of Medicine – 24 clinics UTHealth (Laguna to Rio Grande City)

- 1) 2 Student health centers (Edinburg & Brownsville), employee health center in Edinburg and Harlingen but not yet in Brownsville (no building), student and employee clinics: mid-level (under a medical director): provide first stop care
  - 2) If any physician care is needed: refer to other facilities if that specialty is within that network, for employee: lower copay – specialist physician: higher rate but still cheaper
2. Open questions:
- 1) Student Health Clinic: locked /walk-in clinic for flu vs coronavirus (call in advance)
  - 2) Employee should have a medical doctor/full clinic on Edinburg/concerns to be addressed by Mike Davis and Dr. Nelson
  - 3) Better communication for faculty with the Health clinics access/who is enforcing COVID safety health guidelines? Dr. Richard Costello or Doug Arney
  - 4) Take pictures of students not following safety COVID guidelines: contact Mari Morin (Program Manager for Student Rights and Responsibilities)
  - 5) COVID concerns reporting page – case management and incident tracking group to investigate = University Updates/Resources related to Covid19 including UTRGV Employee/Student Self-screening & reporting process
  - 6) Faculty: Prophylactic protocols? To minimize or actual treatment (lose smell or taste) Dr. Spear Scott, Medical Director for Student & Employee Health Clinic
  - 7) [Glen.gray@utrgv.edu](mailto:Glen.gray@utrgv.edu) for more information or questions.
  - 8) Vaccination: Texas Department Health Service/FEMA: next Spring – UTRGV has been authorized to have our own vaccines (not for the public) Reference: Pablo Mendez – Emergency Management

### III. Secretary Report

- A. Past Minutes (Senate Blackboard to review) ready to vote at the next meeting

### IV. FS Committee Report

- A. Teaching Evaluations of Faculty Committee – Dr. Dumitri Caruntu, Chair

1. Report from Meeting on August 5, 2020 – the committee decided to focus on teaching evaluation only. Research and service could be of future interest.
  - 1) Principles on Teaching Evaluation
  - 2) Existing tools and criteria on Teaching Evaluation
  - 3) Problems regarding teaching evaluation
  - 4) Problems regarding Peer Observation (peer mentoring – it is a two-way process is reported by Senator Jorge Vidal)

5) Problems regarding Department Criteria

2. Discussions:

- 1) Finalized document for next meeting in November 2020.
- 2) Senate will need to vote on this paper
- 3) Invite if people want to participate not only the Senate
- 4) To post the draft on Blackboard – to share and discuss after finalizing the document
- 5) Plan to work with the upper administration Dr. Arney and Dr. Lewis – UT system
- 6) Problem with neutral category/add questions to fit with the department/school/weight to minimize the neutral (formula ask Senator Eleftherios)
- 7) This document is a suggestion to help the departments not to impose.
- 8) Senator Cynthia suggested looking at samples so faculty can look as a reference what is done by other departments
- 9) Concerns were raised by Senator Michael about FPT numbers. Senator Volker said not to be limited by the number generated by FPT (digital measures)

V. Report of the FS President

A. FS Logistics & Communication

1. Thank you for the feedback on the GTA policy and the Blueprinting contract.
2. Updating the Senate website in November
3. Review of the composition of the standing committees
4. Updating emails account: [faculty.senate@utrgv.edu](mailto:faculty.senate@utrgv.edu)
5. Looking for an account on the messenger service for the agenda or the basic information

B. FS Governance Work

1. Senate needs to get better organized to govern actively rather than reacting. Faculty Senate Executive Committee is proposing to revamp the governance structure of the senate itself.

C. Other Updates

VI. New Business

A. Annual Review & Workload Policies Task Force

1. Creation of workload and annual review policies taskforce in collaboration with Dr. Arney (small group from the Senate or whoever who wants to work (self-nomination or nomination of other)

- Taskforce member 1: College of Education either University College
  - Taskforce member 2 College of Sciences either College of Engineering, Computer Science and College of Business
  - Taskforce member 3 College of Fine Arts either College of Liberal Arts
  - Taskforce member 4 College of Health Professions either School of Nursing, Social Work and Medicine
2. To revisit the policies in the Handbook of Operating (HOP): how workload affects promotion and how it affects annual review
  3. Blue Ribbon Committee: new version to be reviewed ask for feedback via email
  4. Dr. Janna Arney clarified: it is based on the departmental criteria, but the process is defined in the annual evaluation policy, so this is an opportunity in that policy to streamline to clarify how to use it and to clean up the process that does coincide with the workload.

#### B. Governance Committee Structure

1. Proposing new committees: (to complement not to replace but to review a particular policy then come back to the full Senate – internal or external source. Senate can volunteer)
  - (1) Academic Freedom and Responsibility
  - (2) Educational Policy
  - (3) Faculty Welfare (ex: issues on Equity, grievance, university scheduling, merit)
  - (4) General Faculty Rules and Governance (Constitution)
  - (5) Research Policy
  - (6) Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight
2. Member selection
  - 1) Request to sign up for these committees
  - 2) Purpose: work on the issues with the responsibility of reviewing the policy for feedback for counter recommendations (informed from within the university and learn from other universities when appropriate)
  - 3) Always comes back to the full Senate
  - 4) Link will be available soon to sign up for the committees with their descriptions
  - 5) Rule: Cannot be a member of 2 standing committees, you can volunteer for one of the committees
  - 6) The committee can decide what are legitimate issues to investigate

- 7) Looking at who the committee reports back to and the duration of the committee, for example 2 -3 years (replace half of the members of committee for continuity)
- 8) It may change to a standing committee (with election) for the next 2 years
- 9) Nomination process and renewal for these committees

**Motion by Senator Elftherios Gkioulekas**

**To create a new governance committee structure with 6 committees at the Senate level.**

**Second the motion: Senator Hale Kaynak.**

**Motion: Approved**

**VII. Any Other Business (AOB)**

**A. Faculty Staffing**

Senator Fuat Firat reported the loss of faculty members before the pandemic COVID-19. Upper administrative level decision was made to replace with adjunct faculty/lecturer. It was done without consultation with faculty or no chance to participate in as how these vacant positions should be divided among different types of faculty. Resulting in creating lower academic security and academic freedom. Concerns about change the university from an academic institution to an institutional institution. We should stand against the fact that no such decisions can be made without participation directly from the faculty involved in.

- B. New Huron Report by the administration: Dr. Janna Arney reported that he will be disseminated to the Leadership Cabinet this coming week.
- C. Senator Volker reported about Faculty Advisory Council as a Research Committee, he is a member. If you have any ideas or suggestions to contact him.
- D. Senator Elftherios for job advertisement: maybe faculty should vote to approve it or review the role of the faculty for hiring staff
- E. Senator Belau suggested to add another committee at the Senate to start looking at faculty appointment issues and best practices. (Academic norms and expectations)
- F. Additional discussion about the Search committee is being elected within the department to assist the Dean/Chair with the upper administration, the dean's role should be to take up to the administration what the faculty of the department require or request based on the needs.
  1. Dr. Arney brought clarification on hiring that there is no negotiation on positions between the colleges and upper administration with the decentralization of the funds. The funds reside at the college level and those discussions are made at the college level. Senator Fuat added it is a mistake to run this university as a business but if we want to be leaders of an academic institution then knowing the university budget was

reduced, the faculty of the department could be informed and the faculty of the department could then make a recommendation on the new budget allocated to address the needs of the academic research and teaching. May need a whistleblower policy/university ombudsperson. Topic to talk about at the next meeting.

#### VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Senator Bruno Arthur and seconded by Hale Kaynak

#### IX. Next Meeting: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020