

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

2020-2021

Faculty Senate Meeting IV

via zoom

Friday, September 11, 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, Aziza Zemrani, Bruno Arthur, Charles Olney, Christine Gerin, Clarissa Salinas, Cynthia Cripps, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Dae Joon Kim, Dana Shackelford, Dean Kyne, Denise Silcox, Donald Lyles, Eleftherios Gkioulekas, Fuat Firat, George Diaz, Hale Kaynak, Hansheng Lei, Irving Levinson, Jameela Banu, John Luna, John VandeBerg, Jonathan Guist, Jorge Vidal, Karin Lewis, Khalid Aada, Kip Austin Hinton, yehwan Lee, Linda Belau, Louis Falk, Marcela Hebbard, Mark L Dantzker, Michael Machiorlatti, Michael Persans, Micky Caruntu, Miguel Salazar, Mircea Chipara, Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, Paul Valadez, Punit Ahluwalia, Rachel Mann, Randall Monty, Raquel Estrada, Rene Gonzalez, Robert Magee, Salma Mahmood, Sandra Atkins, Sergey Grigorian, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Sonja Arredondo, Soojin Yoo, Stephanie Atkins Sharpe, Tekla Hawkins, Teri Pistokache, Ulku Karabulut, Vejoya Viren, Wendy Innis, William Sokoloff, William Yaworsky, Yingchen Yang, Zen Faulkes

Senators Absent: Abdullah Faiz Rahman, Ayleen Godreau, Karl Berg, Junfei Li, Narayan Bhat, Owen Temby, Randy Williamson, 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

Start at 2:06 pm – 66/74 senators attended the zoom meeting

II. Guests

A. Dr. Guy Bailey: 2:50 pm

- a. Clarification: Leadership Cabinet. It is new group involved in making decisions for a broader departments/colleges' perspectives to make good decisions – such Commencement 2020 or budget issues, how to bring people back to work (broad

university decision). Leadership Council is not new, it is for information sharing/communication.

- b. Thanks everyone and all faculty for adjusting to Fall 2020 under the circumstances from the bottom of his heart
 - i. Discussion:
 1. Positive results: Increased enrollment & retention rate (student success)
 2. Preserve jobs and keep employment at UTRGV
 3. UTRGV gave back 10% of the annual budget
 4. Financial aid & COVID money package good in Fall
 5. Spring release package for our students (next 3 weeks)
 6. Pandemic effect for the next 2 years in the planning
 7. Mask & social distancing discussions for the student's wellbeing
 8. Course modalities for Spring 2021 & student online preparedness
 9. Increase faculty if you have an increase enrollment (>5% == hiring faculty for the demand).
 - ii.
- c.

B. Dr. Janna Arney: 2:40 pm

- a. Clarify and review the structure of shared information across all divisions to allow it to be better reflected.
- b. Faculty concerns for Dr. Janna Arney:
 - i. Communication Faculty Senate to other faculty (was not done well) need to come up with a way to communicate with all UTRGV faculty
 - ii. Early feedback: lack of motivation/synch course delivery = engagement (help the students to take online course with training)
 - iii. Budget for conference registrations (not for traveling) but online conferences?

III. Report of the FS President

Senator Cynthia (President) is welcoming everybody for the first meeting of the academic year.

- Dr. Arney is welcome to come to all our meetings as is President Dr. Bailey to attend and address the faculty for 10 minutes at each meeting. If any senators have any questions for the President – we invite you to send the question(s) to Cynthia or any of the FSEC members, so he has time/preparation if you need data. Cynthia suggested at least one week in advance, so the President has time to prepare.
- Senator Cynthia is reporting the Interim Provost Dr. Arney has organized a series of groups that will be meeting throughout the academic year. The FSEC requested to the President to have the Faculty Senate to be represented at higher level committee or meetings/groups meeting. As a result, Cynthia gave a brief review of summer meetings (PowerPoint presentation by Cynthia) – will be sharing on Blackboard for senators to consult after obtaining the last version of Dr. Arney.
 - Leadership Council – meet once a semester to share institutional news and information, share priorities, successes, and priorities. Schedule for October. Membership: all

directors and above & FS (president & president-elect to be present at the meeting was recommended by Volker), staff senate, WFN and SGA representation.

- Leadership Cabinet – meet 3 times per semester with the purpose of sharing institutional news and information, sharing priorities, successes and opportunities, cross-divisional information sharing, and relationship building and seeking feedback. Schedule: September 10, October 13 and November 17, Harlingen. Membership: President and VPs and Deans and elected representatives: FS, Staff Senate & WFN.
 - Talking about graduation for Fall 2020 and maintaining safety standards (diploma/picture) on both campuses.
- Provost’s Council – meet once a month or as needed to serve as Interim Provost’s advisory group on institutional priorities including divisional policy approval and divisional strategic priority setting. Membership: VPs & Deans (divisions representations) & FS, WFN and ad-hoc members such as COLTT, library, CIO. (No more academic affairs executive committee)
 - Senator Firat raised a concern on: information sharing committees rather than decision making committee at the Provost’s Council but wish to be part of the decision making at the other 2 levels.
 - Cynthia brought concerns about not having good communication with upper administration such as the budget/priorities
 - Senator Bruno raised concerns to be talked to versus to speak with
 - Senator Volker raised the importance of being at the table in those committees
 - Senator Mircea is reminding us the Senate does not participate in the decision-making steps. The Senate is the dog that gives university administration serving the goals and interests of the faculty, but in the taking of decisions.
- Deans and Chairs – meet twice a semester to serve as advisory group on college specific priorities and issues. Not for us.
Since the summer we have been meeting sometimes weekly or every other week.
 - Information sharing vs decision making questions – concerns about being talked to or being part of the conversation
- DISCUSSION of the draft policy recommendations by UTRGV FSEC
 - “Accommodating the Effects of COVID-19 for Faculty Reviews & Evaluations”
 - Adaptive Adjustment of Expectations
 - Extension until 1 year but need to ask for it
 - Annual Review Committee should demonstrate the flexibility to evaluate a candidate (adaptive effect approach)
 - FSEC will send it to all deans/faculty

IV. Old Business

A. Blueprinting Master Courses

1. Agreement: “Online Course Development Agreement Joint Ownership” document

Discussions from the summer/future blueprinting:

- Copyright issues (photo/article)

- Ownership: Designer of the course/might teach or not the class
- Infringement of academic freedom vs Blueprinting
- Need librarian involvement to help with copyright
- Quality Matter Rubrics approval/COLTT
- Joint ownership author/UTRGV – faculty to say no (request permission)
- COLTT asks permission/access who will be teaching the course
- Setting/editing of Panopto: uncheck the box (public rating)
- Dr Arney reminded us of draft statement summer about their rights of the course old and the new agreement/ add the agenda of language as point of clarification

2. Overview

First motion by Senator Dimitri Caruntu and seconded by Senator Mircea Chipara

- The Online Course Development Agreement Joint Ownership document – faculty is to send your comments/feedback, make the recommendations and to continue the discussion on the FS Blackboard by Thursday.
 - Vote: 43 yes – majority – Motion: Approved

Second motion by Senator Eleftherios Gkioulekas and seconded by Senator Hale Kaynak

- The motion is that the FSEC sent an email to all faculty teachers and deans to let them know that the academic freedom policy allows faculty to use the materials of their choice when teaching online courses.
 - Vote: 39 yes – majority – Motion: Approved

B.” Intellectual Property & Research Data” Policy (please visit Blackboard to review draft for discussion)

V. New Business

A. Report from the Evaluation of Faculty Teaching Committee

B. Committees Structure

1. Policy Committee

VI. Any Other Business (AOB)

VII. Adjournment 4:35 pm by Senator Volker and seconded by Senator Nancy Nadeau

VIII. Next meeting October 9th, 2020 at 2 – 4:40 pm