

2021-2022 Faculty Senate Meeting - minutes
Thursday, December 2, 2021
10 am – 12 noon Via Zoom

Community Agreement

The UTRGV Faculty Senate is brought together in the spirit of shared governance to move forward in a positive open manner for input that allows all stakeholders to speak regarding policy and process formation. To create a safe environment where everyone's opinions are valued and considered, let us observe the following:

- 1. Try to be on time to the meeting and actively participate*
- 2. Review the pre-reading materials to be discussed, and if you plan to comment have your thoughts organized in advance*
- 3. Assume positive intent, seek to understand, be inclusive, bring productive energy to discussions*
- 4. Only one person speaks at a time (use raise hand feature to be recognized)-chat is not part of the official record (will not be included in the minutes).*
- 5. Respect and acknowledge everyone's opinions, even if they differ from yours*
- 6. Confidentiality: some things shouldn't be repeated outside the meeting*

Minutes Prepared by Cynthia Cripps

Senators Present: Jair J. Aguilar, Tony Aguirre, Stephanie Alvarez, Andrew Anabila, Sonja Arredondo, Jameela Banu, Grant Benham, Sarah Blangero, Ben Brown, Lucia Carreon, Dumitru Caruntu, Joel H. Chirinos, Mircea Chipara, Cynthia Cripps, Amy Cummins, George Diaz, Louis Falk, A Fuat Firat, Christine Gerin, Rob Gilkerson, Rene Gonzalez, Sergey Grigorian, Fred Guerra, Tekla Hawkins, Marcela Hebbard, Sharon Helsley-Mcginley, Kip Austin Hinton, Michiyo Hirai, Ulku Karabulut, Hale Kaynak, Sanjeev Kumar, Dean Kyne, Kye-Hwan Lee, Hansheng (Jet) Lei, Karin Lewis, Yu Liu, Michael Machiorlatti, Mike Magee, Rachel Mann, Arnulfo Mar, Theresa Mata-Pistokache, Randall Monty, Nancy Nadeau, Cynthia Paccacerqua, Nilanjana Paul, Diana Paz, Emily Perez, Volker Quetschke, Abdullah Rahman, Padmanabhan Rengasamy, Manuel Saldivar, Andrea Schwarzbach, Dana Shackelford, Owen Temby, Paul Valadez, Jorge Vidal, Vejoya Viren, Aaron Wilson, Yingchen Yang, William Yaworsky, Soojin Yoo, Aziza Zemrani

Administrator: Vanessa Ceballos

Senators Absent: Khalid Aada, Narayan Bhat, Jimmy Gonzales, Jonathan Guist, Qinyu Liao, John Luna, Salma Mahmood, Riccardo Pizzinato, Henry Reinhart, Miguel Salazar, Clarissa Salinas, Sam Sale

Guests: Fred Darsow, Jacob McDonie, Shawn Saladin

I. Convene meeting (10 am)

- II. Welcome FS President Karin Lewis** - Expresses ongoing concern for our community as we continue managing the pandemic and encourages everyone to take advantage of the booster vaccinations to strive to keep everyone safe. We probably will be back on campus for spring courses. We will follow Roberts Rules, please direct message the FS secretary if you would like your question to be read on the floor. Please be respectful and keep remarks on topic.

III. Report of FS Parliamentarian - Volker Quetschke

- a.** Roberts Rules & Zoom guidelines reminder – Each senator is limited to two 90-second speaking times per topic. Non-senators may contribute, but please make that request to FS president, secretary, or parliamentarian. Senators, please present your motion/resolution in a written format and direct message or email it to the parliamentarian or secretary so it can be made visible on the screen and on the floor.

Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen

IV. Report of the FS Secretary-Cindy Cripps

a. November 12, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve: Dumitru Caruntu second: Hale Kaynak
45/46 approve 98%
0/46 reject
1/46 abstain 1%

The motion to approve the November 12, 2021 meeting minutes carries.

b. May 1, 2020

Motion to approve: Dumitru Caruntu second: Louis Falk
38/45 approve 84%
0/45 reject
7/46 abstain 16%

The motion to approve the May 1, 2020 meeting minutes carries.

c. May 22, 2020

Motion to approve: Sharon Helsley-Mcginley second: Louis Falk
39/44 approve 89%
0/44 reject
5/44 abstain 11 %

The motion to approve the May 22, 2020 meeting minutes carries.

V. Report – President-Elect Kip Hinton (none)

VI. Report - President Karin Lewis:

- a. Provost Dr. Arney, responded to our follow-up questions from previous meetings (pre-reading handouts).
- b. Links to UTRGV President Dr. Bailey’s budget, financial information, and formula funding information were shared in the pre-reading material.
- c. Annual Review Committee slides were attached to the pre-reading handouts. Please fill out the survey to provide in-put to the special committee seeking feedback to improve the faculty annual review policy. There will be drafts for the proposed revisions next semester. Please help in the vetting process and relay the information back to your constituents/faculty meetings.
- d. Concurrently there is a committee working on a new policy to address the review and promotion of lecturers, clinical faculty, and Non-Tenure Track faculty.

VII. Presentation Karin Lewis: Strategic Planning Process: FS representatives: Karin Lewis, Volker Quetschke, Nancy Nadeau

- a. We will invite guests to present in the spring FS meetings
- b. Committee is under consultation and being guided by Huron Committee.
- c. Keep your constituents actively involved. (Please share these slides with them.)
- d. Time-line – expected to confirm final Strategic Plan by July 2022.
 - Huron conducted interviews, market scan, stakeholder survey, and creating focus groups.
 - Focus groups: Administrators, Faculty Senate, Staff, Undergraduate students, Graduate Students, Alumni, Board Members,
 - (Karin – shared informational slides in an email sent 12/3/21)
- e. Strategic Plan Framework
- f. Vertical Priorities: Student Lifecycle, Student Experience, Research, Health, People
- g. Horizontal Priorities: Identity, Campus Climate, Culture of Excellence, Community Integration, Financial Sustainability
- h. Reflection Questions

Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen

VIII. FS questions, comments, points of information re: Strategic Planning Process

- How will faculty senate be involved as a focus group? Maybe a survey to identify faculties thoughts on what the priorities are.
 - Facts: FS will have representation on the steering committee, there will be survey going out to all faculty, FS will be a focus group
 - Questions: will we have access to data from the survey? If not, maybe we need a survey of our own.
- Alignment of the Strategic Plan and Master Plan (2017) – Can the FS request that the current Master Plan? This would allow for us to make suggestions for changes so that it may coincide with goals of the Strategic Plan.
- Are these hypotheses or are they propositions? Will they be tested?
- Timeline: FS probably will be approached in January to create the focus group
- We should ask for the Master Plan if there is one.
- Reflecting on Dr. Arney’s responses to previous FS presentations and follow-up:
 - Concerns: The expectation regarding the reliance on the money generated from summer courses supporting research (CLA). IT starts tying our research to our availability to teach in the summer. We need to know what types of resources exist for each college, with special attention to disciplinary needs that are different.
- Concern as we identifying as “B3” (bicultural, bilingual, biliterate) institution. Have we been successful creating this environment? It seems that UTRGV has missed this opportunity with the first Strategic Planning Committee.
 - There should be multiple opportunities for faculty input and faculty should continue to raise these questions and concerns. It is nice to say we are B3, but how is it being achieved?

IX. Old Business

- a. DORA Resolution <https://sfdora.org/> – Volker Quetschke: (2019) Regarding a presentation about the declaration on research assessment from Justin White from the UTRGV Library. The FS approved a resolution to support this initiative, but due to unforeseen matters, the resolution was never sent forward to the provost or the president.
- b. May 2021 Committee reports—summary and action items
- c. Chairs/Administrator evaluation: Feedback from the survey will be shared with Kurt Martinez, chair of the Council of Chairs. We will anticipate a survey evaluating department chairs in spring semester 2022.
- d. HOP committee: reviewing policies, 5 in particular related to research. These were sent to the Research Policy Committee. Three will be voted on in the next HOP committee meeting.
 - Process for revision or new policies: submit an impact statement, HOP committee accepts/rejects, if approved then a draft is submitted
 - Currently being reviewed: endowed appointments, staff working remotely, sexual misconduct, sponsored projects, institutional based salary, intercollegiate athletics, cash and credit card handling

X. General Committee Information:

- Calls for self-nominations for new committees – identify 3 committees that you would like to serve
 - It is an opportunity to be involved in shared governance
 - It is suggested that every senator serve on one ad hoc/subcommittee
- These committees are not only comprised of FS members. Share the self-nomination link with your departments etc.
- Committee chairs please fill out a Reporting Form each month to give the FSEC and officers information as to what is happening in your committee. This will help guide Dr. Lewis and the FSEC to make decisions and allot appropriate time on the FS meeting agenda for committee reports.

Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion FS Committee – a new committee: possible charges: draft a diversity statement, land acknowledgement etc.

XI. Report from Committees and FS questions, comments, points of information

- **Rules and Governance Committee (Cynthia Paccacerqua)** – Marcela Hebbard was elected co-chair. Please send feedback on the previously mentioned HOP Policies being reviewed. Will review FS models and discuss changes needed for the FS Constitution, which will eventually go to the whole faculty for input. We are accepting new members if you would like to serve here.
- **Education Policy Committee (Kip Austin Hinton)** – received two proposals from BLM (Black Lives Matter) Task Force (representatives: Emmy Perez, Stephanie Alvarez)
 - Suggestion: Ethnic and gender studies graduation requirement – 1 course
 - How to implement? How do we fit this into tight degree plans?
 - May be successful not as a requirement, but as an acknowledgement of who has completed it. Then expand it
 - Students taking dual enrollment courses will be difficult to monitor the content when it is not at UTRGV
 - We welcome feedback and suggestions.
 - It comes down to what UTRGV values and what is essential knowledge for them to have. Currently it is not required, but if we value it then we need to work to adapt and add it to our courses.
 - After talking with almost all Deans, it is determined that it doesn't have to be a course but can be integrated into existing classes.
 - UTPA SGA passed a resolution asking for an ethnic and gender studies requirement, but the Curriculum Committee turned it down.
 - Create “badges” for faculty who teach courses that address gender and ethnic diversity
 - Proposal: faculty would submit their syllabus to be reviewed by a committee who would decide if it met the requirements.
 - Currently there is only 1 course in African American studies and there are 0 courses in Asian studies – any university committed to diversity and equity this is unacceptable.
 - Could we create a Certification program, to include courses teach and address minorities and multi-ethnic diversity and equity?
 - Would there be a stipend available for those who would rework their courses to include more of these topics?
- **Welfare Committee (Dumitru Caruntu)**: New chair Linda Belau. New Senators are welcome to join this committee. They are encouraged to work on a proposal to create outdoor workout space for faculty and staff.
- **Research Policy Committee (Sergey Grigorian)**: Updates: HOP policy drafts reviews: General Sponsored Projects, Cost Sharing, Managing and Certifying. The committee provided detailed comments and feedback. Met with Dr. Spenser AVP for research operations and attended some of their committees to maintain communication. Will meet next week with Dr. Arney to discuss the Huron report and this committee's detailed response.
- **Athletic Committee (Fred Guerra and Kip Hinton)**: no information has been passed along since the referendum passed in November. Liaison Louis Falk was appointed on the Athletic Council and ad hoc committee. Committee could review the HOP policy to discuss budgeting and selecting a representative etc. This committee could make a request to move along a revision of the HOP policy
- **Academic Freedom (Lucia Carreon)**: Invites senators to self-nominate to join this committee.
- **Technology Enhanced Oversight Committee (Randall Monty)**: We will submit a report soon. Major initiative was to clarify and document the process and policy for blueprinting courses. What classes are selected? Who are selected? Who has ownership of what is blueprinting? To make the process more

Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen

transparent. Spring semester 2022: initiative is to clarify teaching modalities and define requirements for quality matters.

Motion:

The research policy committee or another faculty Senate Committee, create a research-based report on:

1. current research resources available per college and
2. currently unfulfilled needs a faculty with particular care for disciplinary differences.

39/43 yay 91%

3/43 nay 7%

1/43 abstain 2%

Motion carries.

- Vacancies for committees.

XII. New Business

Concern: Staff member from the School of Music was wondering why staff merit/compression/salary increases will take two years to reach the 25%, while faculty salaries were raised to the 25% immediately this year?

Is this a place for us, faculty, to support the staff that run our departments?

- Inquire and request more information from Dr. Arney
- Inquire and request more information from staff senate president
- Comment from Sarah Blangero: Significant assessment and market adjustments for staff in School of Medicine were made this year. There are many types of positions which will need to be accessed and reviewed and that may be why two years is needed to finish these adjustments. More information is needed here before we make motion.

XIII. Next meeting NEW date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 (3 pm - 5 pm) via Zoom

XIV. Motion to adjourn: Louis Falk, second: Dumitru Caruntu, (12:00 Noon)

President Karin Lewis: Thank you, everyone, for our internally focused discussion today. I appreciate your respectful and engaged conversation. Please have a safe and wonderful end of semester and rejuvenating holiday. I appreciate all of your conscientious work on Senate.