

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2018  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Senators Present: Lisa Smith, Silverio Nieto, Michael Aldape, Rebekah Sepulveda, Jesus Buitron, Diana Ocana, Veronica De La Garza, Monica Tovar, Cynthia Farris, Monica Tovar

Senators Absent: PJ Ehimika, Lanlan Alvarado, Roberto Castro, Carla Lopez, Gilbert Perez, Javier Zambrano

Meeting called to order at 9:34am.

Nicole E. Motion to approve minutes; seconded by Dalyn. Motion passed.

**Health Affairs and School of Medicine Updates:**

- Third class of medical students on campus as of today beginning their three-week orientation.
- Third-year medical students are beginning their clinical rotations; scheduled to graduate May 2020.
- Medical school now has 300 faculty and staff; increased growth is expected. Master's
- Degree proposal in Bioethics has been submitted and a Center of Biomedical Ethics has been established.
- South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute is the largest research enterprise in medical affairs. Approximately 50 faculty and staff work in this one center.
- Neuroscience Institute Director is in the final hiring process. Institute will be located in Harlingen and be a comprehensive neurosciences program.
- Partnering with the McAllen Economic Development Council to support research into cervical cancer. Will be part of the broader cancer science research program. Program will be housed in the research building currently under construction in McAllen.
- Women's Health Clinic currently served by UTMB will be transitioned over to UTRGV in McAllen and will become part of the previously mentioned project.
- Increasing access to healthcare is critical for the SOM/Health Affairs.
- Several sites are opening/will be opened throughout the Valley over the Summer/Fall/Spring.
- 26 new physicians have been hired over the last year representing plastic surgery, optometry, and dermatology.
- Brownsville site will have a focus on STDOI research and community outreach. We need to be able to take the research and translate it into actual clinical work.
- UT Health Rio Grande Valley is our branding that will be rolled out aligning us with the health ventures throughout the UT schools throughout the state. More of a rollout happening in December 2018.
- Visit [www.uthealthrgv.org](http://www.uthealthrgv.org).
- September 1 will see us participating in UT Select through our health insurance.
- Lifestyle Medicine unit will be rolled out at the Jackson site; nutrition, exercise, preventative medicine, etc.
- Question from the audience: Define institute vs program.
  - Institute is more interdisciplinary bringing in support from various colleges; programs are smaller.
  - Centers require Regents' approval, so we have Institutes.
- Employee engagement survey:

## Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2018

### The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

- Utilizing a AAMC resource utilized by medical schools throughout the country that will allow us to benchmark and track progress over time.
- Texas Tech in El Paso will be using the same tool.
- Edinburg will become a hub for Health Sciences in a variety of fields.
- Harlingen will become a core site for Nursing; looking to expand opportunities across all sites.

#### **PeopleSoft Updates (Esther Dominguez)**

- Esther focuses on the transition and training portion of PeopleSoft implementation.
- Two-factor authentication is required to access PeopleSoft from remote locations.
- Initial enrollment should be completed by July 31.
- Review the PeopleSoft website for more information.
- Make sure your mobile number is up-to-date in Edinburg.
- Oracle will be replaced by PeopleSoft; iShop, iTravel, and People Admin will continue and will not be replaced by PeopleSoft. The iShop tile will now be located in PeopleSoft.
- Training is based on current role/responsibility.
  - Financial training will go through Blackboard PeopleSoft Academy.
  - Supervisors will have face-to-face training for how to complete Manager Self-Service (MSS) functions beginning in August.
  - Super Users are identified individuals who will need to know/be trained in all elements of the System. First line of support within departments.
  - Time Keepers and Leave Administrators: formally a function of HR staff; not someone who is doing time cards, but keeping track that everyone has completed their time cards, and/or who can complete a time card in emergency situations.
- Review the website ([www.utrgv.edu/peoplesoft](http://www.utrgv.edu/peoplesoft)) for up-to-date information and resources.
- HR information (direct deposit, W4, etc.) will be migrated automatically to PeopleSoft.

#### **Streaming of the Staff Senate Meetings (Dalyn Ruiz and Monica Tovar)**

- Person assisting us at IT is on vacation, but is aware of our request and has acknowledged that he will work with us to find a solution.

#### **District Voting (Rebekah Sepulveda)**

- Seeking a motion to either move to the new 8 districts or stay with the current 6 ones.

Motion by Lisa Smith to include the new districts in the Constitution and migrate the Senators and vacancies from AA to the new appropriate districts; seconded by Nicole. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Staff Senate Retreat (Lisa Smith)**

- Should we schedule a retreat now (for September) or wait until we bring in the new Senators after elections?
- Lisa will send a poll with four dates in September for the group to vote on; majority rules.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

#### **Noteworthy Announcements (All Senators)**

- Lisa Smith: an email has been drafted to be sent to Dr. Arney with regard to inclement weather campus closure updates. Focus on lessons learned from the recent flooding and closures.
  - Dalyn: There are many factors that go into the decision to close campus.

## Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2018

### The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

- Lisa: Recommendation to Dr. Arney will be to include a Staff Senator on the Emergency Response Team.
- Dalyn: Is there an emergency fund available for staff members affected by disasters.
  - Lisa: There are examples of this at other UT schools run by Staff Councils.
  - Monica: There was an issue where staff in Harlingen were not able to get to work during the flooding, but supervisors in Edinburg were not being affected, so the supervisor was upset. We need better communication practices.
    - Nicole: If an employee runs into this type of situation, the employee can contact HR and the supervisor will be informed of policy.
  - Dalyn: If one campus closes for weather, all should since we are so inter-connected.
- Nicole: Please encourage all colleagues to attend the benefits and wellness fairs.
- Lisa: Initial Climate Survey results were released and a plan is in place to address the issues identified. We are awaiting the results of the student survey.
  - The #1 response/concern on the climate survey had to do with low compensation.
  - Town Hall meetings are in the works for Fall to continue the conversation.

### **Public Comments/Questions**

- There were no public comments or questions.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Staff Appreciation ad-hoc Committee

- Jesus: Awaiting information from universities regarding events and how they handle their processes.

#### Business Processes and Procedures Committee

- Monica: PeopleSoft is the biggest update (review Esther's notes)

#### Communications

- No report

#### Professional Development

- No report

#### Staff Relations, Retention, and Morale

- No report

#### University Development and Events

- No report

Meeting adjourned at 11:21am.