**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**of March 18, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year was held March 18, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom (online meeting) with Dr. Chad Mahood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, presiding.

1. Call to order and taking of attendance.

Present: Chad Mahood, Chris Packham, Diane Abdo, Sonya Aleman, Gus Allo, Mark Bayer, Kiran Bhaganagar, Raj Boppana, Curtis Brewer, Ian Caine, Felicia Castro-Villarreal, Michael Doyle, Jurgen Engelberth, Ginny Garcia-Alexander, Alexis Godet, Jamon Halvaksz, David Hansen, Matthias Hofferberth, Dan Hollas, Becky Huang, Kim Kline, William Land, Charles Liu, Andrew Lloyd, Dennis Lopez, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Sandra Morissette, Emily Nicklett, Debra Pena, Priya Prasad, Jeff Prevost, Rica Ramirez, Devon Romero, Dan Sass, Liang Tang, John Wald, Melissa Wallace, Karen Williams, Rene Zenteno

Guests: Devin Clemons (Stonehill College), Kimberly Espy, Mary Hernandez, Veronica Mendez, Heather Shipley, Sarah Soulek

1. Consent Calendar – all items approved

* Approval of minutes – February 25, 2021
* Graduate Council bylaws

1. Reports

**University Updates – Academic Affairs**

• Kimberly Andrews Espy and Heather Shipley, Academic Affairs:

Dr. Espy gave an update on spring 2021 enrollment and semester credit hours. She said that dean searches are underway for COLFA and COEHD. She shared an info graphic on student learning – Nearly 1/3 of students are learning on mobile devices and Academic Innovation can assist faculty with online teaching to aid student success. Commencement will be comprised of college celebrations, giving students the opportunity to walk the stage. The events will be held on campus and although guests won’t be admitted, all celebrations will be live-streamed and the recordings released for viewing after the ceremonies. There will also be photo opportunities for students and the campus drive event will be continued from last year. Dr. Shipley said that since there won’t be a luncheon celebrating those awarded tenure, alternate ways of recognizing faculty have been adapted. The Career Stage Faculty Recognition Program will provide lapel pins to faculty beginning with the last cycle of tenure recipients. A silver pin signifies the achievement of associate professor with tenure, associate professor of instruction, or associate professor of practice. A gold pin signifies the achievement of full professor, professor of instruction, or professor of practice. These pins will be distributed to faculty at future milestones and alongside the CPE review process to ensure that every faculty member receives a pin. Based on the recommendation from the senate, the plus minus grading system will remain in place. The 2010 Provost’s memo allowing the policy to be open will be rescinded, so that faculty, departments and colleges will not be able to create independent grading policies. However, faculty members still have the ability to decide the percentage points assigned to the plus/minus scale (with the grading policy in effect for all courses). The university has an institutional membership with the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. Faculty will receive an email soon inviting them to activate their account.

**University Leadership Updates**

• Veronica Mendez and Mary Hernandez, Office of the Senior Vice President for Business Affairs:

Dr. Mendez and Hernandez gave an update on UTSA’s management of the pandemic. UTSA is currently operating as a closed vaccination site and has been working to schedule appointments for those in eligible groups. A survey was distributed to the UTSA community in February, which has helped the university in obtaining the necessary number of vaccine doses. So far 1,859 employees have been vaccinated. A reminder email was sent this week about registering for an appointment. The UT Health website is also scheduling appointments and can be also be utilized by family members (who are not university employees). The Public Health Taskforce is working on fall 2021 planning. An initial report will be released in April and a final report in June (both with accompanying town halls).

**Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood**

• Dr. Mahood reminded the senate that all meetings are open to the public and that all members should follow Robert’s Rules by waiting to be recognized before speaking. The senate will conduct elections for a Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect in April and elections for Secretary and Parliamentarian in May. Per the university’s HOP, the Faculty Senate needs to put forth a slate of names to serve on a panel for Misconduct in Research or Other Scholarly Activities. The chair proposed putting forth the names of all tenured senators which the UTSA Research Integrity Officer will use to form panel(s) if/when needed. The senate approved this recommendation to list all tenured senators on the committee for selection. Dr. Mahood said that department chairs have been asked by their deans to schedule additional hybrid and face-to-face classes this fall. It is unclear what % of classes need to be hybrid and/or face-to-face and whether this is a requirement. After some discussion, Dr. Mahood will work with a small group of senators to compile a Qualtrics survey to assess the understanding and feelings of faculty on this matter. Additionally, the senate agreed to conduct an electronic vote if department chair council addresses this issue in a memo to university leadership.

**Secretary of the General Faculty: Chris Packham**

No report

1. **Curriculum Committee** – No report; will have 4 proposals next month
2. **Graduate Council Chair –** The Graduate Catalog was recently approved and will be routed for senate approval soon
3. **Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –** Comments regarding the compliance training process can be sent to Dr. Prasad.
4. **Budget Committee** – No report
5. **HOP Committee** – No report
6. **Nominating, Elections and Procedures Committee** – No report
7. **Research Committee –** The committee will be following up on the restructuring of the RSCs. Comments or questions can be sent to Dr. Halvaksz.
8. **Unfinished Business:** None
9. **Open Discussion:** None
10. **New Business:** None
11. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:50 PM.