**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE**

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Of October 14, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Faculty Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year was held October 14, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in 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, Victor De Oliveira, Brian Davies, Drew Johnson, Rene Zenteno, Sylvia Mansour, Whitney Chappell, Andy Lloyd, Matthias Hofferberth, Branco Ponomariov, John Alexander, Marcus Hamilton, Hector Aguilar, Mary McNaughton-Cassill, Curtis Brewer, Kimberly Fonzo, Jeffrey Howard, Jeff Prevost, Lorenzo Brancaleon, John Wald, Mike Doyle, Mahmut Sonmez, William Land, Dan Hollas, Richard Gretz, Humberto Saenz, Raj Boppana, Huy Le, Rica Ramirez, Becky Huang, Kiran Bhaganagar, Sonya Aleman, Gus Allo, Jurgen Engelberth, Ginny Garcia, David Hansen, Sandeep Langar, Gina Amatangelo, Dennis Lopez, Joshua Thurow, Lauren Riojas, Nicole Beebe, Felicia Castro, Zhechao Liu

Absent: not available

Guests: Kimberly Espy, Heather Shipley, Carlos Martinez, Melinda Utoft, Debra Del Toro, Interim Chief Schoenborn, LT Robinson, Ambika Mathur, Sarah Ullevig, Kerry Sinanan

Total members present: 58 Total members absent: not available

1. Consent Calendar

* Approval of minutes – September 9, 2021
* No one objected to Consent Agenda

1. Reports

**Academic Affairs Updates –** Provost Espy & Heather Shipley

- see PowerPoint slides

- UTSA welcomed the most diverse cohort of tenured/tenured track faculty members in its history during 2021-2022 academic year.

- Overview of first, second, third year retention rates

- Fall 2021 Kick off of Hispanic Thriving Institute Leadership Council

- Fall 2021: Protecting against Covid-19 UTSA numbers

- Whataburger Resource Room: important wellbeing support program for UTSA students.

**University Leadership Updates:** Carlos Martinez, LT Robinson and Interim Chief Schoenborn

- Critical Incident Response Planning overview

- Multiple factors have the potential to create a tense campus climate: recovery from the pandemic, social media, national and state political tensions and new state laws

- Maintaining an environment that supports teaching, learning and discovery will require a thoughtfully coordinated approach.

- Active engagement by University Leadership, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Student Affairs, Business Affairs through People Excellence,

Facilities, and UTSA Police, University Communications, and Inclusive Excellence to coordinate protocols to various scenarios will best support a

healthy community environment.

- General Rule: A healthy and respectful environment is critical to the learning experience for students and the teaching experience for faculty and others supporting the academic experience. Managing classroom behavior is the primary responsibility of faculty in the classroom, but multiple offices play a supporting role.

**Graduate School Initiatives** – Ambika Mathur

- Grad Student Success Task Force (Phase II) Updates

- See slideshow

* 1. **Chair’s Report: Chad Mahood –** see Chair’s Report PowerPoint

- Campus climate survey is available now and there will be town halls

- If you have feedback on the climate surveys then report it to your departments

- Faculty Senate Newsletter

* 1. **Secretary of the General Faculty: Chris Packham**
* Attended Faculty Advisory Council at UT System

-Very broad range from each campus on response to Covid-19

-Mental health for students is priority this year

-Foreign influence on PI’s (document added to SharePoint)

* 1. **Curriculum Committee** – **Andy Lloyd**

- A question was asked by a curriculum committee member: what kind of things are we looking at in these proposal? Andy will get the committee together to do a training. Chad reiterated that the faculty senate is the last stop in reviewing these proposals before they are approved.

- No concerns from proposals 1- 6.

- For Concentration in Black, Indigenous, and Latina/x Literature in English Major: - A comment was made about the historical enrollment of the program; Chad commented that the faculty senate does not need to be concerned about enrollment data, only whether or not it is a good program for UTSA. There was also a concern about the amount of credit hours expected for the program.

***The Faculty Senate voted as follows:***

8 Curriculum Proposals:

Nutrition for Health Professionals (NHP) Certificate Proposal- **Yes: 38; No: 1; Abstain: 2**

Minor in Health, Aging & Society- **Yes: 37; No: 2; Abstain: 2**

BS Health, Aging & Society- **Yes: 37; No: 2; Abstain: 2**

BS Geoscience: Environmental Geoscience Track- **Yes: 40; No: 0; Abstain: 1**

BS Geoscience: Geology Track - **Yes: 38; No: 2; Abstain: 1**

BA African American Studies- **Yes: 33; No: 2; Abstain: 6**

BA Physics Teacher Certification Concentration**- Yes: 41; No: 0; Abstain: 0**

Concentration in Black, Indigenous, and Latina/x Literature in English Major**-**

**Yes: 39; No: 2; Abstain: 0**

* 1. **Graduate Council Chair –** no report
  2. **Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee –** no report
  3. **Budget Committee** – no report
  4. **HOP Committee** – Matthias Hofferberth

- 2 proposals; reasonable accommodations and STEM – new policy on controlled substances

* 1. **Research Committee –** no report

1. **Unfinished Business:**
2. **Open discussion:**
3. **New Business:**
4. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:48 PM