

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2021

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Virtual: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=mc3c98c5895e6adfb22c231943aa4c326>

**In Attendance:** Adrian Guardia; Aida Almanza; Amanda Lindner; April Najjaj; Arturo Olague; Berenice de la Cruz; Bob Shelton; Brenda Rowe; Bryan Bayles; Carla Mendiola; Cuauhtemoc Luna-Nevarez; Cynthia Matson; Daniel Delgado; Dawn Weatherford; Elizabeth Leyva; Eun Kwon; Gilbert Barrera; Gul Bulut; Halbert Brown; Ho Huynh; James Finley; Jeremy Zuni; Katherine Bridgman; Keming Li; Kevin Barton; Leonard Love; Lizbett Tinoco; Maria Acevedo-Aquino; Mario Baldassari; Martha Saywell; Matthew Mangun; Md Rahman; Megan Wise de Valadez; Merrit Rehn-DeBaal; Michael Boucher; Michael O'Brien; Pablo Calafiore; Ray Kamps; Rebekah Piper; Robin Kapavik; Sandra Lara; Smriti Bhatt; Teresa Talerico; Thomas Beaumont; Tim Gritten; Veronica Valdes; Vicky Elias; Vincent Creazzo; Weixing Ford; William Erickson; Young Rae Kim.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 11:29am.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from 12/04/20 were approved but the attendance of Katherine Bridgmann and Maria Aquino Acevedo need to be added. Matthew Mangum motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Leonard Love.

Motion unanimously accepted.

### **Administrative Update**

Provost Dr. O'Brien:

- Regarding Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity designation of specific courses resolution: There a number of courses that address equity already.
- There was a meeting with several provosts to create a list of what various campuses are doing in terms COVID related teaching. The coordinating board is leaving it up to universities for the rest of the year in terms of online versus face-to-face instruction. Dr. O'Brien is requesting feedback from the faculty senate executive team in reference to this.
- Upcoming fall semester: There will probably be the same process for the fall 2021 semester in terms of social distancing. It is advisable to err on the side of caution while also perhaps offering a few more face-to-face courses. President Teniente-Matson stated

that there seems to be more desire by students for asynchronous classes. There was a discussion around synchronous versus asynchronous teaching.

President Teniente-Matson:

- The president sent a Faculty Senate report to everyone.
- Strategic Planning:  
The task force for strategic planning has set the goal to complete it by December. An employee experience component was added because the University is also faculty centered, in addition to being student centered. Received student feedback yesterday pertaining to synchronous vs. asynchronous.
- Legislative session: Financial hearing/presentations will be made in person. The goal is to reverse expansion reduction.
- Enrollment is down in student credit hour production and head count. This is probably similar across the nation. Also, in terms of new transfer and freshmen students, enrollment is down in continuing students.
- The University exceeded its budget target, which is good news.
- Call for faculty fellow: good time to put faculty fellow out with the approval of the equity and inclusion course designation. Antiracist framework. How do we share and learn more about democracy and find a way to come back to democratic values and liberal education? Faculty are the most important to educate future students on democratic process.

### **Old Business**

- Update on Diversity Office ad hoc committee – James Finley reported that the committee held a teach-in last month. There is a recording that can be accessed and requested.
- Update on Evaluation of Chairs and Deans ad hoc committee – The committee needs to meet soon so there will be a usable evaluation process for the 2021 evaluation period.
- Update Faculty Handbook ad hoc committee – The committee is currently reviewing models used by other universities. There should also be a focus on also addressing professional track faculty. If there is feedback, please contact Matthew Mangum.

- Megan Wise de Valdez presented on the Ombudsperson ad hoc committee. The committee met for a brainstorming session to come up with some ideas as to the function of the Ombudsperson. For example, the person serving should be a tenured faculty member. A suggested process of selecting the Ombudsperson would be to seek applications that would be reviewed by faculty. Faculty would make recommendations to the president who will appoint the Ombudsperson. Some questions to be addressed are: Formal office? What training would they receive? Stipend and funding? Length of service? 2-3 year position? Time line: Proposal by March and have an Ombudsperson in place by the fall semester.

## **New Business**

### **Equity Course Designation**

- Vicky Elias presented on instituting equity courses and addressed the requirement of all students to complete 6 hours of course work designated as equity and inclusion courses.

The task force will be disbanded, and moving forward additional changes will be routed through the curriculum committee.

Leonard Love motioned to accept the resolution and to move forward with implementation; Matthew Mangum seconded the motion.

in favor: 18  
opposed: 0  
abstained: 0

The motion passed, and will be forwarded to the curriculum committee.

### **Removal of SRI Items**

- Removal of items from SRI forms that do not evaluate instruction (items 13-18).

Motion by Leonard Love, seconded by Bob Shelton to adopt this resolution;

in favor: 17  
opposed: 0  
abstained: 1

### **Memorandum of Understanding on Policy**

- Review of process for shared government. Working with provost and President on a draft in order to develop a formal process.

### **Announcements:**

American Association of University Professors (AAUP) - As per Daniel Delgado, a new chapter has been set up and an executive committee has been established. A new secretary is needed for the rest of this semester. The AAUP is focused on academic freedom as well as other areas. Membership provides access to different parts of the organization.

Academic Integrity Statements: Micayla Bean is working on academic integrity statement for the University.

1. Adjournment - 12:59pm.