

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2020
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

WebEx Link: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m90f7f191ddbe5be4352f122f846b856e>

In Attendance: Joseph Simpson, Claire Nolasco, Katherine Bridgman, James Finley, Sandra Lara, April Najjaj, Ho Huynh, Megan Wise de Valdez, Francesca Keith, Bob Shelton, Daniel Delgado, Thomas Beaumont, Keming Li, Gilbert Barrera, Smriti Bhatt, Kevin Barton, Leonard Love, Matthew Mangum, Young Kim, Rebekah Piper, Eunhye Kwon, Myriam Jimena Guerra, Maria Acevedo-Aquino, Jeremy Zuni, Aida Almanza

Meeting Call to Order: 11:33 am

Introduction of New Senators:

Department of Mathematical Physical Engineering Sciences – Dr. Bob Shelton
Department of Life Sciences – Dr. Ho Huynh

Edits to the Minutes:
Fix Mayor

Approval of Minutes: **Matthew Mangum** motioned to accept the minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by **Leonard Love**. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Approved: 26

Reject: 0

Abstained: 0

Administrative Update

Dr. O'Brien provided administrative updates:

- Proposal for a PhD in cyber security
- If faculty are in need of editing for proposals or manuscripts for top tier journals, contact the college dean and Dr. O'Brien.
- The Conversation - <https://theconversation.com/us>
- Spring classes will be likely be the same as this fall semester.
- TSI Compliance
- Remember to order your books for the spring semester

Dr. Teniente-Matson provided administrative updates:

- Dr. Matson's President Report is available for faculty.
- The Legislative Session will be critical this year. STEM-H (STEM – Health Education) is an area that will be a priority for our campus.

- Conversations around the 1/8 sales tax initiative for SA Workforce program.
- Positioning around various fundraising initiatives
- COVID-19 updates:
 - Our protocols are working
 - Looking at providing some additional study spaces
 - Looking at securing more outdoor areas for students to provide social distancing
 - The university portal is updated Wednesday by 12 noon with the latest information.

Old Business

Update on Diversity Office ad hoc committee

- James Finley provided the updates on this work:
- We held our first teach-in on October 28. My sincere thanks to Dr. Lara and Dr. Bridgman and Dr. Delgado for organizing the event. The goal was to show what sorts of work Diversity Offices can do and how different models can benefit university communities.
- Our three featured speakers were:
 - Dr. Julia Golden, Associate Dean of Students and Diversity and Inclusion, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services
 - Elma de Luna-Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Prairie View A&M University
 - Tiburcio Lince, Director of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Affairs, at Tarleton State University
- We had nearly 40 attendees, and a full slate of questions. We received a lot of responses to our surveys in the wake of the event. So, we are pleased that members of the University community are providing us with suggestions and ideas for what a Diversity Office on our campus could look like, what it could provide, how it could support our Mission and benefit the University community.
- On Nov. 18 at noon, we will host our second teach-in: “A Day in the Life of a Diversity Office,” with Director Lince from Tarleton State University. This will be focused on students.
- If you have any questions, please contact James Finley.

Updating the faculty handbook

Matthew Mangum made a motion to form an ad hoc committee from the executive committee and faculty development and research to draft the faculty handbook. Matthew Mangum agrees to serve as chair. **Megan Wise de Valdez** seconded the motion.

- Matthew Mangum will be the lead author for the faculty handbook project.
- Reviewing the current draft of the faculty handbook and provide input to Matthew and the committee that will be working on the first initial draft.
- Goal would be to have first draft by mid-March 2021 to present to Dr. O’Brien.

Favor: 18

Against:

Abstain:

New Business

SECC committee statement

- Dr. Amy Porter addressed the senate about the annual state employee charitable campaign www.secc texas.org.
- You can participate until November 20th but you will have to complete a paper form to participate. They are available in all college offices or you can contact a committee member for the form. The completed form will have to be submitted to:

Ms. Patricia Harris
Sr. Payroll Specialist
Payroll Services – Modular 107
1 University Way
San Antonio, TX 78224-3134

Evaluation of Chairs and Deans

Megan Wise de Valdez motioned to create an ad hoc committee with 1 faculty senator from each department and 1 non faculty senate faculty member from each department. Leonard Love seconded the motion.

Megan Wise de Valdez amended the motion to include 13 member committee made up of one senator from each department.

James Finley made a motion to open up committee membership to non-faculty senators as members of the ad hoc committee. Maria Acevedo seconded the motion.

- **Discussion on the committee work:**
 - Title for ad hoc committee: Evaluation of Deans and Chairs Committee
 - Chair selection process and evaluation of chairs annually
 - Identify a committee to work on the policies
 - Committee should survey faculty about what they want to see in the policy

Favor: 16

Against:

Abstain: 2

James Finley made a motion to require the committee to be chaired by a faculty senator.
Matthew Mangum seconded the motion.

Vote was a majority in Favor

Daniel Delgado made a motion to extend the Faculty Senate meeting by 10 minutes.
Leonard Love seconded the motion.

Megan Wise de Valdez amended the motion to include forming a committee to create the evaluation policies.

Favor: 20

Against:

Abstain:

Athletic Attendance and Reporting

- Ray Wooten presented information regarding the travel and competition attendance policy and academic/progress reporting for student athletes.
- Athletic Director, Darnell Smith discussed the importance of ensuring a clear process for building the procedures for athletic attendance and progress reporting.
- Stephen Sherman emphasized the importance of ensuring our students perform well in the classroom and graduate from their program.
- Any additional comments and/or concerns can be brought to the December meeting for discussion.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.