

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 5, 2021
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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

In Attendance: Joseph Simpson, Cynthia Matson, Sabina de Vries, Aida Almanza, Amanda Lindner, April Najjaj, Bob Shelton, Brenda Rowe, Chin-Yen Liu, Claire Nolasco, Daniel Delgado, Dawn Weatherford, Elizabeth Hasseler, Elizabeth Leyva, Ester Garza, Eun Kwon, Gary Coulton, Gilbert Barrera, Halbert Brown, Ho Huynh, Jackson Ayres, James Finley, Jennifer Wilson, Jenny Moore, Jeremy Zuni, Katherine Bridgman, Katherine Skrabanek, Keming Li, Leonard Love, Malin Lilley, Marion Baldassari, Martha Saywell, Matthew Mangum, Md Rahman, Megan Wise de Valdez, Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, Michael O'Brien, Myriam Jimena Guerra, Ray Kamps, Rebekah Piper, Sandra Lara, Sarah Pollock, Smriti Bhatt, Thomas Beaumont, Veronica Valdes, Vicky Elias, Wanda Leal, William Erickson, Young Rae Kim

Meeting was Called to Order: 11:31AM

Approval of Minutes: Megan Wise de Valdez motioned to approve the minutes. April Najjaj seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Approved: 19
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Administrative Updates:

Dr. O'Brien provided administrative updates:

- This impacts the coming fall semester: Last July the coordinating board sent a letter stating that the University can't use TSI scores as prerequisites. These prerequisites were removed from certain courses. Students now have to be admitted based on grade point average and the like. TSI scores are not being reported any longer. There are still courses that have TSI scores as a prerequisites for other courses. Hiring lecturers for supplemental instructions/courses to help students to be successful.

Dr. Teniente-Matson provided administrative updates:

- President Matson a ppt pertaining fiscal information. In the last 2 weeks the Texas Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriation committees have been meeting received a presentation of the progress the University has been making. The President submitted requests to restore the expansion funding and formula funding.

Asking for non formula funding for a new program in academic affairs; asking for \$7.5 million for health care initiatives targeting underrepresented communities impacted by COVID 19. Also requested funding for a new educational facility for Education and Public Health.

- Moving through the strategic planning process on March 8. There will be a dedicated feedback session for the senate.
- Campus came out of the freeze as well as it could have. Learning from the event for future adverse occurrences.
- Governors mandates: Board of Regents met Wednesday – so far there are no new direction from the Board. Expecting directions soon. The University will have some flexibility as to how courses are delivered and how.
- Vaccines: President Matson received a phone call from the system to identify persons that are eligible to receive vaccination. Working on becoming a vaccination distribution site.

Faculty Senate President – Joseph Simpson:

- Texas Council of Faculty Senates Update – Texas Council of Faculty Senate is one of the most active in the country. Recent meeting was informative - 60/30 project. Transfer credits between institution. House bill 40 requiring course sequences for degree plans. Working on addressing problem with Collin College. More information on that to come. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates meets every February and October.

Old Business

- Update on Diversity Office ad hoc committee – Met with President Matson. If there are contributions, please email James Finely. President's report on equity will come out soon.
- Update on Evaluation of Chairs and Deans ad hoc committee – Goal is to establish procedures for the next academic calendar cycle.
- Update Faculty Handbook ad hoc committee – Received feedback from major departments and compliance officer. Feedback from the HR department is pending. If anyone has feedback, please contact Matthew Mangum.
- Update on Ombudsman ad hoc committee – Presented on Ombuds person proposal. Discussions around the topic followed.

Megan Wise de Valdez motioned to extend time to discuss the topic, seconded by Leornard Love; discussion extended by 5 minutes.

Megan Wise de Valdez motioned to consider proposal to develop a faculty ombuds; the motion was seconded by Matthew Mangum.

Approve: 20

Reject: 0

Abstain:0

The motion carried. The proposal will be forwarded to the president's office.

New Business

- Statement on Challenges Facing BIPOC Faculty – Daniel Delgado presented on an anonymous letter received pertaining to challenges facing BIPOC faculty and staff. Daniel Delgado read important parts of the letter pertaining the challenges BIPOC faculty and staff face at the University. Discussions followed pertaining to the topic/letter.
- Announcements – no announcements
- Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.