

**Faculty Senate Special Session**  
**August 18, 2021**  
**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

<https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m7c87f934e1ff9adc43cac0980b071c28>

**In Attendance:** Joseph Simpson, María V. Acevedo-Aquino, Matthew Mangum, Aida Almanza, Alysha Mendez, Amanda Lindner, Amy Barrios, Amy Main, Amy Porter, Andrew Sanders, April Najjaj, Armando Tejada, Arturo Olague, Bob Shelton, Brandon Earwood, Brenda Rowe, Brian Brantley, Caroline O'Quinn, Cathrine O'Brien, Chin-Yen Liu, Daniel Delgado, Daniel Glaser, Donna Pazdera, Ruby Daniels, Drew Engelke, Elizabeth Hasseler, Elizabeth Leyva, Emily Bliss-Zaks, Eunhye Kwon, Gilbert Barrera, Ho Huynh, Hoyt Garner, Humberto Lara, Jackson Ayres, James Finley, Jennifer Wilson, Jess Reynolds, Jimena Guerra, John Scott, Jongil Lim, Justin Korver, Karen Kohler, Katherine Bridgman, Katherine Skrabanek, Keming Li, Kevin Barton, Kimberly Grotewold, Lisa Jennings, Liz Borda, Marcos Del Hierro, Marcus Palmer, Mariya Davis, Martha Saywell, Md Rahman, Megan Wise de Valdez, Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, Michele Zaldivar, Ray Kamps, Mike Spohn, Philis Barragan Goetz, Pru Morris, Robert Alonzo, Robert Vinaja, Rose Navaez, Sarah Dwyer, Sabina de Vries, Samuel Garcia, Sandra Lara, Sandy DeGrassi, Sarah Katz, Sarah Pollock, Scott Gage, Sonya Eddy, Stephen Lenz, Tamara Hinojosa, Tara Korzekwa, Temo Luna-Nevarez, Teresa Talerico, Thomas Beaumont, Tim Gritten, Vicky Elias, William Alley, William Kiser, Wanda Leal, Zechun Cao

**Meeting Called to Order at 4:03pm.**

Approval of Minutes: Matthew Mangum motioned to approve the minutes. Ho Huynh seconded the motion.

- Yes: 19
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

Several senators engaged in a conversation on who should be at the meeting. A dean was invited to leave the meeting. Ho Huynh James motioned for only faculty to be at the meeting. (Nullified)

- Yes: 11
- No: 4
- Abstain: 2

**Presidential Update by Joseph Simpson**

Dr. Simpson have met with the Provost and the President to talk about the system guidelines to ensure safety on campus. They discussed:

- Mandatory testing been implemented at College Station, Corpus Christi, Commerce, and Kingsville.
- TAMUSA requesting mandatory testing for students in housing, athletics, and families who were at Moving Day.

- UTSA announced their decision to go online during the first three weeks of the Fall semester.
- Alamo Colleague also moved their courses online during the first three weeks.
  - When Dr. Simpson asked if TAMUSA could move online, the answer was that the system would not approve it.
- City of San Antonio and Bexar County’s temporary injunction allowing mask mandate for public schools.
  - When Dr. Simpson asked why TAMUSA was excluded from the injunction, the answer was that the campus is out of the jurisdiction of City of San Antonio and Bexar County.
- Dr. Simpson also shared about the compelling emails he has received from faculty expressing their concerns regarding coming back to campus feeling unsupported by the administration. Some have considered leaving their jobs.

Katherine Skrabanek motioned to extend the meeting 20minutes. Daniel Delgado seconded the motion.

- Yes: 13
- No: 2
- Abstain: 1

### **Special Session Business**

James Finley introduced the resolutions by thanking the faculty for attending the meeting, and reminding the audience that the main purpose of the resolutions was to enact shared governance. He also explained that the resolutions were motivated by faculty feeling that their voices were not been heard, and that they were not involved in decision-making processes. No one should be coerced, according to Executive Order 38.

*Resolution 1 Resolution calling for faculty to be able to move courses online, hold online office hours, and attend meetings virtually*

- Katherine Bridgman read the resolution and motioned to approved the resolution as read. April Najjaj seconded motion.
- Discussion:
  - Gilbert Barrera argued that some students do not have adequate study places beyond the university. Therefore, those students want to be on campus.
  - Matthew Mangum requested clarification on the fourth bullet point: “Protecting faculty from institutional or public censure for decisions that they make regarding online options.”
  - Mathew Mangum presented a motion to amend the resolution by striking the fourth bullet point. The conversation led to a amendment to the bullet that elimitated the word “public” to emphasis institutional censure. Gilbert Barrera seconded.
    - Yes 7
    - No 15
    - Abstain 1

- Mathew Mangum motioned a second amendment the resolution, which consisted in adding “except as required by law to the third bullet point. Bob Shelton seconded the motion.
  - Yes: 12
  - No: 7
  - Abstain: 1
- Joseph Simpson called the motion to a vote.
  - Yes: 16
  - No: 2
  - Abstain: 1

*Resolution 2 Resolution to ensure that students, faculty, and staff have the option to practice social distancing in classroom and other university settings*

- Daniel Delgado read the resolution and motioned to approve as read. April Najjaj seconded it.
- Discussion:
  - A few comments regarding the importance of the resolution and acknowledging its clear message.
  - Katherine Bridgman motioned to vote on the resolution as read. Matthew Mangum seconded the motion.
    - Yes 20
    - No 0
    - Abstain 1

*Resolution 3 Resolution to initiate a mandatory testing protocol with repercussions for faculty, staff, and students who do not participate and to incentivize vaccination on campus*

- Katherine Bridgman read the resolution and motioned to approve as read. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion.
- Discussion:
  - Megan Wise de Valdez pointed to issues related to: a false sense of security, high number of false-positive results and their implications, the potential saturation of the testing centers, coersing people to get tested, and a lack of alignment between Resolution 2 and Resolution 3.
  - Matthew Mangum discussed potential issues with the constitution, the ADA, and religious entities.
  - Ho Huynh and Bob Shelton argued that the resolution was too far out and unrealistic to implement.
  - Katherine Skrabanek discussed the weekly testing on students (housing and athletics), and OGC services.
  - Joseph Simpson called the motion to a vote.
    - Yes 6
    - No 12
    - Abstain 1

Katherine Bridgman motioned to extend the meeting 15 minutes. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion.

- Yes 13

- No 3
- Abstain 0

*Resolution 4 Resolution calling for local institutional control over COVID-19-related decisions*

- James Finley read the resolution and motioned to approve as read. Megan Wise de Valdez seconded the motion.
- Discussion:
  - Senators listed other institutions that has approved similar resolutions: College Station, UT Dallas, Houston
  - Kim Grotewold motioned to vote on the resolution as read. Katherine Bridgman seconded the motion.
    - Yes 20
    - No 0
    - Abstain 1

**Announcements**

- Joseph Simpson explained that the passing resolutions were going to be shared with the President and the Provost, as well as the Faculty Senate's position regarding mandated testing. In response to a question by James Finley, Joseph Simpson clarified that the passing resolutions are public. Therefore, they can be shared widely.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.**