Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of April 11, 2017

ITEM 1. Call to order … Faculty Senate President Elena Izquierdo called the Faculty Senate to order on April 11, 2017 at 2:03 PM in the Blumberg Auditorium of the UTEP Library.

ITEM 2. Determination of Quorum was made by President Izquierdo, who called for a motion to seat the alternative members. That motion was made by Hector Morales, and seconded by Charles Spencer. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Consent Agenda: President Izquierdo called for a motion to approve the March 7, 2017 Senate Meeting minutes. The motion to accept these minutes was made by Hector Morales and seconded by Judith Fourzan. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4. Acceptance or Modification of Agenda. President Izquierdo request the agenda to be modified to accommodate a simultaneously occurring meeting elsewhere. The reports from the Executive Council and Academic Policy Committees would be first, followed by the Presentation on the UTEP Edge initiative, and then the report from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Presentation from the Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA. The motion approving the modified agenda was made by Jim Holcomb, and seconded by Richard Langford.

ITEM 5. Announcements. None made at this point in the agenda (see below).

ITEM 6. Reports of Standing or Special Committees (Part 1 of 2)

Executive Council (Elena Izquierdo)
Degree Conferral authorization to administration for Spring Commencement 2017 was read to the faculty, with a motion to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Academic Policy Committee (Meagan R. Kendall, Chair)
The report of the APC (dated April 7, 2017) consisted of two parts: 1) a presentation for purposes of informing the Senate as to University Space Allocation policy and answering questions about that policy, and 2) ostensibly an action item administratively creating two new business major designations.

Part 1: Chairman Kendall briefed the Senate using the “Instructional Space Scheduling Guidelines” document from the Provost’s office, posted electronically the Senate meeting materials for today. Amanda Vasquez (AVP for Enrollment Services) was present, and answered questions from the floor. The document is policy-dense, and covers many issues regarding room usage capacities and prioritization for allocating classroom space. The base decisions, however, derive from a Space Usage Efficiency (SUE) score. Carl Lieb questioned what were the specific details for SUE the calculation, as the Space Resource Information Office website alluded to in the document did not provide them. Marc Cox, the previous Senate President present in the audience, interjected that the actual algorithm for creating the SEU score was proprietary, and his attempts to render them transparent during his Presidency were thus
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foiled. Amanda Vasquez responded that information on the SEU was indeed available now. She outlined the three criteria involved in the SEU calculation: actual classroom and teaching laboratory space requested per section, the demand for the space based upon classroom section saturation, and a “fill rate” that assigns points based on what percentage of the space was being used at various points leading up to Census Day. Next, Rip Langford inquired about pairing classes that sequentially meet with different instructors (but the same students), so that they are not held in different classrooms in different parts of the campus. Amanda Vasquez responded that this arrangement could be worked out, but such requests would need to be individually handled through the departmental chair and departmental scheduling coordinator. Carl Lieb additionally complained about more and more classes being offered at non-standard times, and these practices were impacting the schedules of students taking classes outside of their home department. Moreover, when he tried to verify what the current official times were via the link in the Instructional Space Scheduling Guidelines document, he could not get the link to work. Amanda Vasquez said the link worked for her earlier that day, but its operation could not demonstrated on the spot to the Senate. *The APC requested this part of their report (University Space Allocation) be reviewed the Senate, but no specific action was requested.*

**Part 2: Creation of two new business major designations.** There were two components to this proposal. The first was a new major designation of “Conditional Admission (CBUS)” for students seeking admission to the College of Business Administration, but who had not completed a series of general education courses. The new major replaced the current pre-business designation of PBUS. The second component requested elevation of the current International Business concentration of the General Business major to a distinct major field. Both of these proposals from COBA reflect purely administrative actions, and are apparently subject to direct approval by the Texas Higher Education Control Board without going through any local curriculum approval process. *The APC reviewed the matter as a policy proposal, presented the changes to the Senate as described here without requesting specific approval by the Senate as an action item.*

**ITEM 7. Presentation: The UTEP Edge,** by Marc Cox and Erika Mein.

The UTEP Edge presentation provided an overview of the burgeoning initiatives and opportunities being “rolled out” during the coming months, and especially this coming fall. Most of the discussion following the presentation was about the current and potential future faculty involvement in the meeting of the objectives of the Edge initiative.

**ITEM 8. Reports of Standing Committees (Part 2 of 2)**

**Undergraduate Curriculum Committee** (Kyle Johnson, Committee member)
The results of two meetings of the UGCC were presented separately. Apparently, the second meeting was held in response to a tabled item at the first meeting. The motion for approval, however, was for both reports together as a single action item.

*UGCC Report for meeting of March 20, 2017*

A. College of Liberal Arts

1. **Department of Psychology** - Addition of a new lower division course, Introductory Neuroscience (PSYC 2324). The new course will provide a foundation of neuroscience knowledge that supports upper division courses.
2. **Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS) Program** – Changes were proposed to the Undergraduate Catalogue, mostly of an editorial nature to remove outdated and redundant passages, and to render explicit current practices and policies.

3. **Department of Theatre and Dance** – Changes to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance. The changes include deletion of DANC 1151 (Dance Performance) with DANC 1022 (Dance Theatre Lab) now in use for the BA degree in Dance, and removal of one semester MUSA 1269 (Piano Class A) or two semesters MUSA 1151 (University Chorus) from the degree plan, as these have now been functionally replaced by DANC 3331 (Music for Dancers). The upper division Dance Performance (DAN 3151) course was retained as BFA practicum courses.

B. **College of Business Administration**

1. **Department of Marketing and Management** – Curriculum changes in the Human Resource Management (HRM) concentration. The degree requirements for the concentration were changed away from a single required course (MGMT 3311, Introduction to HRM) and a menu electives drawn from MGMT and upper division business courses to a more prescriptive set of requirements that included laboratory courses to accompany Introduction to HRM (MGMT 3312A) and to Compensation/Employee Benefits (MGMT 4337, lab MGMT 3312). Also included in the new degree plan was the conversion of nine credits drawn from a menu of four 3-credit courses, to the inclusion of all four 3-credit courses (MGMT 3315, 4304, 4315, and 4337) into a the new suite of required courses with the above lecture/lab offerings.

2. **Department of Economics and Finance** – Modification of perquisites to FIN 4311A (Managerial Finance Laboratory). This proposal would reduce the current prerequisite of “C or better” in FIN 3310 (Business Finance) for enrollment in FIN 4311A to a minimum grade of “D.” A minimum grade of “D” is already required in FIN 4311A for FIN 4330 (Managerial Finance), and thus this change would be a consistent application of the prerequisite for both courses.

3. **Department of Accounting and Information Systems** – Prerequisite changes and catalogue course descriptions for ACCT 2301 (Principles of Accounting I), ACCT 2302 (Principles of Accounting II), and QBM 2301 (Fundamentals of Business Statistics). This request is to add “Department Approval” to the current prerequisites for each of the three courses, and to include this catalogue language for each into the course description: “2.25 or higher GPA required for entry into this course.”

C. **College of Engineering**

1. **Department of Electrical Engineering** – Twelve itemized revisions to the BS in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) curriculum: (1) As requested by the ABET accrediting body, educational objectives, departmental vision and mission, and descriptions of departmental concentrations were updated for the University Catalogue. Additionally, new concentrations in Biomedicine, and in Power and Energy, were added. (2) In concert with the above changes to the catalogue and other curriculum alterations and explanations in inherent in this proposal package, the BSEE degree plan was also updated. (3) Expansion of Math and Science
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block, currently consisting of CHEM 1305 (General Chemistry), to also include BIOL 1305 (General Biology) and MATH 2300 (Discrete Mathematics). (4) Revision of catalogue descriptions to EE 2350 (Circuits I) and EE 2351 (Circuits II) to reflect current content enhancements and distribution of topics. (5) Add the prerequisite of CS 1320 (Computer Programming Sci/Engr) to EE 2382 (Software Design I), and use CS 1320 to satisfy core curriculum block 9 instead of COMM 1302 (Business and Professional Communication). (6) Changes in current prerequisites to EE 4220 (Senior Project Laboratory) to streamline course sequence needed for graduation and enhance capstone course design. Specifically, replacement of EE 3329 (Fundamentals of Semiconductor Devices) as a prerequisite, and replacing it with CE 2326 (Economics for Engineers and Scientists) and EE 3325 (Applied Quantum Mechanics for EE). Also a cosmetic change to the title of EE 4220 to “Senior Project Lab I” in order to be consistent with the current title with its companion course, EE 4230 (Senior Project Lab II). (7) Removal of EE 3329 (Fundamentals of Semiconductor Devices) as a prerequisite for EE 4230 (Senior Project Lab II) in the interest of streamlining the curriculum sequence to graduation. (8) Creation of two new lab courses, EE 3154 (Laboratory to accompany EE 3354, Introduction to Communication Networks) and EE 4185 (laboratory to accompany EE 4385, Biomedical Instrumentation), plus modification to the prerequisites and co-requisites in the two lecture courses involved. (9) Creation of three Undergraduate Research courses, EE 3194, EE 3294, and EE 4394. (10) Creation of undergraduate lab research courses in Service Learning, EE 3193 and EE 4193. (11) Creation of an undergraduate lab research course, EE 4195 (Special Laboratory Topics in Electrical Engineering). (12) Creation of a practicum course in EE, EE 4396 (Practicum in Electrical and Computer Engineering).

D. College of Science

1. Department of Geological Sciences – Changes to the BS in Geophysics concordant with THECB’s reinstatement of the B.S. in Geophysics, specifically the addition of five new courses [course numbers yet to be allocated]: Introduction to Geophysics (GEOP 33XX-A), Data Interpretation in the Geosciences (GEOP 33XX-B), Applied Geophysics I – Non-seismic (GEOP 44XX-A), Applied Geophysics II – Seismic (GEOP 44XX-B), Field Geophysics (GEOP 43XX).

2. Department of Biological Sciences – Changes to BS degree in Biological Sciences, specifically the Secondary Education Minor degree plan directed toward Grade 7-12 Science Concentration certification. The changes allow for the addition of BIOL 2311-211 (Human Anatomy/Physiology I) and Physics 1404 (General Physics II), and, in order to accommodate the addition of the latter, perforse decreases the upper division credit hours in BIOL, MICR, or ZOOL by three credits. The degree plan still requires 42 credit hours upper division courses, however.

UGCC Report for Meeting of April 10, 2017

A. College of Business

1. Department of Economics and Finance – Proposal of new concentration in Risk Management within the BBA-Finance major. This proposal was tabled at the 20
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March UGGC meeting, but was taken up again at this special UGCC session so that additional stakeholders could be consulted. The new program would focused on integrating actuarial sciences with business knowledge and skills. Two changes were made by the UGCC to the original proposal: a) changing the original name from a concentration in “actuarial science” to “risk management” (as the similarly-named program exists in the College of Science, Department of Mathematics), and to hold off listing the specific supporting faculty from Mathematics in the proposal now going forward.

SENATE ACTION: Both of these reports and their contents (UGCC meetings of 20 March and 10 April were approved unanimously with no discussion.

ITEM 9: Presentation: Annual Report to the Senate by the Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA (Steve Aley). The report summarized the general duties and activities of our NCAA representative as they pertain to student athletes, and provided current data. It was emphasized to the Senate that any perceived problems or issues with respect to student athletes could be addressed directly to the Representative.

ITEM 10: Announcement: The next Senate Meeting will on May 2, 2017 so as to avoid conflict with final examination week.

ITEM 8. Old or Unfinished Business: None

ITEM 9. New Business: None

There being no further business before the Senate, President Izquierdo entertained a motion to adjourn. That motion so made by Hector Morales and seconded by Jose Maria Herrera. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.