ITEM 1. **Call to order:** Faculty Senate President Elena Izquierdo called the Faculty Senate to order on March 7, 2017 at 3:03 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 Lisa Hennessey, and seconded by Caroline Arruda. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. **Consent Agenda:** President Izquierdo called for a motion to approve the February 14, 2017 Senate Meeting minutes. The motion to accept these documents was made by Ben Brunner and seconded by Diane Monsivais. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4. **Acceptance or Modification of Agenda:** There being no modifications to the agenda as electronically posted, President Izquierdo called for a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was made by Shane Walker, and seconded by Jose Maria Herrera.

ITEM 5. **Announcements:** President Izquierdo announced that the B.S. degree in Rehabilitation Sciences that was approved by the Senate through the special December meeting process was now an official degree offering for the Fall.

ITEM 6. **Reports of Standing or Special Committees:**

**Executive Council (Elena Izquierdo)**

President Izquierdo presented two items on behalf of the Senate Executive Council. First, she reported on the UT-System’s Dual Credit Site Visit that took place over March 2-3, an event that was an overall success. The next site visit will likely be from the Regents’ Faculty Advisory Council’s Faculty Governance group.

The second item coming before the Senate via the Executive Council was an action item from the School of Pharmacy (SOP) that would require Senate approval for significant change to the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (the “HOOP”). The proposal was first introduced by President Izquierdo, who then turned the podium over to Amanda Loya (assisted by Jeri Seris and Fadi Khasawneh) from the SOP who made a power point proposal that reviewed the history of the program and the current situation needing remedy. UTEP’s School Pharmacy received funding for a free-standing professional pharmacy doctorate (“Pharm D” program) from the Texas Legislature for the 2016-17 biennium, a program that was subsequently approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October of 2016. The SOP is now seeking accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), a body that is insisting that the program be autonomous with respect to “curriculum and academic policies” of the regular UTEP Faculty Governance mechanisms. Such autonomy is not a trivial matter for the institution, and will require a specific section of UTEP’s HOOP to be amended for the Pharm D program. These amendments, however, carry potential unintended consequences, especially for other professional degree (e.g., the Physical Therapy Program).

Nevertheless, the UTEP’s Pharm D program is essentially being held hostage by the accrediting agency; it will not be accredited unless this prescription for autotomy is granted by the institution. The SOP does not intend to be divorced from the policies or operations of UTEP faculty governance, and expects
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to be engaged and participating therein. However, where specific curricular or policy issues are in conflict, the SOP will be obligated to follow the ACPE policies instead of the Senate’s (or for that matter, those of the UTEP administration). UTEP’s Graduate Council was consulted about this proposal from the SOP, and, as the Pharm D is not a “graduate program” in the usual sense and is not awarding a “graduate degree,” the Graduate Council is apparently on board with it. After a lengthy discussion, including an acknowledgment that the changes being made to the HOOP might well create problems that the Senate will later have to address, the motion for approval of proposal was put forward as coming from the Executive Council. The approval motion passed by vote of the Senate members present with one “nay” vote and one abstention.

Academic Policy Committee (Meagan R. Kendall)
The report of the Academic Policy Committee was an action item proposing revisions to the University Catalogue concerning the “Traditional” Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The proposal had three components: a) removal of all “pre-nursing” nomenclature from the application and admissions verbiage in the Catalogue; b) creation of a three-phase admissions process, with phase one and two associated with students desiring admittance to the BSN program, and step three encompassing the requirements of the BSN program itself; and c) the increasing of the minimum GPA required for phase two from 2.5 to 3.0. After discussion, the motion to approve this report/action item was unanimously approved.

Teaching Effectiveness and Development Committee (Laura Rodriguez)
The Committee’s report was centered on adding three questions to the existing 10-question “student evaluation of faculty” instrument:
- “The instructor provided timely feedback as defined by the syllabus”
- “I felt involved in the learning process throughout the course”
- “I was able to locate and use course materials easily”

A great deal of discussion occurred, with numerous changes to the wording of the questions offered from the Senate floor. The major theme of these proposed alterations was to ensure the questions could and would apply to equally on-line, face-to-face, and hybrid offerings. The Committee Chair absorbed these comments, and offered to return to the Senate with revised versions for the April meeting. The report as is, was not offered as an action item.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Jose Maria Herrera)
The Chair of the UGCC not being present, this item was moved from the published meeting agenda to the end of the Standing Committee reports. In lieu of tabling this action item, Jose Maria Herrera, a Senator who is also a member of the Committee, generously volunteered to give the report. The UGCC had met on 13 February 2017 and approved the following items:

A. College of Liberal Arts

1. Department of Theatre and Dance – Proposed changes to course type for Dance Technique Studio (SPIN) to lecture-lab (LCLB) classification, because the former does not generate an end-of-term instructor evaluation.

2. New Degree: Bachelor of Arts and Applied Sciences – This new degree will accommodate students coming to UTEP with Associate’s degrees in Applied Science to complete the B.A. degree at UTEP without significant loss of technical credits taken elsewhere that otherwise do not fall into existing UTEP degree programs.
B. College of Business Administration  
   1. Department of Accounting –  
      a. Establishment of a Minor in Accounting for business students with a major 
         other than the Bachelor’s of Business Administration (BBA). Required courses for 
         the minor would include ACCT 3321, ACCT 3322, ACCT 3323, and ACCT 3327. 
      b. Addition of ACCT 5327 (Internal Auditing) to the Fast Track BBA-MACC program. 
      c. Elimination of the pre-requisite of ACCT 3321 for Accounting Systems 
         (ACCT 3321). 

C. College of Engineering  
   1. Department of Civil Engineering – Proposed changes to the B.S. in Construction 
      Engineering and Management, specifically the addition of CE 2373, CE 4188, and 
      CE 4288 to the curriculum, and the removal of CE 2377 and MGMT 3303. The 
      changes are being made to an ABET accreditation review conducted this semester. 

D. College of Science  
   1. Department of Geological Sciences – This proposal outlined the basic components of 
      the Fast-track path for the Department. It proposed inclusion of all their 5000 level 
      GEOL courses except Graduate Research for dual credit towards a fast-track path to an 
      advanced degree, with up to 15 credits being applied to the advanced degree, and a 
      minimum of 3.5 GPA for undergraduates to participate. 

The above report of the UGCC, with all its items intact, was approved unanimously by the Senate. 

ITEM 7. Presentations:  There were no presentations for this meeting. However, President Izquierdo 
advised the Senate that the April meeting will have a presentation by David Ruiter and Louie Rodriguez 
on “The UTEP Edge.” 

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 Jose Maria Herrera and seconded by Ben Flores. The meeting 
was adjourned at 4:12 PM. 

Minutes drafted by Carl Lieb, Senate Parliamentarian.  
Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of March 7, 2017