Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of September 12, 2017

ITEM 1. Call to order … Faculty Senate President Elena Izquierdo called the Faculty Senate to order on September 12, 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 Maria Amaya and seconded by Hector Morales. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Consent Agenda: President Izquierdo called for a motion to approve the July 11, 2017 Senate Meeting minutes. The motion to accept these documents was made by Laird Smith and seconded by Caroline Arruda. 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 Arturo Olivas, and seconded by Hector Morales.

ITEM 5. Announcements: President Izquierdo reminded the Senate of the following upcoming events:

A) The Faculty Senate Retreat on Friday of the following week, 22 September
B) The upcoming faculty evaluation of Administrators, March 2-23rd. She briefly explained the process involved, and answered questions from the floor about it.
C) The UT System Governance Team visit to the campus on October 12.

ITEM 6. Reports of Standing or Special Committees

Executive Council … Elena Izqueirdo, President

A) Degree conferral resolution: The Senate was offered a change in the language of the Senate’s Degree Conferral resolution that would make such a resolution necessary only once per academic year, instead of twice a year (November and April) prior to the Fall and Spring Commencement ceremonies. The new language was unanimously approved by the Senate, and followed by a second vote to approve such a resolution for the present academic year (2017-2018).

B) Membership of the General Faculty: Faculty are eligible for election to the Senate if they are “Members of the General Faculty” and meet qualifications described in the Senate’s By-Laws. The Senate was reminded that non-tenure track, full-time instructors may thus represent their academic units on the Senate under these rules, although there is a process involved that goes through the academic dean and provost. Individuals interested should check with their home Departments as to how to proceed.

C) Proposed Regents Rule (RR) 31006: The Senate was notified that the Executive Committee has requested input from selected faculty individuals concerning the proposed action by the UT System Regents to revise its Faculty Workload policy and
associated reporting requirements. The Senate will be appraised of this policy’s
development as it works its way through the UT System.

D) New Faculty Senate Officer: The Senate Secretary elected at the July meeting for the
current academic year was not able to serve as planned, and the Executive Committee
offered as a replacement Shane Walker (College of Engineering) in lieu of conduction
a new election. The Senate approved this replacement action.

Nominating Committee … (Carl Lieb, member)
The Nominating Committee (composed of the previous three Senate Presidents), recommends to
the Senate potential members of the Senate’s Committee on Committees. Three nominees were
proposed in this report, an action that would bring this Committee to full strength. These
nominees were unanimously approved by the Senate.

Committee on Committees … (Carl Lieb, outgoing Chair)
All other recommendations and nominations to Standing Committees (other than the above) go
through the Committee on Committees, as assisted by the Senate Vice-President. The majority of
the appointments take place at the start of the academic year, and those made today would serve
for three-year terms ending August, 2020. The Committee’s report for this Senate meeting
ominated twenty-three individuals over eleven different committees; these were approved
unanimously.

Academic Policy Committee … (Meagan V. Kendell, Chair)
Four Action Items for the Senate were presented and subsequently acted upon individually.

A) From the School of Nursing, proposed changes to the Undergraduate Catalogue for
the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). These revision would support the
following actions: 1) raising the minimum composite score for the Text of Essential
Academic Skills (TEAS) to meet the national mean; 2) offering an additional attempt
(from two to three tries) to students to pass the TEAS; 3) changing the initialism
TEAS-V (indicating a 5th version) to simply “TEAS” so that the Catalogue did not
have to changed when new versions appeared; 4) changes to the Traditional BSN
Option Application process; and 5) changes to the Traditional BSN Option
Admissions process. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Senate.

B) From the College of Science, a proposal to make mandatory the insertion of section-
specific descriptive names for all UTEP Special Topics courses. This proposal would
provide content indications on all UTEP Special Topics courses, Special Problems
courses, and Independent Study courses, labels what would appear on the student’s
subsequent transcript as for resume-enhancing documentation purposes. The
application of these descriptive names would need to be placed in BANNER by the
action of the individual faculty in many cases. The ensuing discussion raised
concerning the burden the proposal might place on faculty, and on its broad sweep.
The major sticking point was on the specific application to courses involving
individualized student research projects that did not meet as organized classes (e.g,
classes meeting as a group with specific meeting times governed by a common
syllabus and engaging in a fixed set of course objectives). A motion to table the
proposal was made, ending the discussion and forcing a Vote to Table (which the
Faculty Senate of the University of Texas at El Paso

Senate approved). It is expected the proposal will be re-worked to include only “organized” classes, and will be re-submitted to the Senate.

C) From the Student Government Association (SGA), concerning a resolution passed by the SGA in October of 2016 to support the “recognition and celebration” of Indigenous Peoples Day in lieu of Columbus Day. The concept and resolution was presented by representatives of the SGA, who seemed to be seeking approval of the resolution by the Senate. A lively yet sympathetic discussion followed, mostly around the issue that the proposal coming out of the Academic Policy Committee was not really a “policy” per se, and perhaps not subject to “approval” by the Faculty Senate.

The conclusion reached was that the Senate was not in a position to approve a day of recognition, although a vote of the Senate was taken that supported the efforts of the students in this regard.

D) From the College of Liberal Arts, a request to change the Undergraduate Catalogue language associated with Minors in Secondary Education. These changes would clarify the Secondary Education Minor requirements in Liberal Arts degree plans intended to lead to certification for teaching in secondary schools (grades 7-12), and to make clear the respective roles in this process played by the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education.

This item was unanimously approved by the Senate.

ITEM 7. Presentations: Dr. Dania Brandford-Calvo, the new Executive Director of International Programs and Study Abroad introduced herself to the Senate and briefly described her plans for the program.

The scheduled presentation by Tina Garza on SECC was postponed until the Oct. 10, meeting.

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 Ana Schwartz, and seconded by Jennifer Clifton. The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.