Faculty Senate of the University of Texas at El Paso

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of October 9, 2018

ITEM 1. Call to order Faculty Senate (FS) President Sandor Dorgo called the Faculty Senate to order on October 9, 2018 at 3:04 PM in the Blumberg Auditorium of the UTEP Library.

ITEM 2. Determination of Quorum was made by President Dorgo, who called for a motion to seat the alternate members. That motion was made by Richard Langford (Science) and seconded by Randie Bossie (Liberal Arts). The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Consent Agenda: President Dorgo called for a motion to approve the September 10, 2018 FS Meeting minutes. The motion to accept these documents was made by Luis Contreras (Engineering), and seconded by Hugo Gutierrez (Science). The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4. Acceptance or Modification of Agenda There being no modifications to the agenda as electronically posted, President Dorgo called for a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was made by Ana Schwartz (Liberal arts) and seconded by Brian Yothers (Liberal arts). The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5. Announcements:
   A. President Dorgo
      a. Reminded FS members that we are still trying to ensure that all departments have their elected FS representatives. He also informed members that at the end of the year, he will communicate with chairs regarding attendance of representatives of the FS meetings. If a member is not attending regularly and/or missing meetings without an excused absence, their department may choose to elect a new senator.
      b. Asked the senators to share senate business and website with their colleagues, and to communicate regularly with them on senate matters.
      c. Reminded Senators that Convocation is Thursday, October 11, 2:00 pm, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall, and that it is the last one for Dr. Natalicio. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
      d. State Employee Charitable Campaign ends October 31st. There is soccer challenge with deans involved on Fridays. It was again noted that most of the donations were from the staff.
      e. Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution approached President Dorgo regarding their need of Hearing Officers. Only tenured faculty are eligible, and there is shortage at UTEP. Each department should have at least one representative. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please email President Dorgo. There was a question as to whether we can invite OSCCR to the FS meeting to give a presentation. President Dorgo agreed to invite them at a future meeting.
      f. President Dorgo showed/shared the link regarding the Senate’s Presidential Search – online faculty survey (https://utep.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3dv8wc4BuYxseOF), which is due October 12. We have 53 responses so far, but we have to keep in mind that we have a couple of thousand faculty at UTEP. We will identify emerging themes from the survey data, construct a letter, and send to (Steve Leslie) chair of the Search Committee as the faculty’s view regarding the qualities of the future president.
      g. President Dorgo provided update on Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) meeting, which was held in Austin, October 4-5, which includes around 30 individuals who represent the 14 UT System institutions. The agenda of FAC is uploaded to Senate website,
along with President Dorgo’s notes from the meeting. President Dorgo went over some of the key points from his notes (please see document for details), including the Field of Study Curricula issue. The link to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Field of Study Curricula is http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=7D02BA60-18B8-11E8-A6640050560100A9.

ITEM 6. Reports of Standing or Special Committees

A. Committee on Committees report. On behalf of the chair of the committee M/ Duarte, President Dorgo presented the nominees to fill vacancies on various committees (see attachment). Motion was made to have nominees appointed. A correction was made to the name of one of the nominees (Dr. Laura Gonzales name (from Liberal Arts) who is to serve on Undergraduate Curriculum Committee). The motion passed unanimously.

B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The chair is Jose Maria Herrera. Since the September 10 agenda item from this committee was tabled, it was discussed at today’s meeting. The chair went over the business items and what the committee has put forth for approval by the FS (see attachment(s)). The chair made the motion and the motion passed unanimously. As for the committee’s October meeting, the chair again went over the business items and what they have put forth for approval by the FS (see attachment). The chair made the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Workload Policy working group and the Faculty Senate Executive Council, Workload Policy document. President Dorgo shared with the FS that the faculty workload group reviewed all comments received from faculty regarding the draft policy, and that revisions were made to address these concerns. He also shared with FS that a document (FAQ) was also posted on the FS website that describes the major themes of the concerns faculty expressed (see attachment). Dr. Wiebe was asked and he provided a summary of some of the key issues identified. There was a concern regarding the statement “shall teach a load equivalent to 15 semester credit hours of organized undergraduate courses”. It was clarified that this was added to ensure there is a level of equity across faculty at UTEP, and was based on input gathered electronically and via forums. There was discussed whether the policy can be modified/amended, and it was agreed/decided that this will not be possible as the policy is up for a “Yes” or “No” vote. If it is voted down, we are “stuck” with the old “18 TLC” policy until a revision or a new policy is introduced.

The vote was called, and the tally was as follows: Yes: 42, No: 4, and Abstain: 4. The policy is approved by majority vote by FS.

ITEM 7. Presentations: Tabled due to lack of time.

ITEM 8. Old or Unfinished Business: Tabled due to lack of time.

ITEM 9. New Business:

a. Faculty Titles proposal. Tabled due to lack of time.

ITEM 10. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Senate, President Dorgo entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Ana Schwartz (Liberal arts) and seconded by Luis Contreras (Engineering). The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.