**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**

**FACULTY SENATE**

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3pm

Login at 2:45 pm to make sure we start on time and have quorum

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**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/84601878352?pwd=Yk9QRE51NkxUSlNxdEhsUitOWHR0QT09>

**Meeting ID: 846 0187 8352**

**Passcode: 6fi2YVQw**

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order** – Gina Núñez-Mchiri, Faculty Senate President, opening statement
2. **Determination of a Quorum and the seating of Alternates-** Vladik Kreinovich
3. **Consent Agenda:** Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes (Feb. 2021 minutes)-Andrew Fleck
4. **Acceptance or Modification of the Agenda**
5. **Announcements**
6. Provost Wiebe (outage, faculty development leaves, faculty travel)
7. Land Recognition statement will be presented in May meeting
8. Report on the list of questions generated in the Feb. 2021 listening session, recommend faculty include their input/feedback on the COACHE survey at: https://www.utep.edu/provost/faculty/coache.html

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

A. Curriculum Committee report – Art Duval, Committee Chair – **NOTE proposals included below**

B. Student Welfare Committee- Areli Chacon-Silva

C. Undergraduate Scholarship Committee- Daniel Pastor

D. Student Grievance Committee- Daniel Tillman

E. Academic Policy Committee- Omar Badreddin **– NOTE proposal included below**

F.Information Technology Committee- Eric Freudenthal

G. Any other committee reports?

**7. Presentation/Discussion**

A. Guest faculty housing- Raymond Gordon- Residential Life

B. Student and Faculty requests for S/U option

**8. Old or Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

**10. Adjournment.**

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**Next Faculty Senate Meeting: May 11, 2021 via Zoom**

**UTEP Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Minutes**

**Meeting Agenda**

**April 5, 2020**

**I. Call to order**

**Meeting was called to order by A. Duval at 3:01 p.m.**

**II. Members present:**

\_\_ Tracey Merworth, School of Nursing

\_x\_ Andrew Fleck, College of Lib Arts

\_x\_ Vinod Kumar, College of Engineering

\_x\_ Hettie Houghton, College of Business

\_\_ Emre Umucu, College of Health Sciences

\_x\_ Rey Reyes, College of Education

\_x\_ Art Duval, College of Science

\_x\_ Jose Herrera, College of Education, At-Large

\_x\_ James Salvador, College of Science, At-Large

\_\_ Lori Acosta, School of Nursing, At-Large

\_x\_ Daniel Vasquez, Student Member

\_\_ Dominic Kelly, Student Member

**III. Visitors present:**

Dr. Virgilio Gonzalez, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jaymi Wilson, El Paso Community College

Rachel Ortega, El Paso Community College

Dr. Carina Heckert, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Dr. Luc Longpre, Department of Computer Science

Dr. Sai Mounika Errapotu, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Yuanrui Sang, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Guillermina Gina Nunez-Mchiri, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Toni Blum, Office of the Provost

Dr. Julie Rivera, Office of the Provost

Enid Martin, Office of Admissions and Recruitment

**IV. Old Business:**

**A. Minutes from March 1, 2021 meeting, approved by online vote on March 3, 2021**

**Motion passes/fails ( 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**

**B. Policy Changes:**

**C. Tabled Items:**

**V. New Business:**

1. **College of Liberal Arts**
2. **Department of Sociology and Anthropology**
3. **Proposal: Course Description Changes**
4. **Action Item: Change catalog descriptions of ANTH 1301 (Intro to Physical Anthropology/Archaeology), ANTH 1302 (Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology), SOCI 1301 (Introduction to Sociology), ANTH 1310 (Cultural Geography), GEOG 1310 (Cultural Geography), SOCI 1310 (Cultural Geography). (ANTH 1310, GEOG 1310, and SOCI 1310 are identical courses.)**
5. **Rationale: Revised course descriptions better align with the College of Liberal Arts’ goal of working toward racial justice.**
6. **Motion to approve made by Herrera, seconded by Kumar. Motion passes ( 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**
7. **College of Engineering**
8. **Department of Computer Science**
9. **Proposal: Computer Science Database Management course description update**
10. **Action Item: Change catalog course description of CS 4342 (Data Base Management)**
11. **Rationale: In Fall 2018, this course became required in the B.S. in Computer Science degree plan. In that process, the department updated the course description and course outcomes. Somehow, the course description was not updated in the UTEP catalog.**
12. **Motion to approve made by Kumar, seconded by Herrera. Motion passes ( 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**
13. **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**
14. **Proposal: Course Addition – EE 4373 Introduction to Cybersecurity**
15. **Action Item: Create new course, EE 4373 (Introduction to Cybersecurity)**
16. **Rationale: This undergraduate course introduces ECE students to cryptographic tools and their applications to cyber physical systems. Students will have an opportunity to work on hardware security projects and understand cryptography in the context of computer engineering.**
17. **Motion to approve made by Houghton, seconded by Herrera. Motion passes ( 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**
18. **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**
19. **Proposal: Course revision – EE 4384 Control of Electric Power**
20. **Action Item: Change course title of EE 4384 from Control of Electric Power to Transmission Power Flow Control; change prerequisite from EE 4387 (Intro to Power Electronics) to EE 2351 (Electric Circuits II) and EE 2372 (Software Design I); change course description.**
21. **Rationale: Title and course description change is to reflect modern technology and trends in the field of power systems and highlight a system-level focus of this course. The change in prerequisites will remove unnecessary barriers for students to take this course while ensuring they have the necessary background to handle this course.**
22. **Motion to approve made by Kumar, seconded by Salvador. Motion passes ( 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**
23. **Presentation from Julie Rivera on courses that are no longer being offered, but still in degree plans.**

**Julie Rivera reported about the regular process by which the THECB examines the catalog to determine which courses are “inactive” because they have not recently been taught. When a course has not recently been offered, the THECB will remove the courses from the catalog. In the most recent cycle, about 500 undergraduate and 600 graduate courses were flagged for removal. This might create some problems. For instance, a course might be on a menu of “take 9 units from the list below” and if it disappears, there are not nine units that a student could take. To resolve this formally, every program with flagged courses would need to submit catalog revisions, but this is impractical. For now, the Provost’s office will insert language next to such courses that “this course is no longer being offered, please consult an advisor for a substitution.”**

**As a partial solution to this problem, Dr. Nunez-Mchiri recommended that Dr. Duval try to create a task force, in consultation with Dr. Gates in the Provost’s office, to create a framework of “exit interviews” conducted by program chairs or directors when a faculty member retires or leaves the university to locate courses that might be “stranded” when no one remains to teach the course. If the course is critical to the department’s offerings (or cross-listed offerings), the chair would then be able to highlight the course and try to develop strategies to keep the course in the program’s course rotation.**

**VI. Motion to adjourn at 3:40 pm.**

**Memorandum**

To: UTEP Faculty Senate Academic Policy Committee

Through:

From:

Date: September 30, 2020

Re: Changes to UTEP’s Undergraduate Admissions Policies

Attached please find proposed revisions to UTEP’s Undergraduate Admissions Policy.

The revisions only include one substantive change. I request consideration of our recommendation to expand UTEP’s automatic admission policy from automatic admission of students in the top 10% of their high school graduating class to students in the top 25% of their high school graduating class. This recommendation is being presented for various reasons including:

* The current policy essentially affords automatic admission to the top 25% already, but requires students to take the SAT or ACT.
* We have not found validity in SAT or ACT scores in predicting postsecondary success. Instead, consistent with a growing body of literature, we have found that a student’s high school grade point average is far more predictive of success.
* We recognize the difficulty that some students experience in accessing standardized college entrance exams, especially in light of COVID-19.

In addition to this substantive change, the document includes various non-substantive changes to align the catalog copy with current practices and procedures. There are also non-substantive changes that refer to high school curriculum requirements that have been updated by the Texas Education Agency, which are reflected in the Texas Education Code and Texas Administrative Code. These changes were made after the last catalog update and do not change UTEP’s admissions pathways. However, it is nevertheless prudent to update catalog language to properly reference these regulations.

I appreciate your consideration of these changes and will be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have regarding these recommendations.

**First-Time Freshman Admission**

Applicants who have never attended another college or university after graduating from high school or have not earned college credit through non-traditional methods (e.g. military credit or credit from specialized schools) should apply for admission as freshmen. Students who have earned college-level credits by participating in a dual enrollment program or have earned credit by examination (e.g., IB, AP, CLEP) while in high school are considered freshmen.

The following first-time freshman section applies to citizens/permanent residents of the United States, and to international students who are completing high school in the United States. International students or citizens/permanent residents of the United States who completed high school or college studies in foreign countries should refer to the section on International Student Admission below.

**Required Documents**

Freshmen applicants must submit the following:

* [Apply Texas Application](https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX) (www.applytexas.org)
* Official high school transcript or official GED score report
  + The document must indicate: (1) the high school curriculum completed (e.g., distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended High School Program, or Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced High School Program), (2) rank, and (3) graduation (actual or expected) date. The academic transcript must be submitted directly from the issuing high school to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment.
  + All transcripts in languages other than English must be accompanied by an English translation prepared by the educational institution, an American Consulate, or a certified English translator.
* At least one of the following:
  + College placement test scores including:
    - Official SAT and/or ACT scores
      * Official test scores must be sent directly to UTEP from the testing agency
    - Texas Success Initiative Assessment scores
  + Demonstration of college-readiness placement, including:
    - Earned dual credit that demonstrates college readiness placement
    - Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credits that demonstrate college readiness placement
  + A writing sample
    - Students have the option of submitting a writing sample to UTEP. Writing samples are not required, but may help expedite the admissions process for students who are unable to submit standardized test scores or for students whose scores do not adequately reflect their academic potential. Prospective students should contact the Office of Admissions and Recruitment for more detailed information about submitting a writing sample.

All documents submitted to the University become part of the official files of the University and cannot be released or returned to the student or to another institution, nor may documents be released by way a copy.

A student who completed AP (Advanced Placement), CLEP (College Level Examination Program), International Baccalaureate (IB), SAT II Subject Exams, or DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests), must submit official score report to be awarded credit. Official military AARTS, JST, or SMART transcripts, if applicable, must be submitted prior to awarding credit. For any other type of examination refer to the "Credit for Non-Traditional Educational Experiences" section of this catalog.

**High School Preparation**

All new first-year students must successfully complete the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program from a Texas public high school as outlined under [Texas Education Code, §28.025](https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.28.htm" \l "28.025), as well as, [19 TAC §§74.63](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074f.html), [74.64](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074f.html), [74.73](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074g.html), and [74.74](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074g.html) (relating to the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended High School Program, or Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced High School Program). Graduates from non-Texas or private high schools, must satisfy an equivalent high school curriculum and submit an [“RCCF” form](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/admissions/_Files/docs/FieldsAdded_RCCF_FORM2_update.pdf) to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment.



Students may satisfy the requirement above if they completed the portion of the recommended curriculum that was available, but were unable to complete the remainder of the curriculum solely because courses necessary to complete it were unavailable as a result of course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the students' control. Students in this situation must request an exception by submitting the “RCCF” Form, found at https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/admissions/resources/index.html.

**Students with Non-traditional High School Preparation**

Students who received a high school equivalency certificate are eligible for admission if they satisfy the ACT or SAT benchmarks for college readiness as described in [19 TAC §5.5](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=5&rl=5). The TSI Assessment (TSIA) is required to determine academic placement in English and math courses. The TSIA can be taken locally at UTEP, at El Paso Community College, or at TSIA test sites around the country. To find a TSIA test site outside of El Paso, check with college and university testing offices in the student's area, or call the College Board toll-free at 866.607.5223.

Students who completed the Spanish version of the GED with an average standard score of 45 or higher, must also submit scores of 1000 or higher on the PAA *(Prueba de Aptitud Academica).* Students who meet the Spanish GED and PAA requirements will be admitted into the *Programa Interamericano Estudiantil (PIE).*

**Graduates of Unaccredited High Schools**

Students who graduated from high schools that are not accredited by one of the accrediting organizations recognized by the State of Texas or who attended a home school program may be eligible for admission if their high school curriculum was comparable in content and rigor to Texas’s distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program (described above). In addition to the documents required for first-year admission, students should also provide a Texas Private High School Certification (TPHSC) form demonstrating course equivalency to the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program. Students who are unable to provide a TPHSC form may also qualify for admission by meeting ACT or SAT benchmarks for college readiness as described in [19 TAC §5.5](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=5&rl=5).. The TPHSC can be found by visiting [www.utep.edu/forms](http://www.utep.edu/forms).

**Assured Freshman Admission**

First-time freshmen are assured admission to The University of Texas at El Paso if they fulfill one of the following criteria:

**Children of Public Servants Killed or Fatally Injured in the Line of Duty**

Children of public servants killed or fatally injured in the line of duty, as designated by Texas Education Code, Section 51.803{e), are eligible for automatic admission if they meet University-established requirements. This policy is in accordance with section 51.803 of the Texas Education Code.

**Top 25% Admission for Graduates of Texas High Schools**

First-time, first-year students are admissible to UTEP if they graduated from a Texas high school in the top 25% of their graduating class and submit all required credentials. After admission, students may demonstrate college readiness by submitting SAT, ACT, or Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) scores, or by submitting dual credit, Advanced Placement Credit, or International Baccalaureate credit that demonstrates college-level placement. Students who are not able to demonstrate college readiness placement are required to take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) to determine college placement. Applicants who are not in the top 25% of their graduating class can qualify for admission based on their high school ranking and standardized test scores or through UTEP's Reviewed Admission Programs.

*Although SAT and ACT scores are not required under the Top 25% admissions criterion, students are strongly encouraged to take the SAT and/or the ACT to ensure eligibility far scholarships and other types of merit-based financial assistance.*

**High School Rank and Test Scores**

Texas high school graduates and all graduates of out-of-state high schools are admissible as first-time, first-year students if they meet any of the criteria listed below:

| High School Rank | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HS Rank in Class** | **Minimum SAT Combined Score (Verbal + Math)** | **OR** | **Minimum ACT Composite Score** |
| Top 25% | No minimum | OR | No minimum |
| Second 25% | 920 | OR | 19 |
| Third 25 % | 970 | OR | 20 |
| Fourth 25% | 1010 | OR | 21 |
| No HS rank, GED, unaccredited HS, or home-school program | 1070 | OR | 23 |

Students who achieve a score of 1070 on the SAT, with minimum scores of 500 each in the mathematics and verbal sections, are considered college ready and may enroll in college-level courses upon admission. Likewise, students who achieve a score of 23 on the ACT, with minimum scores of 19 each in the mathematics and English sections, are considered college ready and may enroll in college-level courses upon admission. Students who do not achieve these scores on the SAT or ACT must take the TSI Assessment (TSIA) following admission, to determine first-semester course placement in reading, writing, and mathematics. Applicants who do not meet these criteria may qualify for admission through UTEP's Reviewed Admission Programs.

**College Readiness**

First time, first-year students who achieve sufficient scores on a standardized test to qualify for a Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exemption, as defined in Texas Administrative Code, §4.54. Will qualify for admission as a college ready student. Applicants may also qualify for admission as a college ready student if they achieve sufficient scores on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA), as defined in Texas Administrative Code, §4.57. As with previous admissions criterion, completion of the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program (described above) OR an equivalent advanced high school program is required.

The TSI Assessment (TSIA) may be taken at UTEP, El Paso Community College, or any other approved test site across the state. Virtual proctoring is also available. Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Assessment and Testing at 915.747.5009 or testing@utep.edu for additional information about the TSI assessment. Students should plan to begin Math and English requirements during the first semester of enrollment and continue until complete.

**Provisional Freshman Admission**

First-time, first year students who do not meet the requirements for admission under criteria listed above and who score below the college readiness benchmark on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA), as defined in Texas Administrative Code §4.54, are eligible for provisional admission through the University’s Program START Students must:

* Enroll in the College of Liberal Arts as START majors
* Attend New Student Orientation
* Be advised every term by an academic advisor in the Academic Advising Center
* Earn a grade of C or better in at least nine (9) hours of prescribed courses from at least two of the following areas: English, mathematics, natural science, foreign language, social sciences, and humanities. Any developmental coursework prescribed by TSI Assessment scores must be taken within the nine (9) hours.
* Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Once these requirements have been met, the student may declare a major.

If the student does not meet these requirements during the first semester but has at least a 1.5 cumulative GPA, an additional START semester will be allowed. START students who do not satisfy these requirements have two options if they wish to re-enroll at UTEP:

1. Apply for readmission and reinstatement by the START Manager after two calendar years have elapsed since the end of the last period of attendance; or
2. Apply for readmission through the Office of Admissions and Recruitment after attending another college or university at which a minimum of 12 semester hours of college-level work with grades of C or better in each course were earned and a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA was maintained.

Under extenuating circumstances, an ineligible START student may petition for reinstatement through the Academic Advising Center.

Students who score below the college readiness benchmark on the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment but who earn at least nine (9) semester credit hours of college-level credit through Advanced Placement credit or international Baccalaureate credit will be exited from the START program and permitted to declare a major.  The nine (9) hours of college-level credit must include at least three (3) hours of college-level English credit and at least three (3) hours of college-level mathematics credit in order for the student to fulfill provisional admission requirements and be exited from the START program.

**Reviewed Freshman Admission**

Pursuant to state law and in accordance with The University of Texas System Board of Regents admissions policy, qualified applicants who do not qualify for assured admission as outlined above may be admitted outside the normal process through a holistic review process. Applicants who have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program (described above) but do not meet the requirements for first-year admission described above may be reviewed on an individual basis.

To ensure consistency and fairness of this review, admission decisions shall be based on substantive information about the applicant. This review gives consideration to the applicant's high school and college records, the strength of academic preparation, types of courses taken, and grades earned in specific courses. Performance on standardized tests may also be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit additional material or a writing sample for consideration in evaluating their potential for success at UTEP. Such material can document, for example, the applicant's work experience; achievements, honors, and awards; responsibilities while attending school, including child or elder care or other major responsibilities; bilingual proficiency; socioeconomic background; residency status; involvement in community and extra-curricular activities; status as a first-generation college student; commitment to a particular field of study; strengths and talents that might not be apparent from the academic record, and experiences in surmounting obstacles in pursuit of higher education. Letters of recommendation from high school teachers, counselors, supervisors, and activity leaders are also appropriate.

For information about submitting a writing sample, prospective students should contact the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. All other supporting materials should be submitted to The University of Texas at El Paso Admissions Appeal Committee, Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment, Mike Loya Academic Services Building, Room 102, El Pas o, Texas 79968. Materials submitted to other offices will not be considered. The Reviewed Admission committee consists of representatives from the Office of Admissions and Recruitment, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs. Securing against undue influence is the responsibility of admission officials, to include academic deans and institutional leaders.