

**Faculty Senate of the University of Texas at El Paso
Minutes of the Online Faculty Senate Meeting of November 9, 2021**

The meeting was held via Zoom at : <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/82190169653?pwd=bzJSamEzZGFqdC9jR25hRUc5MHRnUT09>
Meeting ID: 821 9016 9653
Passcode: C4Vp9QiM

1. Call to Order.

Núñez-Mchiri called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. She started the meeting by thanking Provost Wiebe for urging the campus community to be flexible and accommodating with our students and colleagues from Mexico who are now able to cross the bridges into El Paso. She invited Liberal Arts Honors Program student Juan Pablo De Anda De Alva, who commutes to El Paso from Mexico, to speak for several minutes about the experience of commuting across the bridges. He discussed this experience and how unpredictable and variable the timing can be. Kreinovich asked whether there might be a way to alert the whole campus at times when bridge crossing is especially slow. Maldonado asked whether UTEP could do more to advocate for members of the campus community who must make this commute. Wiebe answered that UTEP Police Chief Walsh has good relationships with those who monitor the bridge but that the university could perhaps do more. He offered to meet with the Senate's Executive Committee to discuss possible extra steps.

2. Determination of a Quorum and Seating of Alternates.

A quorum being present, the alternates were seated. (Move: Contreras; Second: Maldonado)

3. Consent Agenda.

Fleck moved that the minutes of the October meeting be accepted; Maldonado seconded. The minutes were approved.

4. Acceptance of the Agenda.

No amendments offered.

5. Announcements

A. Family Leave: Following up on the new System initiative for establishing a pool of Family Leave, Núñez-Mchiri said that a committee is working on developing a policy that can go in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP). She noted that Sick Leave currently requires documentation. Family Leave (which could include adoption or caring for a sick immediate-family member) might not require that documentation. The developing policy would require those who draw on the Family Leave pool to have contributed to the pool in the past.

B. Medical Insurance Identification Cards: Núñez-Mchiri pointed out that in the past, identification cards for UTEP medical plans would be mailed to those receiving benefits, but currently the insurers do not send out these cards. She urged faculty to go into PeopleSoft and download the electronic version of their insurance cards right away to have handy in case of emergency.

C. Professional Development Opportunities: Gates announced a new professional development opportunity, a microcredential in Inclusive Teaching for Equitable Learning through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). It will explicitly focus on those in the sciences and engineering, but others are eligible to apply. Those interested should watch for a flyer and sign-up sheet with plans to begin offering the program in early December. Interested parties could also contact Gates or Sirin (in the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development) directly. Núñez-Mchiri asked how many can participate. Gates replied that there will be three cohorts of 30 participants each. Maldonado asked whether postdoctoral researchers can apply. Gates said yes, possibly, depending on demand; the focus is on improving instruction for first and second year students at UTEP and improving retention. Ordaz asked whether it's possible to participate in other ACUE initiatives at the same time as one participates in this Inclusive Teaching microcredential. Gates said yes and that the plan is to create a community of practice in this area. Wiebe and Núñez-Mchiri pointed out that ACUE is well-regarded more broadly.

7. Reports

A. Center for Faculty Leadership and Development's Midsemester Evaluations Program: Sirin reported on some data about the first offering of a midsemester evaluation option through the CFLD. This initiative was developed in collaboration with the Senate's Teaching Effectiveness committee after a proposal in spring 2021. 7.1% student response rate across the university. Some colleges were slightly higher and some were lower. The low response rate may be attributed to the newness of this practice. The CFLD would like to find ways to improve the response rate. Also, Sirin reminded the Senate that end-of-semester course evaluations will take place between 22 November and 5 December. Kreinovich asked whether some might want to opt-out of this midsemester evaluation because students use the instrument to complain about matters irrelevant to a class (such as parking frustrations). Freudenthal asked whether we should ask students more overtly why they did not generally respond to this evaluation and try to encourage responses next time. Sirin said there is research about the low response rate to online course evaluations that might be relevant. Blum pointed out that incentives (such as making grades available earlier to those who complete the evaluations) have been successful in increasing the response rate elsewhere. Núñez-Mchiri asked that suggestions and questions be forwarded to Sirin or the CFLD. Contreras asked why the Entering Student program was not represented on Sirin's PowerPoint and she replied that she would find that response rate and make it available.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Committee on Committees: Duarte presented nominations for several Senate committees. Maldonado moved they be accepted; Ordaz seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Fleck presented proposals that the UGCC had passed for the Senate's approval.

i. Health Science, Kinesiology. A proposal to remove a requirement for departmental permission to register for a large number of courses. Question Moved: Ordaz; Seconded: Maldonado. Approved unanimously.

ii. Health Science, Rehabilitation Sciences. A proposal to modify the course description of DRSC 4311 to include neuroscience concepts. Question Moved: Ordaz; Seconded: Florez. Approved unanimously.

- iii. Health Science. A proposal to add MATH 1310 to the designated core list for BS-KIN, BS-PH, BS-RHSC, BSW-SOWK majors. Question Moved: Curry; Seconded: Contreras. Approved unanimously. Kreinovich pointed out that these proposals do not require both a “move” and a “second.”
- iv. Health Science, Department of Health Science. A proposal to delete two minors (Community Health; Health Promotion). Moved Curry. Approved unanimously.
- v. Health Science, Department of Health Science. A proposal to offer a new minor in Public Health. Moved: Ordaz. The motion passed with one “nay” vote.
- vi. School of Nursing. A proposal to change the four-unit NURS 4407 (Transition to Professional Practice) into a three-unit NURS 4307 and to increase the zero-unit NURS 4033 (Senior Practicum) into the one-unit NURS 4133 (Senior Seminar). Moved: Padilla. Passed unanimously.
- vii. Liberal Arts, Psychology. A proposal to add MATH 1309 and STAT 1380 to the list of possible courses satisfying the pre-requisites for PSYC 1303. Moved: Maldonado. Approved unanimously.
- viii. Liberal Arts, English Department. A proposal to allow up to two 2000-level courses to count for the major and to remove the “additional area” requirement in the major. Moved: Curry. Approved unanimously.
- ix. Liberal Arts, Music. A proposal to add courses in response to accrediting agency request, in the Bachelor of Music degree. Adding MUSA 1271, 1272, and 2271 would increase the number of hours in two of the concentrations to 131 hours. The proposal would also create two new concentrations (Music Education-Keyboards (126 hours) and Music Education-Guitar [122 hours]). Moved: Logan. Approved unanimously.
- x. Liberal Arts, Leadership and Community Engagement Program. A proposal to add LEAD 4350 (Concepts of SJ and E Leadership), LEAD 4351 (Community Engaged Leadership), and LEAD 4380 (Special Topics in Leadership) to the list of courses in the Social and Behavioral Sciences of the College of Liberal Arts Block Electives. Moved: Maldonado. Approved Unanimously.
- xi. Liberal Arts, Leadership and Community Engagement Program. A proposal to add LEAD 1300 and LEAD 2300 to the university core curriculum. Objections were raised that these proposals would create problems for UNIV 1301. Langford moved to table the motion. Curry seconded the motion to table. The proposal was tabled. The committee’s reporting was paused to give time to another committee chair who would need to leave the meeting soon.

C. Information Technology and Library (jointly); Freudenthal presented a proposal, approved at a joint meeting of these two senate committees, to merge into a single committee to be called the Infrastructure Committee. Several suggestions for improving the proposal were made. Fleck asked that the committee’s responsibility for library oversight be made more robust. The proposal would be taken up again at the next meeting of the senate.

B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Fleck continued the discussion of proposals.

xii. Business. The College proposed to allow QMB 2301 to satisfy the statistics requirement and to change the BA Economics major to require Public Choice (ECON 3325) or Public Sector Economics (ECON 4330), International Economics (ECON 4325), Mathematical Economic Thought (ECON 3380), and Economics and Law (ECON 4335) or Urban Economics (ECON 3335). The proposal would also eliminate the foreign language requirement in the College of Business. And it would deactivate some Economics courses

that are no longer offered and remove two elective courses from the Finance minor. Because the Senate needed to adjourn, this motion was tabled.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:33.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday November 30 at 3:00 via Zoom.