**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 30th, 2020.

The meeting was held virtually, via Zoom

**https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/88399986009?pwd=U05ZUkxybWswR2pBcDNjcEZPeXF2dz09**

**Meeting ID: 883 9998 6009, Passcode: D8Ycv3FZ**

 **+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), Meeting ID: 883 9998 6009, Passcode: 27571138**

**1. Call to Order**

G. Gina Núñez-Mchiri called the meeting to order at 3:00.

**2. Determination of a Quorum and the seating of Alternates**

A quorum being present, the alternates were seated.

3. **Consent Agenda**

Fleck moved that the minutes of November 9 be approved. One edit was requested to correctly name the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development.

4. **Acceptance or Modification of the Agenda**

Items were added to Old Business (taking up tabled UGCC proposals; reviewing a revised curricular changes from English) and New Business (information about the COVID vaccine clinic to be held on campus)

**5. Announcements**

A. Change to Spring 2022 Senate Meeting Times: Núñez-Mchiri again mentioned that the Senate was considering changing its meeting time on the second Tuesday of the month from 3:00 to 1:30. This would make it feasible for senators with children to participate in senate meetings and would help senators who teach late-afternoon or night classes. In general, this would make the senate more family friendly. Langford reported that Gill wanted to point out that the spring schedule has already been set and that moving the meeting time would make it impossible for many senators to attend the senate, since they are scheduled to teach at 1:30. He asked if others were in similar circumstances. Núñez-Mchiri said this idea had been floated at a few times earlier in the semester. Conwell asked whether the senate could meet on Fridays, when many faculty do not have teaching obligations. Tillman reported that the senate’s by-laws require the meeting to take place on the second Tuesday of the month but the time can be modified. Núñez-Mchiri suggested that senators unable to meet at 1:30 could try to find alternate assignments for the classes that might be in conflict. A vote was conducted and the motion to change the meeting time passed 25-8. Firat asked whether meetings in the spring will take place on campus; Núñez-Mchiri said that is the plan unless something changes (such as a new wave of the pandemic).

B. Faculty Forum: Núñez-Mchiri announced that there will be an in-person faculty forum on Tuesday January 25 at 1:30 in Blumberg Auditorium in the Library. She encouraged senators to spread the word to all faculty. She is working on who will be the facilitator for this discussion. She reminded senators that the senate will next meet on Tuesday February 8 at 1:30 in Blumberg.

C. Book Presentation: Núñez-Mchiri announced that there would be a presentation of Beata Halicka’s Borderlands Biography of Anthony Kruszewski at 4:30 and encouraged senators to attend in the Blumberg Auditorium after today's Faculty Senate meeting.

**6. Reports of Standing Committees**

A. Committee on Committees: Duarte presented two new candidates for faculty committees. They were approved unanimously.

B. Academic Policy Committee: Ward discussed efforts to reconsider when the academic calendar starts and ends, a change that might be helpful to the School of Nursing. However, polling indicates that students would not appreciate such a change, so the idea has been tabled for now. He also reported on efforts to find a solution to the “non-contributing” course problem created by the Financial Aid process. He reported that there does not seem to be a way to resolve this issue and that it will continue to require manual entry of courses to deal with this problem. Langford mentioned that in his department, there is a category of electives that is very broad and as a result, many courses are initially “non-contributing.” Rivera said that if the category can be more clearly defined for the computer system, this could resolve the issue; otherwise, manual fixes are required. Blum pointed out that if we want the process to be automated, it would be helpful to give the computer clear guidelines of what counts in such broad categories. Ward said that the APC has learned that there is no “magic wand” to resolve the matter. Golding noted that the process continues to improve and become more efficient and thanked Rivera for her enormous efforts to assist.

C. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Fleck presented seventeen new proposals that the UGCC requested the senate to approve. A chart summarizing the seventeen proposals can be found below these minutes. These proposals were unanimously approved.

**7. Presentation**

A. SB 212: A presentation planned concerning the relatively new state law, SB 212, concerning sexual misconduct had to be postponed. Everyone at UTEP should familiarize themselves with the provisions of this law.

**8. Acknowledgments**

Núñez-Mchiri would like to reserve time at senate meetings to acknowledge and celebrate faculty accomplishments. She was aware of two items:

A. Lauren Rosenberg- Richard C. Ohmann Outstanding Article in College English by the National Council of the Teachers of English

B. Aaron Velasco- Governor’s Technical Advisory Committee, a committee that oversees the Texas seismic network, TexNet, run out of the Bureau of Economic Geology at UT Austin

C. She asked for other accomplishments and encouraged faculty to bring details to future senate meetings.

**9. Old Business**

A. Tabled UGCC Proposals: Fleck asked to take the two proposals, from COLARTS and COB, off the table to vote on them. Concerning the proposal to add LEAD 1300 and LEAD 2300 to the university core curriculum, Langford reiterated his question about whether LEAD 1300 duplicates UNIV 1301. Chacon-Silva reported that she met with the Entering Student Program to examine syllabi and determined that the courses do not duplicate each other. UNIV 1301 introduces new UTEP students to the skills for university success. LEAD 1300 is not for brand-new students and places greater emphasis on developing leadership skills. Rivera noted that students could conceivably take both LEAD 1300 and UNIV 1301, given the way the university core curriculum is composed. Fraire added that the ESP is not concerned that UNIV 1301 and LEAD 1300 duplicate their efforts. She does think it’s important that the university examine the categories of the core curriculum, particularly the component area, to make sure the categories are still meaningful. Fleck said that the UGCC hopes to have time to take up the core curriculum for re-examination. Wiebe added that the provost’s office stands ready to help with clarifying the core curriculum. Fleck called for a vote and the proposal passed unanimously. Then Fleck took up the tabled proposal from the College of Business, which had languished because time ran out at our November 9 meeting, and moved to approve it. This proposal passed unanimously. A chart describing both proposals can be found below the minutes as the second chart, (Old Business).

B. Reconsideration of RWS Course Proposal:

Núñez-Mchiri reported that a proposal to change the catalogue language of some RWS courses, approved by the senate last year, was vetoed by UTEP President Wilson and sent back to interested parties with a memo explaining her rationale. Rosenberg and Yothers from English met with Wilson, Núñez-Mchiri, and Wiebe in mid-November to discuss the president’s rationale. Over the Thanksgiving break, Rosenberg and Yothers revised the proposal and attempted to address the president’s concerns. Núñez-Mchiri asked the senate to approve these changes. Rosenberg explained how the recently-revised catalogue description would preserve some of the intent behind the RWS proposal while removing phrases that caused concern for the president. The new catalogue copy also aligns clearly with the similar courses taught across the UT System’s core curriculum, including the courses at Austin. Núñez-Mchiri reported that it was a productive respectful meeting and that the changes should satisfy the president. Yothers added that “social justice” remains a topic of consideration within these RWS classes, without the classes espousing a single political perspective. Kreinovich asked whether the proposal would be approved by the president if the senate voted to approved this new revision. Wiebe said he would take the new proposal to Wilson and expects that everyone involved better understands the others’ concerns. He said that Wilson does not want courses in the university core to adopt a single ideology and the revised RWS proposal reflects that better understanding. Núñez-Mchiri reported that an anonymous senator wondered why administrators were attending the senate; she replied that it is helpful to have administrators present to answer questions and offer information. Kreinovich added that if senators prefer to meet without administrators present, it’s possible to have closed sessions. Núñez-Mchiri expressed her hope that RWS can share its approach to revision with other departments whose courses have run into similar difficulties. The revised proposal was approved, with one abstention.

**10. New Business**

Wiebe reported that UTEP would host a COVID vaccination clinic from the City of El Paso on campus this week. Local infection rates are climbing and individuals are urged to get vaccinated or get a booster to combat this surge.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

APPENDICES:

**Chart One: Summary of UGCC New Proposals:**

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| Coll | Dept | Proposal | Rationale |
| COBA | Acct/InfSystems | New Course: CIS 3305 “Foundations of Information Systems and Bus Adm” | Teaching an important skill set |
| COBA | Acct/InfSystems | Add a prereq (CIS 3301 “Intro to Data Process & Prog”) for CIS 4320 (“Advanced Programming”) | Students should have some key programming concepts **before** taking “Advanced” Programming |
| COBA | Acct/InfSystems | Restructure and Rename the BBA in Information Systems (Add several courses; delete several others; add courses to list of electives; update titles and catalog info for several courses). Becomes BBA in Information Systems and Business Analytics | Response to recommendations from external program review and program faculty’s renewed vision for the program. |
| COBA | Economics & Finance | Change course names for QMB 2301 and 3301 | Better reflects the content of the course and their connections |
| COBA | Economics & Finance | Changes to BBA in Economics Degree Plan (replace several courses with better courses; remove some courses from electives; add new courses to the list of electives) | Streamlines the degree plan and aligns with current faculty resources. |
| COBA | Economics & Finance | Modify prerequisites for CRE 4302 (Commercial RE Inv) and CRE 4341 (Comm. RE Dev) | Given sequencing, CRE 3301 is a default prereq |
| COBA | Economics & Finance | Change titles of ECON 2303 and 2304 to clarify | Both currently called “Principles of Economics” but one focuses on Micro other on Macro |
| COBA | Economics & Finance | Delete two 1.5 unit labs (FIN 4311A, 4315A) and fold into lecture classes (FIN 4310 and 4315); delete “General Finance” concentration; adjust elective lists in three remaining concentrations. | Will create space for more electives. Remaining BBA Finance concentrations are more specialized. |
| COBA | Marketing & Mgmt | Change course titles of MKT 3330 and 4304 | Reflects the content of these courses |
| COBA | Marketing & Mgmt | Degree plan change for BBA in Marketing; minor in Marketing Analytics. Delete two 1.5 unit labs; add courses to list of electives; reduce electives from 15 to 12 units. | Reflects changing focus of the field. Will also allow students to make progress more quickly. |
| COBA | Marketing & Mgmt | Changes to BBA in Management and Human Capital Management Certificates. Delete two 1.5 unit labs (MGMT 3312 A&B) and replace with MGMT 3312 “Human Resource Information Systems”) | Allows students to complete the course in one semester, speeding time to degree. |
| COBA | Marketing & Mgmt | Modify restrictions to OSCM 4371 so all students in Business can enroll.  | Business students across the college can minor in OSCM, so OSCM 4371 should be open to all students in the college. |
| COBA | Marketing & Mgmt | For OSCM 4375, remove CIS 3345 as a prerequisite and replace with QMB 3350 | CIS 3345 is no longer required of OSCM majors; QMB 3350 is required for several majors in the college. |
| COBA | Marketing & Mgmt | Changes to BBA-OSCM; OSCM minor; Enterprise Regional Planning Cert. with addition of new courses. Replace two labs (OSCM 3334A and BUSN 3334A) with OSCM 3332 in ERP Cert. | Replacing labs with a more thorough course on business intelligence tools. |
| CHS | Public Health | Remove HSCI 3308 as a prereq for HSCI 3311 | HSCI 3308 no longer contributes to the foundation for HSCI 3311. |
| COS | Physics | Split PHYS 2420 and 2421 into courses with separate lectures and laboratories (PHYS 2320, 2120 and PHYS 2321, 2121). | To separate the laboratory experience from the lecture experience in these two Core courses. |
| COE | Comp Sci | Course title changes for CS 3432 and CS 4375 | Would reflect current focus of these classes. |

**Chart Two: Old Business**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COLARTS | Leadership | Add LEAD 1300 and LEAD 2300 to University Core Curriculum | These courses would include skills required in the Core |
| COBA | Econ/Fin | Revision of the Non-Business Student Minor in Econ and Finance: Require QMB 2311; revise choice of electives; remove language requirement; de-activate some defunct courses. | Streamlines this minor for those outside the college. |