

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**FACULTY SENATE Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 10th, 2024, 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm  
**Blumberg Auditorium, University Library**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** – Bruce Cushing, Faculty Senate President  
**Land Acknowledgement** – Jay Stratton  
Cushing pointed out that most of the leadership is new, and requested understanding that mistakes may be made, but of course we will fix them as we learn.
2. **Determination of a Quorum and the seating of Alternates** – Jose Herrera, Parliamentarian  
52 (of 71) in attendance.
3. **Consent Agenda** - Paul Carrola, Approval of Senate Minutes from April 30  
Cushing mentioned that we should follow Roberts Rules. Minutes approved by voice vote.
4. **Acceptance or Modification of the Agenda**
5. **Announcements**
6. **Reports of Standing or Special Committees**
  - A. Committee on Committees (Kao): Committee Membership  
Technical difficulties, then all nominations accepted by voice vote.
  - B. Executive Committee (Cushing): Committee Membership  
Done by QuestionPro after scanning a QR code, with 13 senators opting for paper ballots. Technical difficulties, and then more difficulties made it impossible to show the results. [Lujan and Carrola subsequently tabulated the results: Brunner 45/0/4 (yes/non/abstain), Lara 45/0/4, Loya 44/1/4, Lujan 42/1/6, Walker 42/2/5, Wicker 43/2/4]
7. **Old or Unfinished Business**
8. **New Business/Announcements**
  - A. Provost John Wiebe: Statistics and comments on faculty retirements, complete and phased, and on Tenured-Tenure track faculty leaving the University. Non-tenure track faculty are reality new and there is limited data at this time. Showed comparison data: UTEP is very close to the national numbers, as reported by CUPA. He showed per-college graphs over the past 6 years indicating that losses varied across Colleges with Pharmacy and Engineering showing higher average losses during several of those periods. He indicated that higher percentage losses in some units may be due to the lower number of total faculty so that a few individuals leaving might reflex a higher percentage. Discussed factors involved in faculty leaving. In response to FS questions

the Provost indicated that the CUPA data was from all type of Colleges and Universities but that the data could be parsed by R1 institutions.

B. Marketing and Communications: Lucas Roebuck: Media Protocol. Individual Speech versus University Speech. Only designated people can “speak for the University”. Faculty making public statements must be clear that they are not speaking for UTEP. Faculty making statements based on their expertise is welcomed. The aim of Marketing and Communications is not to control or punish, but to help clarify things. He also presented information from the HOP supporting Academic and First amendment Freedom of speech and who and who could not represent the UTEP without prior permission. The FS may speak to the press and public. FS members asked a number of questions. In response to these Mr. Roebuck indicated he would look into developing/providing a statement that would help faculty speak with the press and not appear to be representing UTEP. He also indicated that faculty could speak to the press with a group opinion as long as it was clear they were not representing a Department, College or any official unit of the University.

C. Executive Session Topics: Unanimous vote to enter executive session.

## 9. Adjournment: 2:58

next meeting: October 8, again 1:30 to 2:50 pm in the Blumberg