

University of Texas at El Paso
FACULTY SENATE Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 1:31 pm to 2:50 pm
Blumberg Auditorium, University Library

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Bruce Cushing, Faculty Senate President
2. **Determination of a Quorum and the seating of Alternates** – quorum achieved at 1:31. (By the end, 58 of 75 Senators had signed in.)
3. **Consent Agenda** – Nigel Ward. the Senate Minutes from Sept 10 were approved
4. **Acceptance or Modification of the Agenda**
5. **Announcements** - Cushing
 - ExCom retreat, will be a Friday, off campus; will include some committee chairs, etc.; will have a third-party moderator. Some voiced concern that full representation of all colleges etc. would be important.
 - A review of bylaws will start soon.
 - A mixer, hosted by the President, for the Faculty Senate, will likely happen Oct 25, 4 – 5:30 in the museum.
6. **Reports of Standing or Special Committees**
 - A. Executive Committee (Cushing): Proposed new committee member from Business, John Gibson, was approved. Voted was done using QuestionPro and on paper, totaling 41 yes votes, 1 no, and 6 abstaining.
 - B. Committee on Committees (Kao): 17 new committee members were approved by unanimous voice vote.
 - C. Undergraduate Curriculum (Methaq Abed): Six proposals
 1. LING/ENG/ANTH 2320 Name Change. Unanimously Approved
 2. New Chicano Studies Minor. Unanimously Approved
 3. Music Courses Updates. Unanimously Approved
 4. Multidisciplinary Studies Curriculum Changes. Unanimously Approved
 5. Minor in Integrated Engineering. Unanimously Approved
 6. Component Area Options Policy. Explanation of rationale and process, including review by all colleges and by the Entering Student Program. Clarification of the fact that new course proposals for the CAO will need to meet these requirements. Existing courses will have a two year grace period before they are aligned to the requirements or dropped. The expectation, based on preliminary review, is that the former will happen without difficulty. An

orthogonal question was raised about how Institutional Option courses taken at other Texas institutions were handled for transfer students. The answer was complicated. Unanimously Approved

D. Teaching Effectiveness (Ward): Course Evaluation Policy Proposal. Ward overviewed the aims, context, and history of the proposal. He noted that the proposal was unchanged since July, despite much new information coming to light, and a change of committee membership including the chair. General discussion, mostly organized around the specific points, as noted below. Motion approved to remand the proposal to the committee for refinement.

M1- Students gaining earlier access to their grades. Ward noted that IT has indicated that this is not actually feasible. One senator opined that, since other universities can do this, UTEP IT should also be able. Questions about timing of releasing grades and how students get access to grades. One senator reported that one student claimed to know his grades from the moment the instructor submitted them.

M2- Extra credit for students who complete evaluation. Concerns included: some colleges do not allow extra credit; some faculty may feel unconscious bias against students who do not complete the evaluations, some students may misinterpret this to imply that the actual evaluations are not anonymous. One senator opined that this would be immoral.

I1- Remove some questions. Some people expressed liking for some of the old marked-for-deletion questions.

I2- Create specific comment prompts. One senator felt that this would lead to an increase in the number of unhelpful comments. Once senator felt that this would lead to students giving information that other students might rely on despite not being reliable.

D1- Direct links from Goldmine. Ward noted that this, in terms of technical feasibility, direct links to instructors' HB2504 pages would be feasible, but likely not direct links to comments. No objections were raised.

D2- Making the raw comments publicly available. Many pointed out that students comments can be inappropriate and embarrassing. Some noted that there would need to be an editing/redacting policy. One implied that no such policy would likely be satisfactory.

C1, C2, O1, O2- No objections were raised.

7. Old or Unfinished Business

8. New Business/Announcements

A. COACHE Survey Results (Carrola). Display of various detailed results on faculty satisfaction and perceptions of campus climate etc., in spreadsheets and visualizations.

B. Mama Academic Affinity Group (Melissa Warak). The aim is to support mothers and including mothers-to-be. The group meets about twice a semester, typically inviting speakers to elucidate things like Family Leave Policy. The issue of aging parents was also mentioned. The group shares information about resources and also plans events and does advocacy. They plan to create a logo to use to mark family-friendly events, such as after-hours work gatherings at which children are welcome. The EPISD calendar with in-semester hiatus is making things difficult for parents, but there exist some camps on campus during these times. Other plans include setting mentors in each college, and a site to match students who may be babysitters with faculty who need babysitters. The listserv is called mamaacademic. In response to a question, it was clarified that the focus is on mothers, but support for fathers is also important and desirable, and the group is willing to share information on resources etc.

9. Adjournment 2:54

next meeting: November 12, again 1:30 to 2:50 pm in the Blumberg