

University of Texas at El Paso  
FACULTY SENATE Meeting  
Tuesday, November 11, 2024, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm  
Blumberg Auditorium, University Library

Minuges

# DRAFT

1. **Call to Order** – Bruce Cushing, Faculty Senate President
2. **Determination of a Quorum and the seating of Alternates** – Jose Herrera, Parliamentarian
3. **Consent Agenda** – Nigel Ward, Approval of Minutes from October 8. Approved.
4. **Acceptance or Modification of the Agenda.** none
5. **Announcements** – 1) Jack Chessa stepped down as Chair of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (AME) last week. Ryan Wicker resigned from UTEP last Thursday. Regarding attrition, a topic discussed at the September meeting, as new information, AME has lost 6 faculty of about 22 T/TT since May. 2) The Texas Senate held a hearing on Faculty Governance, and the video is available.
6. **Reports of Standing or Special Committees**
  - A. Executive Committee (Cushing): new committee members from Nursing, Cristina Dominguez, and from Engineering, Pat Nava. For Dominguez: a majority of online votes, and on paper ballots 7-0. For Nava: 35-1 online, 6-1 on paper.
  - B. Faculty Welfare Committee (Chessa): update regarding a climate survey
  - C. Academic Policy Committee (Edison): Graduation requirements policy proposal. Nohemi Garza. In response to a state audit finding that our reporting was late, and noticing that half the students applied late, and had to pay the \$50 late fee instead of the \$35 usual graduation application fee. In the past students had to take the initiative to submit a graduation application. Now the Registrar’s Office sends advisors a list early in the term, then the list is finalized 2 weeks after grades post. Students are able to still delay graduation if they wish. The proposed policy changes align with this new procedure. Unanimously approved.
  - D. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Abed): Various proposals. Discussion: Regarding the whether the new sociology proposal for the core was too specific to be appropriate, it was noted that we recently approved a broader set of requirements for what can be in the core. Regarding the Education course changes, it was noted and agreed that the legislature-required changes do indeed require a lot of the faculty and of the students. Approved unanimously.
7. **Old or Unfinished Business** - none

## 8. New Business/Announcements

A. Faculty Ombudsperson: Chuck Ambler. Independent, impartial, informal, confidential. Over two years, has talked with about 50 people, who were, perhaps surprisingly, mostly faculty with tenure. He is eager to have the availability of Ombuds service better known among the non-tenured and non-tenure-track faculty. He listens, provides feedback, identifies strategies, and occasionally facilitates meetings and possibly could do mediations. Sometimes meets with University Offices, always maintaining confidentiality. Generally the issues relate to communication, both interpersonal and involving communication of policies. Many folk do not feel that they are actually part of an academic community, sadly, so one aim is thus to help improve collegial interaction.

B. Executive Session. Entered by unanimous vote at 2:28.

## 9. Adjournment 3:00

next meeting: December 3, again 1:30 to 2:50 pm in the Blumberg