



Faculty Senate
San Antonio College

Minutes

April 9, 2021 12:30-2:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting called to order by: Senate Vice President Ruby Martinez at 12: 35pm
Note taker: Isabel Garcia, Senate Secretary

Senators absent: Olivia Sandoval

I. Call to Order

Welcome to Rocky Garza Jr., Reporter and Editor with the SAC Ranger. Vice President Martinez conducting the meeting for President Sandoval who was not able to attend.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting was made by Senator Robertson-Schule. Motion was seconded by Senator Irvin and passed.

III. Board of Trustees Meeting

- March Board of Trustees Meeting: Meeting attended by Senator Flynn-Dobson. Topics discussed included: Awards that District has received recently: National Network, Texas Best Instate Tuition, Top 50 Colleges in the U.S., Alamo Colleges being in the top 5% and a Technology Team Award. The board members talked about how there is little recognition of these awards in the media and in the community and that the awards could be used as a tool for recruiting. Christie Wyatt talked about the monies involved in getting the message out through the different types of media. 4DX was also a topic and St. Phillips was held up as a model of having success with their WIG. In this case, they set up and implemented a YouTube channel for their students to provide them services and assistance. It has had great success and the number of subscribers to the channel has grown. Also discussed was the CARES act monies (30 million in the first round and 50% had to be spent on emergency aid for students) and what it was used for given the parameters for spending. Approval of the tuition and fee schedule for the next academic year was given. No increase in regular tuition. For special programs, specifically Allied Health, since those are considered high demand, high cost, they were looking for an increase in the tuition.

IV. Reports of Officers

- Senate President Olivia Sandoval: Report given by Vice President Martinez
UFS and EFC Update - the EFC is finished with the End of Course Survey, Phase II and is ready to present to the Board of Trustees in July 2021. The recommendation is to

implement the revised End of Course Survey in the 2021 Fall Semester. In regard to the Ad Hoc New Era Tenure Proposal, the work continues. A proposal is expected to be finished by the end of April or May and will possibly be presented to the Board of Trustees meeting in September 2021. The Ad Hoc Faculty Student Mentoring Model committee has held meetings with representatives from each college. The representatives include Faculty Student Mentoring Leads, Deans, Chairs and faculty. The Committee expressed the need to ensure that more students are aware of FSM and the connection to experiential learning. An annual survey will be sent to all faculty. EFC wants faculty to know that they have an avenue for representation and that all EFC meetings are open meetings. UFS business - The UFS has met with individual members of the Board of Trustees. These meetings have been beneficial in allowing the UFS to get to know the trustees on a personal level. The meetings also serve as a convenient time to discuss UFS issues. UFS has been granted representation on the District Incident Command Team, the Budget Planning Committee, Faculty Development Advisory Board, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion District Team. They also continue to work on proposals through the EFC. Faculty Development, Faculty Fellows and the UF are planning the April 30th Return Ready Retreat (9:00am – 3:00pm). The retreat will be recorded. Focus Groups were held this past week and future focus groups are in the planning stage. Senate Leadership Meeting with Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood – Our proposal to sell back personal and sick days was discussed. Dr. Vela presented the proposal to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) but they were not interested in pursuing the matter. The year-round scheduling was discussed as well. Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood emphasized that the District proposed the year-round scheduling and faculty senate concerns were discussed. Subsequently, Dr. George Railey formed a year-round scheduling committee, and he requested Senate representation from each college. Senator Dee Joseph volunteered to be the San Antonio Faculty Senate representative. Senator Irvin asked for an update on the Faculty Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee or the recommendation for the Faculty Review of Policies and Procedures and when it might go to the board. Vice President Martinez said that President Sandoval had not mentioned anything about it in her report. Senator Knotts asked to know when Senate Secretary the EFS meetings were being held so that if anyone wanted to go, they could attend.

- Senate Vice President Ruby Martinez: Serves on the EFC Ad hoc Faculty Evaluation committee is hard at work on the proposal and making progress making sure that all the parts needed are there and that it is aligned with policy and procedure. They met with Dr. Robert Garza, the president of Palo Alto. He had questions for the EFC and they had questions for him as go between the administration and the EFC. EFC wants to make sure that anything that the Presidents might want to have in the Evaluation system is there so that it is not something that needs to be addressed at a later date versus now. The intent is to still have a robust and pertinent instrument of evaluation. She also mentioned that FAC180 is due on April 16th. In regard to Class Caps, Vice President Martinez said that they had granted another week to look into this topic and do research. Senator Irvin volunteered to add more detail in regard to Tenure. He said that it's coming together and that they have found case studies from different schools across the county.
- Isabel Garcia: Other issues discussed with Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood - that the leadership for the Faculty Senate all have SAC-ALL privileges. Dr. Vela said that he would get together with Ken Slavin to see how to make that happen. The other item

was that the Faculty Senate does not have a presence on SharePoint. There is a link but it doesn't go anywhere. So where is that information and how does the Senate retrieve it. Dr. Vela said he would look into it. Senator Knotts said that Dan in PR is the contact person to retrieve old senate pages on SharePoint.

V. Adjunct Faculty Council

- Senator Amanda Martin: The nominations for ACE award are open until May 9th. A meeting with representatives from Northwest Vista and Northeast Lakeview is set for Monday, April 12th at 6:00pm to discuss mutual concerns and to see if there are ways they can cooperate in addressing those issues. April 20th is the date of the next Adjunct Faculty Council meeting. Senator David Vaughn added that it is his task to insure that the Faculty Handbook for the Adjuncts doesn't repeat anything that is in the Faculty Handbook for Full time Faculty so he will be looking at both handbooks to make sure that the two dovetail.

VI. Topical Items

- District Faculty Development Advisory Board – Senator Joseph – the board met last week on Thursday and were tasked to prepare for the April 30th faculty focus group and to prepare questions on returning back to campus this fall. The question is what kind of precautions given COVID can be mandated by the College Administration.
- SAC Teaching and Learning Committee (Faculty Development) – Senator Robertson-Schule said that there is a Faculty Focus page and that you can nominate yourself or someone else to be on that page. She encouraged everyone to nominate someone.
- Mascot Committee – Senator Rodriguez and Senator Knotts – Senator Rodriguez reported that the committee had narrowed down the list of mascots and that a survey has been sent out to students that is open until April 16th. Senator Knotts added that the committee is doing justice to the search for the mascot and doing a lot to try and get the students, faculty and staff to vote.
- Textbook Committee – Lisa Menard said that the committee work – the rating of the vendors – has been completed. No follow up information as of yet. Senator Menard observed that she did not find the process of selecting a new vendor to be transparent.
- Senate Webmaster – Robyn Mc Gilloway – no report but offered to look into where Faculty Senate information needs to live on the web. Vice President Martinez suggested that maybe the Communications committee could help her with that task.

V. Committee Updates

- Curriculum and Instruction – Senators Alex Bernal and Jose Moreno, Chairs
No committee report. The topic of Class max sizes – we were told that we had lost 5000 students when in reality we lost closer to 4900 and gained 4400 students so really only lost 500. The budget however was made on losing 5000. So we need to be able to question the number as we go forward with a recommendation for class size. We have lost some of the discipline specific things that we expect from our students. One of these things is writing intensive courses. It is difficult to have a large writing intensive studio. So class caps on those courses should remain small. Also stated that he felt the Senate should support St. Philip's in regard to their statement on Year round scheduling. In regard to the win-win document in eLumen, Senator Bernal stated that we should be pushing back against this document. He also suggested the Senate have a Special

Meeting at the end of the semester to address this issue and others that are being released at this time. He also stated that faculty are interested in the Early Retirement Incentive and that that should also be addressed in the Special Meeting.

- Communication – Senator Caraway, Chair
No committee report. Wants to encourage the general Faculty to attend the May meeting.
- Policy and Procedures – Senator Deidra Flynn-Dobson, Chair
Senator Flynn-Dobson introduced Dr. Seabrook Jones who has been working on the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Jones asked the Senate what they thought about the Table of Contents and got some feedback on section headings, any additions that need to be made, and how it should be numbered or itemized. She asked if she was cleared to move forward based on what the Senate was seeing. The Senate said yes. She also asked if the Table of Contents could be organized using numbered headings with clear subheadings underneath that are not numbered or labeled. The consensus was yes. Vice President Martinez then asked if there was also a consensus in the Senate that the work being done by Dr. Jones and presented today be accepted and that based on that acceptance that she come back later with a report to officially vote on. The Senate said yes.
- Research – Senator Bruce Norton, Chair
Linda Boyer Owens has responded to a request to meet with the Faculty Senate and will be coming to the May meeting for 20 minutes. She will come and answer a list of four questions provided to her.
- Surveys and Elections – Senator Mai Lai Eng, Chair
Candidates for the Tenure Termination Committee were Fermin Ortiz, Sara Samano and Donna Duke. Promotion Appeals Committee candidates are Jennifer Caraway, Rick Hopkins, Oscar Ruiz and Terri Slonaker. The Policy for the Faculty Senate states that if a Senator is going to be absent that they notify the Secretary. A Senator is allowed 3 absences during the year.

VI. New Business/Announcements

- Dr. Aurelia Rocha – Faculty Fellow at San Antonio College – was teaching viola and cello at San Antonio College. In her new role, she is tasked with running the book club, writing the newsletter and providing professional development. She also wants to work with the Faculty Senate Communications Committee to get out information on the professional development offerings.
- A photo was taken of the Faculty Senate by Rocky Garza, the Ranger reporter.
- Senator Irvin stated that he had created a new discussion board on the new Procedure issue on the Senate Canvas site.

VII. Adjournment

The Faculty Senate Meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm

Next Faculty Senate Meeting will be on Friday, May 7th from 12:30 – 2:30pm via Zoom