

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Location: Meeting held remotely via video conference and at Starr County Campus

1. Opening

Time: 4:00 PM - 4:05 PM

Details: Welcome remarks by Daniel. Note on the absence of a quorum (15 senators present).

2. Attendance

Executive Committee Present: Daniel A Montez, Mark Murray, Jaclyn Miller, Richard Buchli
Senators Present:

- Liberal Arts: Rachael Brown, Jodi Sabin, Christopher Richardson
- Nursing and Allied Health: Sharon Rice, Gabriel Pena
- Bachelor's Program: Laura Garcia
- Business, Public Safety, and Technology: JoAnna Martinez, Guadalupe Sanchez, Erika Guerra
- Math, Science, IT: Adrian Gonzalez, Fidel Rodriguez, Nicholas Hinojosa, Mehrzad Mahmoudian-Geller
- Social and Behavioral Science: Ana Riojas, Fred Cady

Senators Not Present:

- Silvia Herrera, Annie Liss, Melissa Terry, Layman Darnell Miller, Henry Cortez, Esmeralda Adame, Robert Vela Onesimo Trevino, Courtney Galle, Tim Weber, Mark Gadson

3. February Minutes

Time: 4:06 PM - 4:08 PM

Details: The February minutes were presented, with a motion by Dr. Geller and seconded by Laura Garcia. No Quorum, will re-vote in April.

4. Committee Reports

- Constitution Committee: At the last meeting, it was voted that the Constitution Committee would review the inclusion of lecturer and adjunct representatives in the Faculty Senate and revisions to the constitution for faculty taking staff positions. Feedback was minimal, with only one response indicating no need to revisit lecturer and adjunct representation, which has been historically opposed based on their shorter appointment terms as specified in Article 5, Section 3, paragraph three of the constitution. The discussion about these issues has been ongoing, including discussions as recent as the day before the meeting.

- Elections Update: Mark Murray reported that the nomination period had closed, and ballots were to be released between April 1 or 2, with results expected on April 23. He highlighted the active participation in the nomination process and anticipated a healthy turnout for the election.

- Constitutional Amendments: Daniel discussed the proposed constitutional amendments focused on introducing new sections to include lecturer and adjunct representation in the Faculty Senate. It detailed how senators from each division would nominate representatives, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would review these nominations and appoint one lecturer and one adjunct representative. These changes are designed to accommodate the unique employment durations of lecturers and adjuncts, with provisions for interim appointments by the president if necessary. The amendments also addressed potential adjustments to representation as the college evolves and set the duration of positions to align with the typical contracts of lecturers and adjuncts, which do not exceed one academic year.

- General Committee Task Force: Erika Guerra asked for clarification on what constitutes an ICLC (Industry Credential Leading to Certification). It was explained that this process allows students to achieve certifications through credential tests associated with certain classes, which could stand independent of their academic success in those classes.

- Chair Evaluation Committee: Daniel discussed the chair evaluation form, noting that there are self-evaluations and that division deans will also evaluate chairs. The importance of this evaluation process in maintaining academic standards and providing feedback was emphasized.

- Degree Reclamation Committee: Daniel spoke about the need to engage students actively to retain them at STC. He stressed the importance of creating connections and support networks to help students feel integrated and valued at the college.

- Generative Artificial Intelligence Committee: The survey is still available for faculty to fill out.

- Executive Committee: The Executive Committee provided an update on their meeting with Dr. Petrosian and Dr. Millan, discussing several key issues. Firstly, they reaffirmed the Faculty Senate's desire to be consistently involved in college-wide committees to ensure proper representation. Secondly, they addressed concerns about the stagnation of compensation adjustments for adjunct and overload pay, which hasn't seen an increase in a long time. It was noted that although reviews had been conducted pre-COVID, the financial

challenges postponed these adjustments. Lastly, the potential creation of a task force to review academic classification was discussed.

5. Open Discussion

- Child Care at Campus: Adrian Gonzalez raised the possibility of establishing child care facilities at the Pecan campus similar to those at the Mid Valley campus.
- Parking Issues: Fred Cady inquired about the reasons behind early semester parking restrictions.
- Employee Benefits: Rachael Brown observed that employee benefits will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Board Meeting: Dr. Geller and Erika Guerra volunteered to attend the board meeting.

6. Closing

Time: 5:36 PM

Details: Meeting adjourned without a motion due to the absence of a quorum.