

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: October 22, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:43 p.m.

Location: Mid-Valley Campus, Room K1.503, with online participation via Microsoft Teams

Facilitator: Daniel A. Montez, Senate President

1. Call to Order

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Daniel A. Montez opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and confirmed the start time.

Noted the cancellation of presentations from Dr. Suarez and Ms. Olivares from HR.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes Reviewed: Meeting minutes sent on October 21, 2024.

Motion to Approve: Joanna Martinez

Seconded by: Dr. Mehrzad Mahmoudian Geller

Vote: Unanimously approved.

3. Election Updates

Presented by: Mark Murray

Key Outcomes:

- Rebecca Lynch (Organizational Leadership) is the new Adjunct Senator.
- Celina Jorge (Psychological Sciences) is the new Lecturer Representative.
- Ruby Campusano elected as the new BPST Senator.

- Discussion on the President-Elect position:
 - No new nominations beyond Nick Hinojosa.
 - Senate voted to confirm Nick Hinojosa as President-Elect without further election.

Motion to Confirm: Dr. Mehrzad Mahmoudian Geller

Seconded by: Joanna Martinez

Vote: Unanimously approved, confirming Nick Hinojosa as President-Elect.

4. External Affairs Update

Presenter: Olivia Gomez, Director of External Affairs

Overview:

- Department goal: Forge partnerships with external organizations to provide resources and opportunities for students.

- Current Projects:

1. Expanding the GED program to Colonias.
2. Securing rental vouchers for foster youth turning 18.
3. Collaborating with philanthropic donors to support students in need.

Call to Action: Encouraged faculty to suggest community partnerships.

Gomez introduced team members Myra de la Garza (Coordinator) and Aylin Luna (Assistant).

5. Enrollment Services Update

Presenter: Otoniel Matamoros, Dean of Enrollment Services

Key Points:

- Focus on student recruitment and persistence.
- Upcoming event for dual-credit high school graduates on November 2nd to encourage matriculation.

- Efforts to re-engage students who have stopped out, especially those close to completing their degrees.
- Launching Salesforce as a recruitment tool to streamline communication with potential and current students.
- Emphasis on reducing the number of students dropped for non-payment by improving communication and offering financial aid solutions.
- Upcoming “Adult Promise” program to support adult learners close to completing their degrees, including debt forgiveness initiatives.

6. Committee Updates

Executive Committee Report: Daniel A. Montez

- Enrollment Focus:
 - Discussed efforts to address declining enrollment.
 - Faculty’s role in supporting current students’ persistence.
 - Announcement about a registration banner to be shared with senators for dissemination.
- Event Email Policy:
 - Issues with the distribution of event information via Faculty Staff News.
 - Concerns raised about limiting faculty’s ability to promote dynamic student events.
 - Suggestions included a weekly newsletter or a separate listserv for events.
 - Daniel will continue discussions with Andrew Mantle from the PR/Marketing team to find a resolution.
- Committee Assignment Update:
 - Daniel will email committee data and chair assignments by October 23, 2024.

7. Open Discussion

1. Policy on Covering Windows:

- Concerns raised about a new policy requiring windows in faculty offices and classrooms to remain uncovered unless there’s an active shooter situation.

- Faculty highlighted issues with privacy, professional respect, and the practicality of the policy during emergencies.

- Request for senators to gather feedback from constituents for further discussion in the next meeting.

2. Compensation for Handling Incompletes:

- Adjunct and full-time faculty raised concerns about uncompensated workload for managing incomplete grades post-term.

- Discussion on potential solutions, including compensation formulas or prorated pay.

- No final decision, but consensus to continue the conversation.

3. Mileage Reimbursement Issue:

- Mark Murray reported that faculty in the Social Behavioral Sciences division had not received mileage reimbursements for September and October due to administrative delays.

- Other divisions were encouraged to verify their own reimbursement statuses.

8. Action Items

- Daniel A. Montez:

- Distribute committee assignment details via email.

- Follow up with Andrew Mantle on event communication alternatives.

- Gather feedback from Chief Suarez on the safety aspects of the uncovered windows policy.

- Senators:

- Collect feedback from constituents regarding the windows policy.

- Be vigilant about mileage reimbursement concerns in their respective divisions.

9. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Joanna Martinez

Seconded by: Micah Bailey

Time: 5:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: Date TBD, potentially before or after Thanksgiving.