



Faculty Senate
San Antonio College

Minutes

March 19, 2021 12:30-2:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting called to order by: Senate President Olivia Sandoval at 12: 33pm
Note taker: Isabel Garcia, Senate Secretary

Senators absent: Dee Joseph and Deidre Flynn-Dobson

I. Call to Order

Introduction of Rocky Garza Jr., Reporter and Editor with the SAC Ranger

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting was made by Senator Irvin. Motion was seconded by Senator Robertson-Schule and passed as amended with a correction of the name Lowden to Dowden.

III. Board of Trustees Meeting and Committee of Whole Meeting

- Committee of the Whole: Meeting attended by Senator Flynn-Dobson. Topics discussed included: Student Success, the Alamo Experience Model, Experiential Learning, ACD enrollment and Budget and Finance. There were only 3 tuition increases between 2012 and 2021. Senator Cabalu also stated that there seemed to be a big focus on experiential learning programs and he wants to give everyone a heads up that there could be an initiative for experiential learning coming down the pipeline. He also said that in regard to recruitment and admissions that SAC only had a slight dip in the fall enrollment.

IV. Reports of Officers

- Senate President Olivia Sandoval:
UFS and EFC Update - the EFC has received a new charge in regard to the Faculty Student Mentoring Program – to have it implemented by the fall of 2021. The Ad hoc committee still needs to discuss the deliverables on that charge. They have been meeting to discuss expectations. They are also still working on the reinstatement of tenure. Senator Irvin spoke in regard to this topic and said that the 4 separate groups that have been working on it are now focused on creating a whole, complete draft. There is a target date in May that they are hoping to hit in regard to sending it forward to the Board. In regard to the Faculty Evaluation system, work is continuing and progress is being made. Administration has suggested that the evaluation system should be in place before tenure is reinstated since they go hand in hand. Senator

Martinez stated that as a member of the Ad hoc committee on faculty evaluation, she had not heard anything about that being the case and expressed some concern. The End of Course Student surveys will be implemented in the fall of 2021. UFS is meeting with trustees and will be meeting with Yvonne Katz on Monday. The meetings have been productive. The Policy and Procedure Review process will be implemented in the fall of 2021 as well. UFC will also represent faculty in Group Four of the Central Command by participating in the planning and giving of input. UFS also wants faculty involvement in the Budget by having representation at the meetings and is working on that. Senator Irvin stated that in regard to Policy and Procedure, it will be great to have input and feedback on new and revised policies or procedures but the process will take place quickly and will require a lot of work and time on the part of the Senate. In regard to following up on the letter sent to Dr. Vela about the proposal to sell back personal and sick leave time, he has not responded so there will be a report on that topic at the next month's meeting.

- Senate Vice President Ruby Martinez: Serves on the EFC Ad hoc Faculty Evaluation committee and within that committee on a subcommittee on peer review. They are trying to move away from the use of Faculty 180 since it is a software system and not an evaluation system. In regard to the Class Cap Charrette, it is going to occur next Friday and the Faculty Senate is invited to attend and participate.
- Senate Secretary Isabel Garcia: No report

V. Adjunct Faculty Council

- Senator Amanda Martin: The nominations for the ACE awards has opened and will be open until the last day of classes. The Council had a meeting on Tuesday, March 16th and the main topics of conversation was the impact of COVID and what the protocols for returning to the classroom and campus are going to be. Another issue that the Council is addressing is coordinating the Adjunct Faculty Handbook with the Faculty Handbook and perhaps attaching the Adjunct Handbook to the Faculty Handbook so that information is not unnecessarily repeated.

VI. Topical Items

- TCCTA Convention – President Sandoval asked if any of the attendees had anything that they wanted to share about the experience. Senator Eng said that she had had difficulty trying to get into some of the sessions. And President Sandoval agreed and said that she had encountered access problems as well.
- Ombudsperson – President Sandoval reported that while this issue was taken to UFS and agreed that we need an Ombudsperson at the District level. However the issue is at the bottom of their agenda and so progress has been slow but the topic is still on the list of items to be addressed.
- District Faculty Development Advisory Board – Senator Joseph – not in attendance and no report
- SAC Teaching and Learning Committee (Faculty Development) – Senator Robertson-Schule said that the committee had met and that the teaching and learning website is being continually updated. She asked that faculty nominate a faculty member, each month, that they feel is doing great things and whose work should be highlighted. They will also be implementing a wellness activity every week.

- Mascot Committee – Senator Rodriguez and Senator Knotts – Senator Rodriguez reported that the committee had put together some focus groups that have met over the last few days and that they are in the final stages of paring down the list of nominations to a list of final mascot candidates. Senator Knotts added that once that happens, the list will be set to the CAT team for further input and then sent out for voting.
- Textbook Committee – Lisa Menard said that she had received documents to rate and will be working and discussing them with Dr. Blackwood who is also on the committee. There is a deadline of March 26th for her input. She also stated that they are reviewing the proposals of three vendors. Senator Irvin also added that he and Sean Duffy are college representatives of the Universal Access Working group at the District level. Universal Access is textbooks and resource materials that students can get on day one for little or no cost and this is an initiative that is being pushed by Dr. Railey. It has also been rebranded as Alamo Books Plus.
- Faculty Retirement Incentive package – President Sandoval stated that Dr. Vela thinks this topic is something that the Faculty Senate should pursue and asked the Senate what they thought. Senator Caraway said that she felt that, yes, the senate should pursue it. She stated that the senate should support a good retirement package but that we should also make clear that those vacant positions should then be filled with new hires. After discussion, it was agreed that they topic of writing a letter in support would be tabled until next month's meeting.
- Senate Webmaster – Robyn Mc Gilloway – no report

V. Committee Updates

- Curriculum and Instruction – Senators Alex Bernal and Jose Moreno, Chairs
No committee report. The topic of Year Round Scheduling was addressed since St. Philips sent out a letter from their faculty senate asking the sister colleges to support their position on this issue - which is to eliminate year round scheduling. There was uncertainty as to whether it was something that would be happening at SAC and then a discussion about whether to support St. Philip's or not. The issue was tabled until more specific information on how year round scheduling might affect SAC was known.
- Communication – Senator Caraway, Chair
No committee report. She notified the senate that there is a conference on Pedagogy tomorrow at Northeast Lakeview and offered a link to the website for anyone interested.
- Policy and Procedures – Senator Deidra Flynn-Dobson, Chair
Senator Flynn-Dobson was not present to give a report but had given it to President Sandoval who said that the committee is continuing their work and the goal is to complete it by the end of the semester.
- Research – Senator Bruce Norton, Chair
Linda Boyer Owens has not responded to a request to meet with the Faculty Senate or the Research committee. President Sandoval stated that she would pursue asking Boyer-Owens if she could send a representative.
- Surveys and Elections – Senator Mai Lai Eng, Chair stated that the Faculty Senate member elections had concluded and that the five Arts and Sciences members are Patricia Portales (new), Jennifer Caraway (returning), Isabel Garcia (returning), Karen Douglas (returning), and Kim Hofmeister (new) and from PTE the three members are

Dee Joseph (returning), Oscar Reyes (new) and Rolando ? (new). Anahita Lorestani is the first alternate. An email request for nominations for the Tenure and Terminations Appeals committee will be sent out to the faculty on Monday and determined by April the 1st. After that, on April 5th, an email request for nominations for the Promotion Appeals committee will go out and there is no election for those positions either.

- Nominations were then held for Faculty Senate Officers for 2021-2022. The nominees were Ruby Martinez for President, Isabel Garcia for Vice President and Robin Mc Gilloway for Secretary. Nominations were closed by a motion made by Senator Bernal and seconded by Senator Eng and the motion passed unanimously. The election was then held via an anonymous voting poll through Zoom and 100% of the votes (17) cast were for the nominated candidates.

VI. New Business/Announcements

- Client Satisfaction Survey – Usha Venkat and Yvonne Galindo – this survey was held after the Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. Adjournment

The Faculty Senate Meeting was adjourned at 2:14pm

Next Faculty Senate Meeting will be on Friday, March 19th from 12:30 – 2:30pm via Zoom

Acronyms used in these Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:

EFC – Executive Faculty Council

UFS – United Faculty Senate

TCCTA – Texas Community College Teachers Association