



Faculty Senate  
San Antonio College

## Minutes

January 15, 2021      12:30-2:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting called to order by: Senate President Olivia Sandoval at 12: 30pm  
Note taker: Isabel Garcia, Senate Secretary

Senators absent: Mahmud Yusuf

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### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting was made by Senator Robertson-Schule. Motion was seconded by Senator Luis Rodrigues and passed unanimously.

### III. Board of Trustees Meeting

- Meeting attended by Senator Eng and Senator Knotts. Topics discussed included: Student Success, increase in on line activity, the Alamo Collegiate Network, Student Leadership and how all students need the opportunity to participate in it whether they are full or part time and a Legislative Update. Senator Menard gave an overview of the Ascender Program that focuses on learning communities.

### IV. Reports of Officers

- Senate President Olivia Sandoval:  
UFS and EFC Update - the UFS continues to work with the EFC on several Ad hoc committees. The end of course evaluation committee phase 2 is still working and progressing. An Ad hoc committee to reinstate tenure report was given by Senator Irvin at the request of President Sandoval. He stated that progress is being made and that the chairs of the committee has done a great job of organizing the different tasks. Some of the Faculty Review Policy procedure committee members had a meeting with the Chancellor and other administrators and continue to make progress and hold more meetings. Other topics on the UFS agenda include: class size, year-long scheduling, faculty mentoring and creating an ombudsperson position.
- College Administration - The letter written by the Faculty Senate in regard to going back to campus at 25% rather than 10% was sent to both Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood. Dr. Blackwood responded and said that she appreciated the Faculty Senate sharing their thoughts on the matter with them. Other items discussed included the stipend being offered for earning the APPQMR qualification as well as the stipend covering the registration fee for attending the TCCTA conference. Dr. Vela offered to match the funds

used by the Faculty Senate for sending faculty to the conference as a way of encouraging more faculty participation. President Sandoval stated that the deadline for attending the conference was flexible. Senators interested in attending were: Mai Lai Eng, Dee Joseph and Mahmud Yusuf and Olivia Sandoval. Dr. Vela also brought up the idea that a good project for the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate to work on together would be exploring the possibility of selling back vacation days. President Sandoval pointed out to Dr. Vela that faculty do not get vacation days but do have personal days and he said that that would work too as well as possibly adding in sick days. He suggested that the Senate write a proposal to get this ball rolling and he would then take it to the SLT for discussion and approval. He is supportive of this idea since some faculty and staff are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic and its impact on enrollment, work hours etc. President Sandoval asked if the Senate would like to pursue the idea of writing this letter on selling back leave. There was a motion made by Senator Rodriguez to write a letter seeking reimbursement for personal days and sick leave. Senator Bernal seconded it. After some discussion, the Senate passed the motion with Senator Davis abstaining since he had just come into the meeting. The following Senators volunteered to take on the task of writing this letter: Jennifer Caraway, Luis Rodriguez and Alex Bernal. President Sandoval also shared that Dr. Vela had said that heightened security would be on the campus the following week for the Presidential inauguration. Additionally, the Wellness 360 clinic would be open online for students to get telehealth consultations and then on February 15<sup>th</sup>, it would be open on campus. Dr. Vela also said that San Antonio College had received money to implement a Caring Campus for Faculty – engaging faculty to build positive outcomes for students.

- Senate Vice President Ruby Martinez: Stated that due to illness, she had to resign as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and the UFC for Faculty Evaluation at the end of last semester. She is, however, still on the committee and they are still working on Faculty Evaluation although there is nothing to report at this time. Equity in regard to class size was a topic that was brought up to Dr. Blackwood by Senator Martinez and others several times in the recent past. So Dr. Blackwood proposed that data from courses in all departments be collected. So after all data from courses has been collected and analyzed in the different departments there will be a charrette at the college level. Dr. Blackwood asked Senator Martinez to be a part of the planning committee for the charrette.
- Senate Secretary Isabel Garcia: No report

#### **V. Adjunct Faculty Council**

- Senator Amanda Martin: She is working on the first Newsletter for the Spring. There will be a meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> to organize plans and projects for the Spring and the first general meeting will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> at a time to be determined.

#### **VI. Topical Items**

- District Faculty Development Advisory Board – Senator Joseph was scheduled to attend the District Faculty Development Retreat in December but it had to be rescheduled to a day yet to be determined and because of that there was no meeting in December.

- SAC Teaching and Learning Committee (Faculty Development) – Senator Robertson-Schule said that they have not had their meeting yet but that there was a sign up on the Faculty Teaching and Learning website. Every Friday, faculty can choose their time and topic for having a shared discussion on pertinent topics.
- Mascot Committee – Senator Knotts said that they had a meeting on Monday and they are on track to get the survey out next week. President Sandoval added that the selection of a new mascot will be completed this spring.

## **V. Committee Updates**

- Communication – Senator Caraway, Chair  
No committee report. She did remind everyone on the Senate that they are a liaison to their Department and as such should be making a point of reaching out to their Department to make a connection with the faculty so that the faculty know they have a conduit for communication with the Administration.
- Curriculum and Instruction – Senators Alex Bernal and Jose Moreno, Chairs  
No committee report. However, Senator Bernal stated that we need to have the chairs give more input into scheduling and efficiencies instead of the Deans and Vice Presidents. He also pointed out that there was some confusion as to when Spring Break occurs since the dates for it are not the same on the two school calendars. Senator Christian reiterated a concern in regard to class sizes and Senator Caraway added that class size is directly tied to quality of education in regard to how well content is delivered to students. Senator Martinez encouraged Senators and other faculty to attend the Charrette to discuss these issues.
- Policy and Procedures – Senator Deidra Flynn-Dobson, Chair  
No committee report. In regard to the Faculty Handbook, there is no new update and it is still a work in progress.
- Research – Senator Bruce Norton, Chair  
Senator Norton is still trying to find a date for a meeting with Linda Boyer Owens. The tentative date will be sometime after Sac Scores in late February.
- Surveys and Elections – Senator Mai Lai Eng, Chair  
Senator Eng asked if any of the Senators were rotating off after their 3 year term. Olivia Sandoval, Jennifer Caraway, Isabel Garcia, Deidre Flynn Dobson, and Saumil Christian replied that they would be up for re-election. Senators Irvin and Lorestani will be cycling off the Senate having completed 2 – 3 year terms. Senator Eng asked that the Senators try and find other potential Senators to replace those who will not be able to return. Additionally, Senator Bernal stated that he will be retiring from SAC in August.
- District Textbook Committee – Senator Lisa Menard  
No report.

## **VI. New Business/Announcements**

- Ombudsperson – Olivia Sandoval  
UFS is talking about presenting the idea of an Ombudsperson to the District. However, the concern is that that person might not have enough to do in a 40 hour week if there is an Ombudsperson at each college so that maybe they also need to be required to do other things. So the UFS thought that they would go back to their individual colleges to discuss the position with their Senates. UFS does not think it should be a person from HR since that person would not be neutral in a conflict situation. President Sandoval

asked the Senate what they thought and Senator Caraway agreed that the person should not be from HR. Senator Bernal stated that the person should be from the Faculty Senate and/or there should be a committee. And similar to the Tenure and Appeals Committee, the senate committee could meet as needed versus hiring a new position. None of the Colleges have such a committee in their Bylaws so they would have to be changed in order to accommodate that Faculty Senate committee. Senator Martinez said that Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood discouraged this tack the last time this discussion came up given the liability issues. After discussion, President Sandoval concluded that the Faculty Senate did not want an Ombudsperson at the College level but did favor one at the District level. She said that she would take that information to the UFS.

**VII. Adjournment**

The Faculty Senate Meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm

*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*

*APPQMR*