



Faculty Senate
San Antonio College

Minutes

August 21, 2020 1:00pm-2:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting called to order by: Senate President Olivia Sandoval at 1:17pm
Note taker: Isabel Garcia, Senate Secretary

Senators absent: None

Note: During the Retreat, President Sandoval welcomed new Senators Luis Rodriguez, Robin McGilloway, Lisa Menard, and Karen Douglas. She also welcomed back returning Senators Alex Bernal, Bruce Davis, Ruby Martinez, Yusuf Mahmud and Mai Lai Eng.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

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

III. Reports of Officers

- Senate President Olivia Sandoval: Meeting with Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood. There was a question of whether the college budget still included the \$1,000.00 for continuing education expenses for the nominees for the Minnie Piper Scholarship Award and the answer is yes. These monies were not awarded last year since the requisite 3 nominations requirement was not met. President Sandoval encouraged the Senate to nominate fellow full time faculty members or themselves for consideration. There was a request for an update on deadline dates for Fac180 and for Promotions and President Sandoval asked if the Academic Calendar could be shared sooner than it has been in the past and Dr. Vela did provide that information sooner. There was also a question about the job security of faculty and staff and Dr. Vela said that faculty jobs are secure although there would not be any new hiring or backfill of existing positions unless there is an obvious need. Senator Martinez added that Dr. Vela also stated that if, for any reason, full time faculty jobs were in jeopardy, he would let the Faculty Senate know ahead of time. Additionally, the technology stipend that was given out last spring for teaching remotely would also be allocated to full time faculty paychecks this semester as well. Another concern was the Faculty Senate funds and whether they had been cut from the budget and he said no. In regard to Senators attending the TCCTA Faculty Leaders conference on October 9th and 10th, there is money available to pay for attendee registration. The National TCCTA conference will be held in February of 2021 in Houston and there is money for Senators to attend that convention as well. President Sandoval also informed Dr. Vela that the Faculty Senate would be pursuing the topic of the Faculty Survey and Fac180 this academic year as well as the topic of reinstating

tenure and said that the UFS would be looking into these items as well. She believes Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood would support bringing back tenure. Also, if we want them to come to a Faculty Senate meeting we need to plan a date.

- Senate Vice President Ruby Martinez: Dr. Vela and Dr. Blackwood were supportive of reinstating tenure and said that we would have to provide a united front and present a robust system that is not a traditional model of tenure. It needs to be very carefully crafted to reflect the community college system. She also stated that, at the current time, one of our sister colleges is not on board with reinstating tenure. Senator Irvin added that he had tried to make tenure an EFC charge at the end of December and the president of NWV was leaning that way and then in March because of Covid the thought was that now was not the time to push it. Now, there is a new president at NWV so maybe it could be a charge that the EFC looks at in the coming year. President Sandoval said that tenure was put on the list of concerns for the coming year for EFC and that they want to put together an ad hoc committee to look at it. Senator Menard asked what the EFC is and Senator Davis answered that the acronym stands for the Executive Faculty Council and it serves the role of bringing faculty senate concerns and issues before the board of Trustees through a faculty fellow that represented the EFC and thus serves as the voice of the Alamo Colleges Faculty Senates. Last year, the issue of updating the end of course surveys was brought before the Board of Trustees through the EFC. Members of the EFC include the President and Vice President of each faculty senate, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor Dr. Reilly, the College President of NLC, the Associate Vice Chancellor of HR, the PAC Vice President of Academic Success, the SAC Vice President of Student Success and the Faculty Fellow. President Sandoval and Vice President Martinez will be attending the EFC Retreat after the Senate meeting.
- Senate Secretary Isabel Garcia: Her intention for the coming year is to collect and define the acronyms used at the Administration level and in meetings and put them into a handbook for the edification of the Senators.

IV. Adjunct Faculty Council

Senator Amanda Martin: Adjunct Faculty Council is planning their first meeting for the second week of September, perhaps the 15th or 16th. The ACE award winners were announced and there are three recipients: David Delgado from Student Development, Jennifer McIntire from History, and Amanda Martin from English.

V. Committee Updates and Breakout Sessions

- Communication – Senator Caraway, Chair
This committee collects feedback from faculty through the Senate Liaisons. Senator Caraway encouraged each Senator to reach out and let their departments know that they are available to answer questions and address issues. The committee is interested in updating the Faculty Senate Website and Robin McGilloway, who took the training and has worked on the Website in the past, volunteered to take this project on along with Senator Caraway.
- Curriculum and Instruction – Senators Alex Bernal and Jose Moreno, Chairs
No report.

- Policy and Procedures – Senator Deidra Flynn-Dobson, Chair
No report.
- Research – Chair vacancy
Committee needs to decide on a Chair. Senator Norton said that one of the issues they addressed in the spring was the amount of release time for program coordinators and resulted in a charrette to discuss that issue which did result in program coordinators receiving more release time. The other issue that was addressed was an analysis in the changes in faculty real wages. However, since each faculty member gets a different increase depending on their specific circumstance, it did not result in any concrete and comparable information.
- Surveys and Elections – Senator Mai Lai Eng, Chair
The senators that were on the committee last year will also be on this year's committee. One of their first tasks will be dealing with the Minnie Piper Award nominations.

VI. New Business/Announcements

- Faculty Happy Hour via Zoom – President Sandoval
Proposed that the Faculty Senate hold a Zoom Happy Hour in the next couple of weeks. The proposed date and time being Friday, August 28th at 3:00pm. Senator Knotts thought this idea was a good one and suggested having break out rooms for different topics/areas of concern. Senator Caraway thought another approach might be to organize breakout rooms with the departmental liaisons. Senator Martinez said that she thought the original intent of the Happy Hour was to have no structure to the forum and to encourage community and camaraderie. Senator Garcia echoed this thought. Senator Caraway suggested that this first get together be about getting to know your fellow faculty and then later sessions might be about specific concerns. President Sandoval asked Senator Caraway if her committee could organize it. She agreed. A motion was made by Senator Irvin that the Senate host a Happy Hour on Friday, August 28th from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. The motion was seconded by Senator Bernal. The motion passed.
- Compensation for increased student loads – Ryan Cabalu
Senator Cabalu said that a faculty member came to him with the following issue - this past summer, class sizes increased without any increase in compensation and after doing some research, Senator Cabalu said that this phenomenon has also happened in other departments and is also carrying on into the fall semester. Senator Bernal suggested that this be an issue that the Curriculum Committee look into and then bring back to the next Faculty Senate meeting for further review and discussion based on what academic maximums for classes in each discipline need to be.

VII. Adjournment

The Faculty Senate Meeting was adjourned at 2:36pm

Next Faculty Senate Meeting will be on Friday, September 11th from 12:30 – 2:30pm via Zoom