

## APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are the official minutes.

### ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING

July 20, 2022

**Present:** *Richard Benson, Inga Musselman, Mohammad Akbar, Andy Amato, Ashley Barnes, Lisa Bell, Kurt Beron, Dinesh Bhatia, Patrick Brandt, Monica Brussolo, Adam Chandler, Nikki Delk, Karen Doore, John Ferraris, Mary Beth Goodrich, Maria Hasenhuttl, Bill Hefley, Dorothee Honhon, Karen Huxtable-Jester, Naser Islam, Michael Kesden, David Lumley, Victoria McCrady, Syam Menon, Sarah Moore, Simeon Ntafos, Dawn Owens, Elizabeth Pickett, Ravi Prakash, Shalini Prasad, Siham Raboune, Suresh Radhakrishnan, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Michael Rebello, Carolyn Reichert, Monika Salter, Maribeth Schlobohm, Gaurav Shekhar, Uma Srikanth, Stephanie Taylor, Lucien Thompson, Christine Veras de Souza, Shilyh Warren, Regina Ybarra*

**Visitors:** *Rafael Martín, Naofal Al-Dhahir, Ellen Ammons, William Anderson, Kristin Atchison, Sandy Biesel, Janette Bell, Lance Kyle Bennett, Tim Bray, Celeste Burnett, Larry Chasteen, Robert Clarke, Darren Crone, Mareze Crone, Torrie Cropps, Marie Cubie, Gregg Dieckmann, Brian Dourty, Adannah Duruoha, Greg Dussor, Colleen Dutton, Kyle Edgington, George Fair, Qin Fang, Stephanie Garcia-Rocha, Agapito Garcia, Laura Gelles, Erin Greer, Alejandra Gutierrez, Vinita Hajeri, Charles Haseman, Leigh Hausman, Shella Hayes, Cynthia Haynes, Melissa Hernandez-Katz, Daniel Hernandez, Raul Hinojosa, Amy Hofland, Shayla Holub, Megha Hooli, Julia Hsu, Jennifer Hudson, Calvin Jamison, Surya Janakiraman, Janet Johnson, Kruthi Kanduri, Jennifer Klunk, Dee Lambert, Mark Lee, Ingrid London, Maribeth Schlobohm, Jennifer McDowell, Mark McKinney, Marco Mendoza, Roxanne Minnish, Victoria Morlaes, Jessica Murphy, Murray Leaf, Christi Nielsen, Mehrdad Nourani, Alice O'Toole, Sanaz Okhovat, Margaret Owen, Joseph Pancrazio, Terry Pankratz, Yvette Pearson, Miguel Razo-Razo, Jazzmyn Roberts, Meghna Sabharwal, Ellen Safley, Elizabeth Samuel, Brooke Schafer, Shailesh Shah, Tim Shaw, Gloria Shenoy, Scott Simpson, Amanda Smith, Melanie Spence, Stephen Spiro, Amandeep Sra, Rukhsana Sultana, Kuei Sun, Shiyi Wei, Norman Thompson, Vy Trang, Victor Valcarcel, Karl Van Leeuwen, Mary Jo Venetis, Vincent Charles, John Walls, McClain Watson*

**Absent:** *Poras Balsara, Olivia Banner, Ovidiu Daescu, Vladimir Dragovic, Andrea Fumagalli, Todd Griffith, Neeraj Mittal, BP Murthi, Syed Naqvi*

#### 1. Call to Order, Announcements & Questions – Inga Musselman

Dr. Richard Benson was not in attendance because he was on vacation. Provost Inga Musselman presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Provost Musselman provided an update on enrollment. The Office of Strategic Planning and Assessment continues to track the year-to-year enrollment for the upcoming fall semester. The current enrollment is 27,231 students, up 7.5% over this time last year and the growth is primarily in the freshman and masters' enrollments. Dr. Lawrence Redlinger is forecasting fall enrollment to be above 30,000 students for the first time. Based on his modeling, there is a range of possibility for enrollment ranging from 30,100 to 30,800 students.

Provost Musselman provided an update on Honorlock, the online proctoring service for assessment that was made available for all courses during the 2020-21 academic year when most classes were in an online format. It was continued in 2021-22 for all fully online asynchronous courses. The cost of Honorlock during these past two years was funded by higher education emergency relief funds (HERF). These funds have been expended. Therefore, to continue with the service, the Provost's Office has committed to funding the expense for Honorlock for AY2022-23 for all fully online asynchronous courses. The cost is approximately \$100,000. The Provost's Office will explore a more permanent source of funding for this service moving forward, but for the time being, the Provost's Office will cover the expense so there will be no break in service. Faculty and students have found this service valuable.

Provost Musselman reminded the faculty that the annual benefits enrollment period is July 15-31.

Dr. Rafael Martín provided an update on COVID-19 protocols. The CDC has raised the COVID-19 risk level across the North Texas region to level red as a result of higher infection rates. He met with UT Dallas' COVID-19 management team last week and the decision was made to once again encourage masking while indoors in public spaces. Signage is being posted on building entrances. At this time, the team does not anticipate any other significant changes to operations or the start of the fall semester. They will continue to monitor the situation closely and will make changes as the situation warrants.

Dr. Dinesh Bhatia asked what the University's official policy towards remote instruction is. He has been approached by students and faculty requesting remote instruction. Provost Musselman responded that the University has three official modes of instruction: face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online/asynchronous instruction. The faculty member can consider a request from a student and the faculty can work with the student to accommodate their needs.

Speaker Prakash asked what faculty should do when students request extensions if they catch COVID-19. Provost Musselman responded that the university requires the student to quarantine for 5 days and the faculty will need to accommodate the students for that time. Dr. Yvette Pearson reminded the faculty that long COVID-19 is covered under the ADA. If the results are impacting the faculty, staff, or student's normal life activities, they need to register or reach out to the Office of Student Accessibility or Human Resources.

Provost Musselman addressed the tweets from Dr. Tim Farage, professor of instruction in Computer Science. She provided a brief overview of the situation. The current actions that are being taken to address the situation are:

- (1) the University and the Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science have published statements on Twitter,
- (2) the Galerstein Gender Center held an Embrace Space forum and provided resources to assist the campus community,
- (3) the University is taking immediate steps to mitigate impact to both enrolled currently enrolled students and future students by opening alternative sections of the courses Dr. Farage was teaching in the summer and fall semesters.
- (4) the University is conducting an investigation accordingly. It is being led by the Office of Institutional Compliance, Equity and Title IX Initiatives. If anyone has any questions or complaints about this issue, they should contact this office.
- (5) the University recognizes the rights of the faculty member, both First Amendment rights regarding free speech and due process, as required by the institution's policies.

Speaker Prakash reminded that our defense of First Amendment rights should extend to speech that we may find disagreeable and repugnant. While he would defend Dr. Farage's rights to express his personal opinion on a private platform on his own time, he added that in the exercise of his own First Amendment rights he would condemn that specific tweet by Dr. Farage as abhorrent and contrary to the ideals of inclusion and respect for diversity we foster on our campus. He also agreed with Provost Musselman's statement about rights of a faculty member to due process.

Discussion followed.

## 2. **Approval of the Agenda – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash called for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Tres Thompson moved and Dr. Bill Hefley seconded. There were no objections and the agenda was approved unanimously.

## 3. **Approval of the Minutes – April 20, 2022 Senate Caucus Meeting and May 18, 2022 Senate Meeting – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Senate Caucus meeting and May 18, 2022 Senate meeting. Dr. Syam Menon moved and Dr. Michael Kesden seconded. There were no

corrections or objections to the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. Speaker's Report – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash reported that there will be over 150 undergraduate summer researchers presenting their research work on July 29 as part of the first annual Summer Platform for Undergraduate Research (SPUR). The Honors College and REUs across campus are trying to enlist judges for this event.

Speaker Prakash announced that the Senate needs to have a discussion on the format of future Senate meetings (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). He would like to add this to the August Senate meeting agenda. Faculty can email Speaker Prakash with suggestions and ideas. Speaker Prakash had attended the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting (hybrid) and it was not the most satisfactory experience for the people attending virtually and in-person. The format of the Senate meetings will be decided by a majority vote. Speaker Prakash will present this agenda item to the Academic Council for inclusion in the Senate agenda.

Several weeks ago, Speaker Prakash received a request for Senate approval of a pilot program by the Bookstore. The pilot program would include the cost of course material in student fees. He was told by a few faculty members that they would prefer to have a choice in what kind of material to adopt and how to make it available. The issue with this approach is that prior to rolling out the pilot program, there was not adequate discussion in the Senate. This also creates many administrative issues because of mandatory materials vs. supplemental materials, the usage of older vs. newer textbook versions, etc. Speaker Prakash requests that in the future, before implementing similar programs that are closely related to teaching in the classroom, that these discussions start in the Senate or Provost's Office and then get implemented as opposed to starting the pilot program and then looking for the endorsement of the Senate afterward.

There were no questions.

**5. THECB/SACSCOC/Legislative Updates – Serenity King**

Dr. Serenity King was not in attendance. She provided a detailed report and updates in the [July 20, 2022 agenda packet](#) (page 32).

**6. NCFCS/TXCFS/FAC Report – Ravi Prakash/Bill Hefley/Shilyh Warren/Michael Kesden**

Speaker Prakash reported that the UT Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) will meet in-person in early October at the UT System Office in Austin, TX. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TXCFS) will meet in San Antonio in October, immediately after the FAC meeting ends. The National Council of Faculty Senates (NCFCS) will meet on August 4<sup>th</sup> in Houston. Vice Speaker Michael Kesden will attend the meeting and will provide updates after the meeting.

There were no questions.

**7. Student Government Report – Kruthi Kanduri/Margaret Moore**

Kruthi Kanduri reported that Student Government is working on summer projects including the drinking water fountains, working with Texas Stream, and the blank space project and the Student Union. They are in the process of finding Student Government representatives for the university-wide committees.

Speaker Prakash emphasized that the Senate only approves faculty appointments to the Senate and University-wide committees. Student representatives are nominated by Student Government and Graduate Student Assembly accordingly. Staff Council nominates staff representatives. The Provost's Office will compile the names of appointees for the committee appointment letters.

**8. Graduate Student Assembly Report – Megha Hooli/Don Wijesinghe**

Megha Hooli reported the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) held their first general meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>. They are working on the GSA Constitution and bylaws and planning new events such as a Graduate Student Day One event where they will provide information about resources available to all graduate students and a social/networking event on August 29<sup>th</sup>. They are in the process of finding graduate student representatives

for the university-wide committees.

Megha requested to present at the August Senate meeting about a GSA initiative, Education Without Barrier. Speaker Prakash asked Megha to email the presentation materials to him for inclusion in the agenda.

**9. Staff Council Report – Jennifer Klunk/Debra Greszler**

Jennifer Klunk reported that Staff Council is working on closing out some past proposals and instituting new ones. Elections are ongoing in July. The Sandy Goertzen Award for an outstanding staff representative is being finalized. Staff Council is working to invite senior leadership, Cabinet Executive leadership, and different school deans to future Staff Council meetings to ensure there is continued visibility and understanding of what Staff Council is doing in conjunction with what they are doing in their leadership roles. Staff Council is in the process of finding staff representatives for the university-wide committees.

**10. CEP Recommendations – Syam Menon**

Dr. Menon reported CEP met in June 2022. There are eight items approved to move forward.

**A. 2022-'23 Undergraduate Course Inventory**

There are 6 additions, 1 deletion, and 26 edits. Three of the additions are repeatable to material science and engineering courses.

**B. 2022-'23 Core Course Inventory**

RHET 2302 is an existing course is being proposed as a core course (010).

**C. 2022-'23 Graduate Course Inventory**

There are 5 additions and 29 edits. None of the additions were repeatable.

**D. 2022-'23 Graduate Degree Plans**

All major changes have gone through governance and have been approved.

**E. CIP Code Change: MS-Accounting**

The program has become more technical over time. The change in CIP code request is for STEM designation.

**F. CIP Code Change: BS-Economics**

The program has become more technical over time. The change in CIP code request is for STEM designation.

**G. Involuntary Withdrawal Policy**

This is a draft of a new policy that allows for students to be withdrawn involuntarily under certain rare circumstances. For example, if safety becomes a concern, the policy establishes guidelines for involuntary withdrawals and outlines procedures for returning students back to UT Dallas. It was modeled after a similar policy at Stanford, and it was reviewed by UT Dallas' legal team.

**H. Undergraduate Readmission**

This is a policy for readmitting students who have been away from UT Dallas for longer than three successive semesters. This policy was previously brought to the Senate for approval. This version clarifies the current process in the catalog. The policy has been reviewed and the proposal now is to have a single process where students will reapply through the ApplyTexas portal.

There were no objections to the CEP agenda items. These recommendations come from a committee and do not need a second. All items were unanimously approved.

**11. Employee Climate Survey Results Presentation – Colleen Dutton**

Colleen Dutton presented the employee climate survey results. The full presentation slides can be found in the [July 20, 2022 agenda packet](#) (page 147).

The survey committee has not met with Dr. Benson to present the committee's recommendations. She has begun meeting with the vice presidents, school deans, and division heads about their unit reports and assist in creating action plans. There is not a plan for schools and divisions to share/report their action plans with the Senate. Speaker Prakash urged the senators to share their school's action plans with the Senate to

Discussion followed.

**12. Committee on Committee Appointments for AY2022-23 – Ravi Prakash**

Speaker Prakash presented the Committee on Committee's (CoC) nominations to Senate and university-wide committees for AY 2022-23. The Committee on Committees is made-up of representatives from all the schools, all the eight schools currently. The Speaker is a voting member and the Vice-Speakers and the Secretary of the Senate are ex-officio members. The CoC conducted their work asynchronously via BOX and email.

Discussion followed.

Coming from a committee, there was no need for a second. The next steps are the preparation of the appointment letters. These will be sent from the Provost's Office. Speaker Prakash requested that faculty accept/decline the appointments. If there are any vacancies, replacements will need to be identified.

**13. Approval of Summer 2022 Graduates – Bill Hefley**

Speaker Prakash asked Dr. Hefley to present the lists of eligible students to be certified for Summer 2022 graduation. There were 32 students who applied for graduation and have been removed from these lists who had requested full confidentiality.

For the undergraduate degrees, these students have applied for graduation, have been reviewed by the Office of Records, the Office of Records declares that all the students will be eligible for graduation upon completion of the current semester's work. Dr. Hefley moved the Senate to certify these students to graduate upon receipt of final grades and notification of completion of other requirements provided the grades are consistent with the standards for graduation prescribed by the university. Dr. Hefley also moved the Senate certify those students designated as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of coursework requirements consistent with the standard for honors offered by the university. Dr. Syam Menon seconded. There were no objections. The Senate unanimously approved.

For the graduate degrees, these students have applied for graduate degrees have been reviewed by the graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all these students will be eligible for the degrees indicated upon satisfactory completion of the current semesters work. Dr. Hefley moved for the Senate to certify these students to receive the degrees as indicated upon receipt of final degree grades and notification of completion of other requirements provided the grades are consistent with the standards for graduation prescribed by the university. Dr. Syam Menon seconded. There were no objections. The Senate unanimously approved.

**14. Adjournment – Richard Benson**

There being no further business, Provost Musselman adjourned the meeting at 3:06pm.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Ravi Prakash, Speaker of the Faculty

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date