



## FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 01, 2023

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

MEB 3200A & WebEx

### FACULTY SENATORS IN ATTENDANCE

KoKo Aung, M.D., M.P.H.; Vice President for Faculty Success,  
TTUHSC El Paso, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member  
Luisa A. Bowcutt, M.S.N., APRN, CNM, GGHSON  
Robert A. Danforth, D.D.S., WLHSDM, Nominating Committee Chair  
Abhizith Deoker, M.D. PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect  
Alok Dwivedi, Ph.D., PLFSOM  
Huanyu Dou, M.D., FGSBS  
Geoffrey D. Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, Faculty Senate President  
Subodh Kumar, Ph.D., FGSBS

Gloria Loera, D.N.P., R.N., NEA-BC, GGHSON  
Richard. W. McCallum, M.D., Faculty Senate Past-President, PLFSOM  
Stormy Monks, Ph.D., MPH, CHES, PLFSOM  
Marcos E. Ortega, Ph.D., WLHSDM  
Todd Parco, D.D.S., M.S.D., WLHSDM  
Jaclyn Reyes, M.S.N., R.N., CNE, CMSRN, GGHSON  
Laura Rodriguez, M.S.N., R.N., GGHSON  
Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D., FGSBS

### ABSENT FACULTY SENATORS

Alok Dwivedi, Ph.D., PLFSOM

Ramadevi Subramani Reddy, Ph.D., FGSBS

### OTHER ATTENDEES

Jose Humberto Enriquez, M.S.N, GGHSON  
Arlene Martinez, D.N.P., GGHSON  
Jennifer Mercer, D.N.P., GGHSON  
Monica Ramirez, D.N.P., GGHSON

Tony Castaneda, Director, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs  
Samantha Owen, Senior Analyst, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs

### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### **Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, Faculty Senate President**

Dr. Geoffrey Guttman, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M., and welcomed all participants attending in person and via WebEx.

### II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### **Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, Faculty Senate President**

The minutes from the October 27, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting were sent to all Faculty Senators for review prior to this meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved by the Faculty Senate as amended. Dr. Loera asked for the revision under New Business, Section d. Committee on Diversity and Inclusion – SB 17 Compliance of the word “dissolving” the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to “renaming” the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### **Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, Faculty Senate President**



#### a. Faculty Senate Bylaws Proposed Amendment

**Discussion:** The Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee, chaired by Dr. Loera, presented the Red-lined Faculty Senate Bylaws to the Faculty Senate for review. Per Dr. Loera, the goal is to reconvene as an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee and redesign the committee that is being removed from the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The Ad Hoc Bylaws committee consists of Dr. Loera, Dr. Ortega, and Dr. Manny Santa-Cruz, GGHSON. Dr. Aung explained to the Faculty Senate the urgency of approving the Faculty Senate Bylaws with the removal of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to be in compliance with SB 17. As the new law takes effect on January 1, 2024, the amended bylaws must be approved by the general faculty and the President by December 31, 2023. Dr. Aung also stated that general counsel advised to not only change the name of the committee, but also repurpose the scope and redesign the committee.

Dr. Deoker recommended closing the committee permanently and reassigning the committee's goals that the Faculty Senate would like to keep to the other existing committees. Dr. Guttmann disagreed because TTUHSC El Paso is a diverse campus. He stated that there is not enough representation on campus that reflects a primarily Hispanic population, especially in the faculty and administration. Dr. Deoker asked to put this discussion up for a vote. Dr. Guttmann said that a motion could be put on the floor on whether to dissolve the committee and not continue with it any further, or to dissolve the committee and redesign it to continue with similar functions and obtain the appropriate representation. Ortega is concerned about splitting the work of the Diversity & Inclusion committee to reassign it to other committees due to the committees already being overwhelmed with their own objectives. Dr. Ortega mentioned that Dr. Loera worked on pay equity last year and that is a large task to give to another committee. Dr. Ortega thinks that having more committees is better to be able to divide the work and actually accomplish tasks. Dr. Loera thinks that dissolving the committee would be a disservice to the faculty, students and the community. Ms. Reyes clarified the Faculty Senate is dissolving the Committee on Diversity & Inclusion and then voting to have the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee convene to work on proposing a committee with a new purpose and design.

Dr. Loera placed a motion on the floor to approve the red-lined bylaws amendment to strike the Faculty Senate Committee on Diversity & Inclusion from the Faculty Senate Bylaws. **Dr. Guttmann called for a vote to accept the red-lined changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws.** The motion to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws as reflected in the red-lined version was approved by the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Loera requested a motion to allow the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee to redesign and restructure a new committee to present it at a future date to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate unanimously voted to allow the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee to redesign and restructure a new committee to present it at a future date to the Faculty Senate.

#### b. Formulation of 2024 Faculty Senate Committee Goals

**Discussion:** Dr. Guttmann asked all standing committees to review each standing committee's goals and decide what they would like to tackle.

- Dr. Guttmann asked the Research Resources Committee to look into faculty mentorship. Dr. Guttmann formally named Dr. Zeng as the chair of the Research Resources Committee and Dr. Zeng accepted. Dr. McCallum asked how they will identify the mentors and Dr. Guttmann stated that



is what the committee needs to address, along with how the mentors will be rewarded. Dr. Zeng clarified that the Research Resources Committee can only provide recommendations. Dr. Guttman thinks Dr. Clegg would be a good ally. Dr. Ortega commented that the committee needs to contact Dr. Mulla since the Office of Faculty Development already has a mentorship program in place and it may simply be a matter of getting the word out about the existing mentoring program.

- Dr. Guttman also asked the Faculty Resources Committee to look at faculty retention.

#### **IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Robert Danforth, D.D.S., WLHSDM, *Nominating Committee Chair***

##### **a. Nominating Committee Update**

- Standing Committee Vacancies- Dr. Danforth updated senators on the following outstanding vacancies:
  - Faculty Resources Committee – PLFSOM Representative Nominee: Sheldon Rao, M.D., NEED TITLE AND DEPT
    1. Dr. Guttman called for a vote and the Faculty Senate unanimously voted to add Dr. Rao to the Faculty Resources Committee as a PLFSOM representative
  - Research Resources Committee- PLFSOM Representative: No Nominees

Dr. Danforth reached out to Dr. Dan Schuller, Chair, Internal Medicine – Transmountain, for one Transmountain representative to serve on the Faculty Resources Committee, but received no response. Dr. Danforth will follow up this with Dr. Schuller in an attempt to fill the current vacancy.

##### **b. Faculty Resources Committee Report**

Dr. Ortega, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met once in October and twice in November to discuss the TTUHSC El Paso Values Based Culture project and focused on the value, teamwork. The teamwork scenario selected centered on the theme of accreditation. A script was written with examples of both good teamwork and bad teamwork, and the scenario involves administrators, faculty members, staff, and students. The Faculty Resources committee is working with Dr. Mulla and his team in Office of Faculty Development to produce vignettes and edit the script. The vignettes will be four minutes long. The committee contacted Office of Institutional Advancement about potentially helping with producing vignettes. Dr. Ortega contacted TTUHSC Lubbock to inquire about how they produce similar content. Dr. Ortega wants to take the scenario utilized to demonstrate the value of teamwork and build it into the scenario for the next value, accountability. He is hoping to have the first vignette ready in January. The vignettes will be generalized. Videos from UT Austin's Nursing School were used as a framework since they have a lot of clinical scenarios.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, *Faculty Senate President***

**a. Next Faculty Senate Meeting:** January 26, 2024, 12-1 PM

**b. 2024 Piper Professor Award Nominee:** Dr. McCallum was recognized as the 2024 Piper Professor Award Nominee for TTUHSC El Paso.

#### **VI. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

**Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, *Faculty Senate President***

- a.** Dr. McCallum asked Dr. Guttman if he had given more thought to adding the committee chairs to the Executive Committee meetings. As it was discussed last year, Dr. McCallum thinks it would be beneficial. Dr. Guttman will discuss any issues with committee chairs directly instead of



inviting them to the Executive Committee meetings. Dr. Guttman would rather have the option of inviting the committee chairs if needed so the bylaws do not need to be revised.

- b. Dr. Guttman asked the Faculty Senators to ask their constituents to ensure that the mental well-being and safety of Jewish and Muslim faculty, staff, and students are maintained given the current events involving the Israel-Hamas war.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D., WLHSDM, Faculty Senate President**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 P.M.

Abhizith deoker  
Abhizith deoker (Jul 19, 2024 15:10 MDT)

**Abhizith Deoker, M.D.**

*Faculty Senate President-Elect 2023-2024*

07/19/2024

**Date**