



FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 26, 2024

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, HSON

Robert A. Danforth, D.D.S., HSDM, Nominating Committee Chair

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

Alok Dwivedi, Ph.D., FSOM

Huanyu Dou, M.D., FGSBS

Subodh Kumar, Ph.D., FGSBS

Gloria Loera, D.N.P., R.N., NEA-BC, HSON

Richard. W. McCallum, M.D., Faculty Senate Past-President, PLFSOM

Stormy Monks, Ph.D., MPH, CHES, FSOM

Marcos E. Ortega, Ph.D., HSDM

Todd Parco, D.D.S., M.S.D., HSDM

Jaclyn Reyes, M.S.N., R.N., CNE, CMSRN, HSON

Laura Rodriguez, M.S.N., R.N., HSON

Jon D. Wagner, D.D.S., M.D., HSDM

Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D., FGSBS

ABSENT FACULTY SENATORS

Richard Lange, M.D., M.B.A., President, TTUHSC El Paso, Ex-Officio,
Non-Voting Member

Ramadevi Subramani Reddy, Ph.D., FGSBS

OTHER ATTENDEES

Mir Quadri Faeq, B.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., HSDM

John R. Harrell II, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President, Student Services
and Student Engagement, TTUHSC El Paso

Sathiyathan Nadarajah, B.D.S., D.M.D., HSDM

Dale Quest, M.D., FSOM

Monica Ramirez, D.N.P., HSON

Irene Sarosiek, M.D., FSOM

Ellen Wicker, D.O., FSOM

Tony Castaneda, Director, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs

Macy McBeth, Unit Manager, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs

I. CALL TO ORDER

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

Dr. Abhizith Deoker, FSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect, called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M.



II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

The minutes from the February 23, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting were sent to Faculty Senators for review prior to this meeting. Dr. Danforth pointed out a typo in the Bylaws excerpt outlining the officer transitions. A "t" was left out in the sentence: "In the event that the president does **no** complete his/her term..." The minutes were unanimously approved as amended with a correction to a typo in the word "not" in the sentence as noted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

Welcome New Senator The Hunt School of Dental Medicine conducted a special midterm election and elected Jon D. Wagner, M.D., D.D.S, Professor, HSDM. Dr. Wagner will fulfill the HSDM Senator term left vacant by Geoffrey Guttman, Ph.D. through August 31, 2024. Dr. Wagner will be eligible for re-election to a full three (3) year term by the dental school.

Dr. Deoker invited Dr. Wagner to address the Senate. Dr. Wagner joined TTUHSC El Paso in January and is happy to join the Faculty Senate. He comes from Creighton Dental School where he taught plastic reconstructive surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery. His career has been primarily in academia, but, for ten years, he worked alongside his brother in private practice. Dr. Wagner moved to El Paso to be closer to his home in Albuquerque.

TTUHSC El Paso Commencement Ceremonies John R. Harrell II, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President, Student Services and Student Engagement, was invited to present an update regarding the upcoming TTUHSC El Paso Commencement Ceremonies. He summarized three commencement ceremonies, one for each school. The Office of Student Services and Student Engagement plans on making changes to the layout of the stage, similar to those made for the Hunt School of Nursing Commencement Ceremony that took place in December 2023. Dr. Harrell is the chair of a committee that is responsible for the planning of the commencement ceremonies. This team will be implementing visual and technical enhancements for the commencement ceremonies. The most notable being a new software tool, Marching Orders, that will help regulate the flow of students across the stage and help manage the logistics of the graduation. Dr. Harrell has worked with the institution deans in planning the upcoming commencement ceremonies. Dr. Harrell opened the floor up to answer any questions the Senate had about the upcoming events.

- **Q:** What is behind the changes that your team is implementing in these ceremonies?
- **A:** The visual changes will enhance the production of the ceremony and make the ceremony visually appealing. The goal is to celebrate the students graduating and make sure the ceremony reflects their achievements. The technology will also enhance the experience the students will have.
- **Q:** How will the faculty be impacted by these changes that you are implementing?
- **A:** This topic came up in the planning process of this year's commencement ceremonies. The faculty will be moved from the floor to the stage, as well as the graduating students. These changes will create more open seats on the floor to accommodate the graduating students' guests. The key is to ensure enough faculty attend so the stage area looks full, while ensuring the faculty do not feel the spotlight is on them.



The house lighting will be used to create an intimate ceremony for the students.

- **Q:** How will you obtain faculty's feedback on these new changes? Are faculty comfortable being on stage?
- **A:** After the three commencements in May, a broad survey will be sent to everyone who attended the ceremonies: students, faculty, guests, deans, and staff. These assessments will help Dr. Harrell's team garner feedback and help to determine how these ceremonies can be adjusted in the future.
- **Q:** Are there faculty members on the committee responsible for these changes?
- **A:** Dr. Harrell stated the institutional faculty was represented by Cindy Camarillo from the Office of Faculty Affairs in the last committee meeting. Dr. Aung and the Faculty Senate suggested that faculty members should be included. Dr. Harrell said he is open to including more faculty input in looking forward to future commencements.

Dr. Harrell added that the Office of Student Services and Student Engagement is in the planning stages for a few projects that will benefit from collaboration with the faculty in creating the best experience for students at our institution. He looks forward to a continued partnership with the Faculty Senate in the future.

TTUHSC El Paso Strategic Planning Retreat Dr. Aung informed the Senate that he is scheduled to present at an institutional leadership retreat and would be leaving the meeting early. He hopes to share topics of interest to the faculty with the retreat attendees in his presentation. As an impromptu poll, Dr. Aung asked the Senate if there was one word to encapsulate faculty's concerns or sentiments, what would that be? The Senators offered the following:

- Faculty input
- Cost of living concerns
- Enhancing communication from top to bottom
- Faculty retention
- Establishing a sense of community between the TTUHSC El Paso campus and training sites

IV. Standing Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Update by Robert Danforth, D.D.S., Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee met in April to discuss the current vacancies on three of the standing committees: Faculty Resources, Research Resources, and University Affairs. Prior to this meeting, three faculty members were nominated and these candidates all agreed to serve on their respective committees.

Dr. Danforth presented the three (3) nominees to the Faculty Senate:

- Research Resources Committee Member Nominees:
 - Amanda Chiao, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A, FSOM



- Ellen Wicker, D.O., FSOM-Transmountain Rep
- University Affairs Committee Member Nominee:
 - Sehrish Javaid, B.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., HSDM

Dr. Deoker called the Senate to vote on the appointment of Dr. Amanda Chiao and Dr. Ellen Wicker to each serve a two (2) year term on the Research Resources Committee, and the appointment of Dr. Sehrish Javaid to serve a two (2) year term on the University Affairs Committee. The vote was unanimously approved.

The Nominating Committee also discussed the remaining vacant committee seats:

- Faculty Resources Committee:
 - One (1) FGSBS Representative
 - One (1) HSDM Representative
- University Affairs Committee:
 - One (1) FGSBS Representative

The Nominating Committee is currently vetting nominees for the above vacancies. A call for nominations will also be sent to the general faculty via email. These committee seats will be slated for the next Faculty Senate meeting where the Senate will vote to approve the nominees for each committee.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Deoker presented the Revised Standing Committee Strategic Goals that were discussed and reviewed by the Faculty Senate:

- Faculty Resources Committee
 1. Review faculty development opportunities
 2. Review processes for the recruitment of faculty and ensure search committee representation by faculty
 3. Address faculty amenities such as on-campus daycare, physical activity facilities, and food options to improve faculty quality of life on campus
 4. Faculty retention
- Research Resources Committee
 1. Promote the continuous dissemination of information on available research across TTUHSC El Paso to the faculty
 2. Identify research mentors for TTUHSC El Paso faculty members



- University Affairs Committee
 1. Address faculty IT issues including PC/hardware issues
 2. Address library services for faculty
 3. Work with HR to expedite and streamline recruitment and hiring processes for staff vacancies in clinical areas, labs, and faculty support positions

Dr. Deoker asked the Senate for suggestions or corrections in modifying these goals. No further discussion took place.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Deoker announced the upcoming dates for the TTUHSC El Paso Commencement Ceremonies:

1. HSON Commencement on May 4th at 9:30 A.M.
2. FGSBS Commencement on May 4th at 4:00 P.M.
3. FSOM Commencement on May 24th at 6:00 P.M.

VII. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Deoker opened the meeting up for round table discussion.

- **Building Signage** Ms. Reyes informed the Senate of an incident in February where EMS was unable to locate the necessary building due to lack of signage identifying each building. This is the third incident where EMS attention was delayed because first responders did not know where to go. A meeting was held including Dean Woods, President Lange, and Chief Stoltz to discuss adding proper signage to the buildings, but to her knowledge there have not been any progress updates. She is asking the Faculty Senate if we can invite a representative to provide an update on this matter. Dr. Loera is requesting an update for signage for hallways, classrooms, and offices. Dr. Parco asked if the University Affairs Committee could invite someone from Facilities, TTUHSC El Paso Police Department, or Safety Services to the committee's next meeting to address this concern.
- **Credentialing and Licensing** Dr. Parco brought before the Senate that a dental faculty member is experiencing delays in practicing and seeing patients due to delays in the licensing process. He asked the members: how do other schools manage the credentialing and licensing process? Tony clarified that licensing and credentialing are two separate processes. Credentialing is executed at the institutional level. Licensing is carried out by the state boards for each respective discipline. Dr. Deoker added, that in his experience, the Texas Medical Boards is very strict and it is up to the candidate to remain on top of the process. His department will start the process once the candidate accepts the position to avoid delays. Dr. Monks added that the Emergency Medicine Department has a faculty coordinator who is tasked with supporting the faculty, and this person is



solely responsible for tracking the licensing and credentialing progress for new faculty members. Dr. Deoker emphasized that the decision remains with the State Board and the department can remind the new candidate, but the responsibilities fall to the new faculty member to remain on top of the licensing requirements. This topic is best addressed within each department or school. Dr. Loera added that each nurse is responsible for their own license and documentation. Dr. Parco concluded by saying he will take tips and points from this discussion back to his department and school.

- **Pigeon Control** Dr. Danforth cautioned the Faculty Senate that Facilities is frequently cleaning the sidewalk to remove the bird droppings, therefore the sidewalk is wet and slippery. He suggested inviting a Facilities representative to the next Faculty Senate Meeting to provide an update on their planned next steps regarding pigeon control.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., FSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. McCallum".

Richard McCallum (Jun 28, 2024 17:07 PDT)

Richard W. McCallum, M.D.

Faculty Senate Past-President 2023-2024

06/28/2024

Date