Faculty Senate Meeting, Wednesday, October 12, 2016, ALTC 2.205

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Suman Challa, Chair – Faculty Senate

Announcements – Dr. Challa

- Dr. Challa welcomed the group. He asked the Senators to provide their input as to three goals that the Faculty Senate should focus on for the next year, and any (at least one) idea that could be improved at our institution. Senators submitted their ideas on notecards; these would be reviewed by the Faculty Officers and Executive Committee, and be brought back as a topic of discussion at the next Senate meeting.

- Dr. Mok informed the Senate about changes to HOP 4.2.1, the University’s non-discrimination policy and complaint procedures. She noted that the policy change would redirect where faculty, students, and residents would bring discrimination concerns and complaints. The updated policy would direct them to the Office of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs. The change in reporting alignment would preserve the distinct role that Dr. Bonnie Blankmeyer performs as the Ombudsperson for faculty, students, and residents, a role she ably provides as a designated neutral or impartial dispute resolution practitioner whose major function is to provide confidential and informal assistance to constituents of UTHSCSA faculty, residents and student communities.

- Dr. Challa then updated the Senators on the meeting that the Faculty Officers met with President Henrich and Mr. Black and discussed further opportunities for engaging in shared governance. Among the requests presented to the President and Mr. Black were Faculty Senate representation on key committees, including search committees for leadership positions, institutional faculty compensation committee, and institutional budget.

Discussion

- Senators spent the balance of the meeting time in committee groups. Senators were offered the opportunity to keep or change their committee assignments, based on their interests and preferences.

Four committees met and discussed issues and concerns, and will report at the November meeting what their committees would like to accomplish this fiscal year.

Academic Affairs Committee: Anand Prasad (chair); Brent Shriver, Benjamin Eaton, Herlinda Zamora

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Ricky Joseph (chair); Raushan Kurmasheva; Elizabeth Casiano Evans; Samir Patel; Lisa Cleveland

Faculty Governance Committee: Danet Lapiz Bluhm (chair); Y.W. Francis Lam, Cara Gonzales, Maxim Eckmann, Cheryl Burns, Lori Pounds

Committee on Committees: Norma Partida (Chair); Hassem Geha, Janet Williams