

16Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

Faculty Senate Meeting

September 16, 2022 Minutes

I. Call to Order

Faculty Senate members attended via TEAMS. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wynne at 10:36 a.m.

Members present and constituting a quorum included: S. Garcia, M. Gear, J. Hernandez, J. Miller, T. Matula, V. Mendez, E. Moura, M. Ortiz, S. Roche, M. Saka, M. Saucedo, G. Stocks, A. Taylor, and W. Wynne.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 18, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting were read and accepted.

III. Officer Elections

- Michael Ortiz was nominated for president and was unopposed.
- Audrey Taylor nominated for VP and was unopposed.
- Jennifer Miller was nominated for secretary and was unopposed.

IV. Officer and Committee Reports

Budget Oversight: Discussion on funds occurred with some members interested in learning more about concentration of funds. It was decided that there is not an official need for a resolution at this time.

Strategic Plan Update: Dr. Veronica Mendez shared that there was a meeting last Friday about the strategic plan. They believed it was for the RGC subcommittee strategic plan. The subcommittee did not have the opportunity to discuss the perspective of the RGC plan. The RGC subcommittee is planning a strategic plan subcommittee. The following have volunteered to serve in this capacity: Dr. Audrey Taylor, Dr. Gina Stocks, Dr. Wesley Winn, Dr. Tom Matula, and it was not clear if Dr. Ortiz was serving as an ex officio representative. Giana Stocks and Michael Ortiz have been placed on the larger committee to replace Jesse Salazar and Faculty is requested to contact the strategic plan subcommittee.

Old Business: Faculty salaries and cost of living raise was discussed. Several faculty voiced concerns about seeking a pay and cost of living raise. They have eliminated 3 administration positions but they are creating three. Dr. Mendez suggests that we should look at another institution to see how many we have. Small institutions do not have between 14-15 administrators. It was noted that has been since 2019 faculty have not received a cost of living raise. Dr. Mendez would volunteer to research administrator ratios across other institutions. Dr. Mendez will work to get data to report on the next meeting.

New Business:

Student Credit Hours: Forced alignment created an issue that has created a situation in which students are now having to take courses outside of the university. It was mentioned that the summer changes in Degree Works and registration was a disaster, which may have impacted enrollment. Members suggested that administration has yet to recognize that this may have impacted enrollment. In addition, it was voiced that forcing alignment and Degree Works issues may have also contributed to enrollment declines. The registrar is very understaffed. Dr. Hernandez shared that there were people who voluntarily accepted lower division courses. Dr. Hernandez shared that it is important that we ask administration how they are going to fix problems not just tell us about the problems. Dr. Mendez added that she agrees that the failed alignment included duplication of prefixes and new prefixes that were not in the inventory. In addition, it is important to reflect on the following question. What has enrollment management done for us as faculty? What do they intend to do to support RGC? It was suggested that there is a need to put an end to hostile relationship with administration with local leaders. The administration is reporting that the provost has had very positive relationships with Eagle Pass.

Program alignment / unification: The following question was brought up. Are we aligned or not aligned? Members suggest that upper administration will need to help RGC understand this and an honest and straight forward response is needed.

Environmental Survey Announcement: Dr. Gear shared that on Sept. 29 there will be a presentation on all campuses regarding the environmental survey that was conducted last spring. Students are invited to attend. The office of Institutional Effectiveness will be offering free food and drawing for \$25 gift card.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.