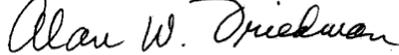


DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

Following are the minutes of the regular Faculty Council meeting of October 14, 2019.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING OF
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

The second regular meeting of the Faculty Council for the academic year 2019-20 was held in the Main Building, Room 212 on Monday, October 14, 2019, at 2:44 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jamie C Barner, Darrell L. Bazzell, Marc Bizer, Anthony L. Brown, Charlotte Canning, Sandra A. Catlett, Shannon E. Cavanagh, Gail Chovan, Lydia Maria Contreras, James H. Cox, Jim E. Davis, Glenn P. Downing, Brian L. Evans, Gregory L. Fenves, Rowena Fong, Norma L. Fowler, Luisa F. Gil Fandino, Denise L. Gilman, Antonio Gonzalez, Camron I. Goodman, Andrea C. Gore, Amanda Hager, Kristin E Harvey, D. Eric Hirst, Kathleen Holloway, Trice Humpert, Elena Ivanova, Brent L. Iverson, Joel Peterson Johnson, Karen Johnson, David S. Junker, Steven J. Kachelmeier, Lynn E. Katz, Sarfraz Khurshid, Michael William Lee, Kristie J. Loescher, Martin (Marty) J. Luby, Alberto A. Martinez, Maurie D. McInnis, Eric T. Meyer, Marc A. Musick, Ami Pedahzur, Natalie S. Poulos, Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Stuart A. Reichler, Donna Lynn Rew, Lorenzo A. Sadun, Jonathan L. Sessler, Timothy Michael Shanahan, Geoffrey Smith, Mark J. T. Smith, Elissa C. Steglich, Gwendolyn M. Stovall, Circe D. Sturm, Miguel V. Wasielewski, Catherine E. Weaver, Alexandra K. Wettlaufer.

Absent: Michelle Addington, Jossianna Arroyo Martinez, Germiné H. Awad (excused), Phillip J. Barrish (excused), Christina L. Baze, Alex A. Beasley (excused), Jay M. Bernhardt, Stephen Boyles (excused), Ethan R. Burris, Carlos M. Carvalho, Lee R. Chesney, Ricky A. Cooks, M. Lynn Crismon, Douglas J. Dempster, Angela M. Evans, Ward Farnsworth, Alan W. Friedman (excused), Paul Goldbart, Lauren E. Gulbas (excused), Lorraine J. Haricombe, Rasika M. Harshey, Jay C. Hartzell, Teresa Hubbard (excused), Thomas M. Hunt (excused), Daniel T. Jaffe, Amie C. Jean, Junfeng Jiao, S. Claiborne "Clay" Johnston, Charles Kerans, Cynthia A. Labrake (excused), Katherine (Katie) C. Lee, Ayelet H. Lushkov (excused), Charles Robert Martinez, Martha Menchaca, Leonard N. Moore, Sharon Mosher, Thomas G. Palaima (excused), Mary Poteet (excused), Scott A. Rabenold, Stephen D. Reese, Cesar A. Salgado (excused), Brenda A. Schumann, Mark Simpson, Christen Smith (excused), Spencer Smith (excused), Ann Huff Stevens, Alexa M. Stuijbergen, Kimberly Sullivan, Maria D. Wade (excused), Sharon L. Wood, John A. Yancey (excused), Luis H. Zayas, Yan Zhang (excused).

Voting Members:	46 present,	31 absent,	77 total
Non-Voting Members:	11 present,	22 absent,	33 total
Total Members:	57 present,	53 absent,	110 total

I. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY (D 17324-17327).

Charlotte Canning (Past Chair, Faculty Council, and Professor, Theatre and Dance) read the Secretary's Report in place of Alan Friedman (Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council, and Professor, English), who is on leave for the academic year.

Memorial Resolutions were completed and submitted for Larry A. Doll, Professor Emeritus, Architecture; Betty J. Haskell, Professor, Human Ecology; Sidney Monas, Professor Emeritus, History; Leland R. Munger, Associate Professor, Music.

Effective September 17, 2019, Circe D. Sturm (Anthropology) replaced Susan S. Heinzelman (English) representing the College of Liberal Arts, and Charles Kerans replaced Christopher J. Bell representing the Jackson School of Geosciences. Effective September 19, César A. Salgado (Spanish and Portuguese) replaced Robert Crosnoe (Sociology) representing the College of Liberal Arts. Effective October 1, Harrison Keller, Deputy to the President for Strategy and Policy, left UT Austin to become the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Since the last report, various proposed changes to the undergraduate curriculum were approved by Faculty Council. See the full secretary's report¹ for a complete list. Items for legislation pending the Faculty Council or the General Faculty include a proposal to create a race, indigeneity, and migration major in the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I degree program in the College of Liberal Arts; a proposal to create a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree program in informatics in the School of Information; various proposed changes to minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts; a proposal to consolidate the Middle Eastern languages and cultures major, the Islamic studies major, and the Middle Eastern studies major in the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I degree program in the College of Liberal Arts; and a proposal to change the Bachelor of Science in chemistry in the College of Natural Sciences.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Professor Canning said the minutes for the September 16 regular Faculty Council meeting (D 17317-17323) had been posted online. When no corrections or additions were proposed, she announced the minutes approved as submitted.

III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT.

President Greg Fenves congratulated Dr. John Goodenough on winning the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work on the lithium ion battery. At ninety-seven, Dr. Goodenough is the oldest person to have received a Nobel Prize. He left Oxford because of their mandatory retirement age of sixty-five and came to The University of Texas at Austin in 1986. President Fenves said he was grateful for Dr. Goodenough's "wonderful comments" about being a faculty member at UT Austin during their press conference.

There were no questions for the President from the floor.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIR.

Chair Brian Evans (Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering) announced the formation and start of the Faculty Grievance Policy Working Group, a joint task force between the Provost's office and Faculty Council to revise faculty grievance procedures.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIR ELECT.

Chair Elect Anthony Brown (Professor, Curriculum and Instruction) said he had been addressing issues for C-3, the General Faculty Undergraduate Curriculum Changes Committee. He has also been preparing for the first meeting of the Task Force on Difficult Dialogues and Trauma-Informed Pedagogy in the Classroom.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS—None.

VII. REPORTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMITTEES—None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

¹ <https://utexas.box.com/s/7v06v597xelxipwrigpmvmd5dpv8wjfr>

A. Experiential Learning Initiative.

Hillary Hart (Director, Experiential Learning Initiative and Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering) introduced the Experiential Learning Initiative (ELI), which is “designed to...encourage student success through experiential learning, preparing them for life after college” and to raise “student satisfaction with teaching.” It is a three-year pilot program to scale up experiential learning across undergraduate curricula on campus. Experiential learning “encourages students to experiment, experience, and reflect on their experience and thereby learn how to learn.”

One of the program’s principles is “inclusivity, equity, and access for all students.” While some students engage in experiential learning through internships and study abroad, those opportunities can be cost-restrictive. The Experiential Learning Initiative seeks to bring experiential learning to all students by including it in the classroom.

Another principle of the program is not to “ask faculty to do more work for no credit or reward.” The Experiential Learning Initiative offers stipends for two kinds of faculty positions: ambassadors and course developers. Ambassadors are faculty who have done experiential learning with their students and mentor the course developers who work on incorporating experiential learning in their courses.

Marc Bizer (Professor, French and Italian) asked why the College of Liberal Arts was not represented in the list of ambassadors and course developers. Professor Hart said that the College of Liberal Arts was now a part of the Experiential Learning Initiative and that particular slide in her presentation needed to be updated. Norma Fowler (Professor, Integrative Biology) said that many undergraduates in the College of Natural Sciences engage in experiential learning as research assistants.

B. Ethics Initiative.

Leo Barnes (Chief Compliance Officer) introduced Honor Texas, the UT Austin ethics initiative. Honor Texas “seeks to create a sustainable ethical culture on campus that teaches employees how to recognize ethical issues and empower them to raise ethical concerns without fear of retaliation.” Mr. Barnes said it is crucial to maintain an ethical workplace because ethical matters left unaddressed will “create bad feelings, impact employee morale, reduce productivity, and sow distrust.” Public universities especially have to act ethically in order to keep the public trust.

Cindy Posey (Director of Internal Communications) said Honor Texas has already launched a website, published articles in *Texas Connect* magazine including one by Professor Art Markman (Psychology) and one about the Ethics Unwrapped program in the School of Business, established two committees, undertaken the creation of a campus-wide survey as well as a longitudinal study of compliance training, sponsoring discussion groups and workshops, and presenting “road shows.” Faculty who wish to participate can use Ethics Unwrapped in faculty and staff meetings. Faculty are encouraged to “spend some time talking about ethics” with other staff and faculty members.

C. New Race, Indigeneity, and Migration Major in the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I Degree Program in the College of Liberal Arts.²

This proposal came to Faculty Council for a vote after being endorsed by the C-3 Undergraduate Curriculum Changes Committee.

Eric Tang (Director, Center for Asian American Studies, and Professor, African and African Diaspora Studies) presented the College of Liberal Arts proposal for a new major in the Bachelor of Arts, Plan I degree program: race, indigeneity, and migration (RIM). Through this major, students should “develop a thorough understanding of race, indigeneity, and migration as three core concepts or pillars that help us understand modern society.” Additionally, the major “offers students an opportunity to develop...a ‘relational’ analysis of identity and culture, one that intersects with gender and sexuality.” Students looking to develop a career focus in “diversity, social justice, inequalities, and disparities” for fields such as “secondary and post-secondary education,” “social work,” and “law,” will benefit from this major.

Professor Tang said that UT Austin is “essentially the headquarters...for race, ethnic studies, and gender and sexuality studies in the region,” with growing black studies, women’s and

² <https://utexas.box.com/shared/static/kphpgw2h8vvhn2z0124ebw3dn63owi8w.pdf>

gender studies, Mexican American studies, Native American studies, Asian American studies, and indigenous studies programs.

Lorenzo Sadun (Professor, Mathematics) asked how the new major would fit in with existing departments? Professor Tang said that, while RIM would be housed in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, an interdisciplinary curriculum committee consisting of faculty from various departments would manage the major. Tasha Beretvas (Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs) asked, since they were interested in offering a major track specifically for teaching race, indigeneity, and migration, whether they had spoken with the ethnic studies program in the College of Education? Professor Tang replied in the affirmative, and Professor Brown added that he had been in conversation with the RIM group. The College of Education is “in full support of the possibility of developing a partnership between ethnic studies.” Professor Brown also said that the C-3 committee “felt very strongly and supportive of this new major,” after Professor Sadun asked for a summary of C-3’s assessment. Professor Sadun suggested that C-3 might provide summaries of their proposal discussions in the future.

Professor Bizer asked whether “race” was a “hotly disputed topic” since “race doesn’t exist as a scientific concept?” Professor Jennifer Graber (Religious Studies) replied that the major would teach race as “a cultural construction over time,” examining how “different kinds of operations in life, things like science, philosophy, religion, all work toward the construction and reformulation of concepts dealing with race.” Professor Rowena Fong (Social Work) added that “when you talk about race as science,” there are “different treatment programs for different race and different ethnic groups.” For example, “the treatments that you have for Native Americans would not be the same” as those for other racial/ethnic groups.

Denise Gilman (Clinical Professor, Law) encouraged “ongoing thinking with law schools...about the extent to which [this major would be] a very desirable profile instead of skills and learning in terms of law school admission.” She added that undergraduate students with the RIM major could find careers adjacent to and within immigration law as, for example, paralegals or interpreters.

Ted Gordon (Vice Provost for Diversity, and Associate Professor, African and African Diaspora Studies) asked Professor Tang to provide more institutional context for the major. Professor Tang explained that students graduating with a major in black studies, Mexican American studies, or Asian American studies graduated with ETH (ethnic studies) on their transcript. With the departmentalization of African and African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, students in those departments receive designations specific to those fields, leaving “Asian American studies holding all the ethnic studies majors.” They decided to “build a more robust, intersectional race and ethnic studies major.” Professor Graber added that RIM will be “very helpful for the Native American and indigenous studies program,” which currently consists only of an undergraduate certificate program.

Dave Junker (Associate Professor of Instruction, Advertising and Public Relations) asked whether potential minors or certificates had been planned for non-majors? Professor Tang said that RIM was being proposed only as a major, but minors and/or certificates could be developed in the future.

Circe Sturm (Professor, Anthropology) said Texas has the “fifth largest population of American Indians, of indigenous people, anywhere in the nation. We have three federally-recognized tribes.” The RIM major will serve this large student population currently “relegated to this certificate program.” Professor Sturm also praised the “intersectionality” of the major.

The proposal to add the RIM major passed unanimously.

D. New Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Informatics in the School of Information.³

Kenneth Fleischmann (Professor, Information) presented the proposal to add a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Informatics in the School of Information. These would be the first undergraduate degree programs offered by the UT Austin School of Information. Peer institutions have been consistently launching undergraduate programs, and they have “very strong...employment statistics for placement for their graduates at the undergraduate level.” In the city of Austin, the number of “tech sector” jobs has been growing: “there’s a gap of more than 1,200 more tech jobs than tech grads over the past five years.” The Informatics major would

³ <https://utexas.box.com/shared/static/thmv8pnrs3ehy17nrkxxbrjcsun6fzpm.pdf>

prepare students for these jobs by focusing on “user-centered computing and natural and artificial systems that store, process, and communicate information.”

Kristie Loescher (Senior Lecturer, Management) asked whether the School of Information was working with the program that teaches the post-baccalaureate health informatics certificate through the School of Business? Professor Fleischmann replied that there are multiple health informatics efforts on campus and that the School of Nursing and the School of Information currently have a joint certificate program.

Brent Iverson (Dean, Undergraduate Studies) asked what infrastructure the School of Information has in place in case of a large influx of students interested in the program? Professor Fleischmann said conversations with peer programs had prepared them for the demand, and they planned to increase the size of the program gradually with “commensurate faculty and staff increases.”

Elissa Steglich (Clinical Professor, Law) asked whether the School of Information anticipated students moving to Informatics from other specific majors? Professor Fleischmann said the “user-centered nature” of the School of Information gives them “a fairly distinct intellectual space,” and that the Informatics major is “designed...to be flexible” so that “double-majoring is quite possible.”

Professor Fowler asked whether the proposal had been discussed with the College of Natural Sciences and with the Department of Computer Science in particular since Computer Science would mostly likely not be able to take on more students for programming courses? Professor Fleischmann said that those conversations had occurred and that the School of Information would be offering their own programming courses.

The proposal to add the two undergraduate degree programs in the School of Information passed unanimously.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

- A. The next Faculty Council meeting will be November 11 at 2:15 PM in Main 212.

X. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR—None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:47 PM.