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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes ʹ Special Meeting June 5, 2020
Senators Present: Hisham Al-Bataineh, Matthew Alexander, Rudolf Bohm, Jieming Chen,
Maribel Gonzalez-Garcia, Jeff Glick, James Glusing, Kelly Hall, Kendra Huff, Patricia Huskin,
Robert Kowalsky, Ya-Wen Liang, Steven Lukefahr, Lifford McLauchlan, Craig A. Meyer,
Patrick Mills, Kyle Milsap, Richard Miller, Mais Najim, Ryan Paul, Larry Peel, William Procasky,
Christine Radcliff, Kathleen Rees, Chika Rosenbaum, Alex Sanchez-Behar, Nick J. Sciullo, Ari
Sherris, Amber Shipherd, Ramiro Torres, Alinna Umphreys, Maria Velez-Hernandez,

Senators Absent: Lucy Camacho, Simona Hodis, Michael Houf, Tanner Machado,
Humberto Perotto, Hui Shen, Velda Soydas, Subbarao Yelisetti, Teresa Young
Call to Order and Quorum Call.
This meeting of the Faculty Senate was held and recorded online through Blackboard
Collaborate due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. A recording of this meeting and a
PDF version of the slideshow can be found on the Faculty Senate Website under the heading
Digital Faculty Senate Meetings.
At 1:04 p.m., President Sherris asked the parliamentarian, Patricia Huskin, if enough
members were present for a quorum. Senator Huskin replied in the affirmative.

I. Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting.
President Sherris motioned for approval of the previous meeting minutes. Senator Meyer
seconded. Minutes were approved.

II. Presentations
a) Provost Allen Rasmussen

Senate President Sherris started by reading the TAMU System statement regarding
camps reopening plans.

“Planning for the 2020-2021 academic year in The Texas A&M University System
continues with an unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our students,
faculty, and staff, and in pursuit of the highest academic quality in our teaching,
research, and service. With those foundational commitments at the forefront, the
universities and agencies of the System plan to open this academic year and resume
face-to-face instruction unless evidence or directives mandate otherwise. Making
informed decisions on classes, activities, and residential living while remaining
flexible to adjust as needed, we will act responsibly, assuring as best as we are able,
the safety of students, faculty, and staff” (The Texas A&M University System’s COVID-19 Response Plan for Reopening Member Campuses and Programs for 2020-2021,
May 21, 2020, p.1). https://www.tamus.edu/pdf/Reopening-Plan-REVISED-FINAL.pdf

Provost Rasmussen then informed the Senators that the System Board of Regents met
the previous week and passed the guidelines for reopening, which would allow the

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September 1, 2020). The President then took a broad-brush approach to ask how we
make these cuts.
The President says we are essentially cutting the budget by eliminating unfilled
positions within administrative offices and some select unfilled positions at the college
level. Additionally, I asked if there have been discussions of pay cuts for all university
employees? The President said that we have not had discussions of furloughs or salary3(ve)] TJ
ET
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President

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Comment: Senator Chen clarified that he thinks the University’s thoughts on hyflex means using
Blackboard Collaborate to record/stream your in-person class lectures for those students who
do not want to come to campus.
Q: Senator Velez-Hernandez is this something that the faculty can choose to do, or is this
something that will be required? The hyflex. Have conversations happened about how to control
testing in hyflex?
A: Not that Senate President Sherris has heard nor been involved in.
Comment: Senator Peel wondered if there was a way to have a meeting with the Blackboard
people to see what options are available for formative assessment, and to bring other questions
the faculty have about Blackboard. He also mentioned that there is already a budget to support
Blackboard and maybe that could be used to pay for a training.
IV. New Business
a)

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• Senators may raise motions and resolutions from the floor rather than submit them to the
EC, but should have them ready in writing as in the format on earlier slides for this meeting
to save time.
VI. A