

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday July 18, 2024

12:30-1:50 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/FL8F4RBugGG6_3PZICA5RF59lwEY8-MiPfxh7ghxvksNR1QlmwAnk9Csyd9sGtGr.harMmwB87YweERCg

Passcode: .MPaQT3&

Faculty Senate

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
At Large	Yonjoo Cho*	Nelson Fumo*	Dominick Fazarro
CAS	Joseph Vandehey*	Austin Seybert	Kenneth Bryant
Soules College of Business	Rochell McWhorter*	Vivek Pandey*	Brent Beal
CEP	Lauren Kirby	Forrest Kaiser*	Ramona Grad*
COE	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas	Chung Goh	Aaditya Khanal
SON	Julie George	Dixie Rose*	Gina Dudley
COP	Yanyan Wang	Ayman Hamouda*	Santosh Aryal*
Library	Lori Fregoso	Nicholas Bambach*	Michael Skinner
SHP	Kimberly Elliott*	Jessica Escareno	Ahmed Abdelal
SOM	Jessica Bracks	James Menard	Pierre Neuenschwander*

*means member was in attendance

Senate Executive Officers 2023-2024

Amentahru Walhrab* President	Joshua Banta President-Elect
Harrison Ndetan Past President	Richard Helfers Parliamentarian
Dixie Rose* Interim Secretary	Dixie Rose* Treasurer

In Person Attendance: Brigham Willis, Courtney Smith, Ali Azghani, Gwen Williams, Jared Squires, Kouider Mokhtari, Glenn Barnes, Poonam Kumar, Colleen Swain, Danielle Bailey, Christine Forisha, Sarah Norrell, Coby Dillard, Jeff Noblett, David Barron, Gracy Buentello, Andy Krouse, Kevin Kjosa, Javier Kypuros, Sarah Sass, Staci Zolkoski, Daniel Deslatte, Michelle Nelson, Scott Dillingham, Gary Miller

Zoom Attendance: Kerrie Anne Ambort Clark, Tina Melamed, Jason Smee, Hannah Buchanan, Becky McKay, Susan Molina, John Yoder, Natalie Serrano, Lorri Allen, Joy Pitts, Nicolette Billups, Janice Miles, David Pearson, Danielle McDonald, Tuan Le, Greg Bock, Yvonne Ralph, Mark Tiller, Jennifer Wooldridge, Mary Perez, Rhiannon Meyer

12:30 Welcome and Call to Order, Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab

- Shared invitation for Save the Date for Dr. Philley's Investiture and Inauguration as our 6th President of the University of Texas at Tyler on October 1, 2024 at 3 p.m. in the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts center
- Time to show support for Dr. Philley and for the University

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, Dr. Dixie Rose

- Minutes were approved
- Reminder to sign in on sheets on tables or in chat if on zoom

President Updates, Dr. Philley

- Really hopes everyone can come to the Investiture ceremony
- SB17 audit – internal went well; external audit by King and Spalding ydid have some findings and are currently wrapping up on addressing these findings
- Courtney Smith over government relations meeting with elected officials discussing the upcoming legislative session; meetings have gone very well
- August Board of Regents meeting – never wants what is discussed to be a surprise to anyone on campus
 - Proposal for funding for Pharmacy tuition
 - Proposal for Oceans to discuss expansion of behavioral health
- Chief Strategy Officer is important new hire reporting directly to Dr. Philley; will be able to come to next meeting; grew up in Tyler – external strategy
- Scholarship program
 - Committee began looking at how long can be financially viable in January or February
 - decision made to limit to one degree per person in an effort to touch as many lives as we can of our employees and keep the program intact while being able to sustain it
 - Feel did not do the best job getting the word out about the changes and could have done a better job
 - not able to grandfather anyone in on the policy, but maintain consistency across the board limiting it to one degree per person
 - work with HR on other possible sources of funding; don't give up on your dreams before letting them try to help with funding
 - if one child but 2 faculty parents, check with HR
 - extends to Health Science Center academic employees as well; categories for Health Science Center employees are defined on the Employee Benefit website
- Thank you to Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab
- Dr. Wahlrab - See email from Cara Wreyford for more details on Employee Scholarships including links, the application, the policy, all the various exceptions
- Dr. Wahlrab – if you think of further questions, you can email facultySenate@uttyler.edu or your Senator or anyone from the Executive Team

AI Resources for Faculty and Students, Drs. Poonam Kumar and Danielle Bailey

- Dr. Kumar -Faculty have asked, “What support is available for faculty on AI?”
- Provost created a Committee on AI initiatives
- First step was language for syllabi
- Next step is training and resources to support faculty; The Teaching and Learning Resource Hub
- AI playground on Wednesday provides an opportunity for faculty to engage with AI tools as it is presented by the staff from the Office of Digital Learning to learn the tool, look at its uses and ask questions
- Dr. Bailey – professional development calendar looking for new location on website – link on CETL for now
- Working on AI Learning Cohort (need facilitator)
- Dr. Edward Watson, Vice President of digital Innovation at AAC, speaking on October 15 at 1130 – 3 p.m. in UC Ballroom; has written a book - Teaching with AI, A Practical Guide – 35 copies have been purchased to share with attendees at his Keynote speech
- Immediately after will host 2 faculty panels – one on AI in Teaching and the other on AI in your professional duties such as advising, working with students, recommendations, and research
- Working on Resource Center (Professional Development Page in Canvas) working on separate website for resources (Teaching and Learning Resource Hub); will be public facing so can be accessed at any time; will also be linked to CETL and Office of Digital Learning websites
- AI syllabus needed (have choice of 2nd paragraph)
- AI statement will be included in the Policy section of the syllabi

“State of UT-Tyler Athletics”, Dr. Howard Patterson

- NCAA Division II National Championship (Women’s Softball)
- UT Tyler has one of best softball fields in country
- 8 NCAA Division II National Tournament Appearances
- 14 All-American Selections
- 8 Lone Star Conference Championships (2 Team and 6 Individual)
- 41 All-South Central Region Selections
- 26 CSC Academic All-District Selections
- 71 Lone Star Conference Awards
- 3.409 Department GPA
- 1.454 Community Service Hours in 2023-24
- Dr. Wahlrab– thank you for service to Athletics and congratulations on upcoming retirement

Senate Updates & Discussion, Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab

- Shared Governance

- Shared governance: “combined participation by administration and faculty in the management of an institution’s operations”
- https://www.utrgv.edu/facultysenate/files/documents/content/utsystem_fac_shared_governance.pdf
- UT Tyler has helped to shape shared governance at the UT System level: our very own Dr. Philley and Dr. Ross helped write the 2016 UT System White Paper on shared governance.
- Wins
 - 2023-2024 merit pool 3% and CUPA adjustments this year on the main campus
 - Faculty Senate Salary task force and especially: Dominick Fazarro, Barbara Wooldridge, Christine Forisha, Amentahru Wahlrab, Senate reps and Deans who helped us gather salary data, and the ad hoc university committee that was formed to advise HR
- Collaborations
 - Connectivity Committee: walkability and accessibility on and between campuses—Drs. Banta, Neuenschwander, Cho along with Tyler city officials, SGA, and UT Tyler administration (esp Dr. Philley and Dwain Morris).
 - Faculty Senate President 1:1 monthly meetings with Staff and SGA Presidents
 - End-of-year awards collaborative event with Staff Senate
- Key areas of Senate representation
- Recognition to the 2023-24 and Welcome to the 2024-25 Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- Recognition to the 2023-24 and Welcome to the 2024-25 Faculty Senators
- Thank you to Lynette Sutter for all she does to help make Faculty Senate run smoothly
- Dr. Josh Banta will assume the role of Faculty Senate President on September 1, 2024.
- Please mark your calendar for the first Senate meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year: September 19, 2024 (Open Meetings of Faculty Senate are the 3rd Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated.)
- Dr. Bailey - Brief announcement on email about Faculty Resource Affair – take over UC on August 19 from 3:30-5 p.m.

1:50 Adjournment