

The University of Texas at Tyler  
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday May 16, 2024

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

[https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/KJDuaJXHZAiNyHhLA0Fy6SFJL1ZX3eNOK10QoaXUF-FWCTXdEG98J\\_AxAMZo4UHF.DMTWc8llqe\\_A9enB?startTime=1715878832000](https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/KJDuaJXHZAiNyHhLA0Fy6SFJL1ZX3eNOK10QoaXUF-FWCTXdEG98J_AxAMZo4UHF.DMTWc8llqe_A9enB?startTime=1715878832000)

Passcode: v&M8usQ2

Faculty Senate

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
<b>At Large</b>	Yonjoo Cho*	Nelson Fumo*	Vacant
<b>CAS</b>	Joseph Vandehey*	Austin Seybert	Kenneth Bryant
<b>Soules College of Business</b>	Rochell McWhorter*	Vivek Pandey*	Brent Beal
<b>CEP</b>	Lauren Kirby	Forrest Kaiser*	Ramona Grad*
<b>COE</b>	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas*	Chung Goh	Aaditya Khanal
<b>SON</b>	Julie George	Dixie Rose*	Gina Dudley
<b>COP</b>	Yanyan Wang	Ayman Hamouda	Santosh Aryal*
<b>Library</b>	Lori Fregoso	Nicholas Bambach*	Michael Skinner*
<b>SHP</b>	Kimberly Elliott*	Jessica Escareno	Ahmed Abdelal*
<b>SOM</b>	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:** Glenn Barnes, Staci Zolkoski, Josh Neaves, Greg Bock, Marti Hallbrook, Andrew Pettee, Colleen Swain, Ashley Bill, Jeffrey Enge, Amir Mirmiran, Paul Streufort, Carl Baranowski, Sarah Sass, David Barron, Kevin Kjosa, Isai Ramirez, David Christian, Lou Ann Berman, Anna Kurdowska, Mena Souliman, Christine Fonsha, Poonam Kumar, Sarah Norrell, Kouider Mokhtari

**Zoom Attendance:** Danielle McDonald, Barbara Haas, Sonja Morale, Carla Lacerda, Cheryl D. Parker, Ryan Menard, Pamela Rodriguez, Jaema Krier, Matthew Greenwold, Amy Schwartz, Nicole Phifer, Mary Logan, Jessica Bracks, Julie Delello, Frank Dykes, Kevin Gosselin, Rhiannon Meyer, Max Dass, Lauri John, Becky McKay, Lynn Harris, Lauren Kirby, Kim Nimon, Kathy Gohmert

### **Welcome and Call to Order, Dr. Amentahru Wahrab**

- June and July meeting will be held
- No meeting in August
- Dr. Wahrab's term ends on August 30 and Dr. Josh Banta will assume role as President
- Drs. Calhoun and Philley unable to attend the meeting today

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, Dr. Dixie Rose**

- Minutes were approved
- Request for those in attendance to sign in on the sheets on each table or in the chat box on zoom as appropriate
- Dr. Wahrab gave a reminder that there is an on-going nomination process for open at large seat for class of 2026 through link sent with this meeting's agenda and through Faculty Senate email; Associate and Full Professor ranks are eligible to run.

### **Provost Dr. Amir Mirmiran Updates**

- Fall enrollment 22% higher than last year.
- Summer enrollment about 10% higher than last year
- Highest freshman enrollment in our history
- 58% increase in nursing
- increase in business and other colleges as well
- MBA online ranked in top 30 by Fortune magazine (only one of 2 UT System schools)
- Get ready for what comes next – changes in higher education (FAFSA and others)
- Request faculty always try to see what we can do to be at the forefront
- AI committee and academic affairs working on statements to go into courses
- New initiative to look at 3-year baccalaureate degrees and request faculty to think outside of box and what can we do to make our program more appealing to students
- Good retention numbers, but concern for the summer melt that has been in prior years; faculty and advisors can assist through early alerts, providing midterm grades
- Tutoring (starting this summer) will be decentralized to better provide service to our students

### **EVP and Chief Business Office, Mr. Dwain Morris**

- Phase 1 completed of SON in July
- Board of Regents approved funding for phase 2 and phase 3 which will fill out all shell space and refurbish old space
- Breaking ground on Science building in June
- B
- Budget
  - 2 to 2.5 months ahead of process from last year
  - Debrief at end of summer on budget process
  - Will meet to discuss each position funded with Provost, VPs, Deans and their plans
  - Discussions will begin starting in January ahead of the budget process

- Budget will be loaded into PeopleSoft

### **AVP Student Engagement Josh Neaves, “Student Organization Process & Patriots Engage Reminders.”**

- Requests for student organization events
  - Students must submit requests on behalf of student organizations
  - If faculty submit, the request will be denied
  - Requests should be made 2 weeks in advance
  - Advisors can help to make sure their organization is completely registered
  - Astra should not be used for room booking; all requests should go through Patriot Engage
- Honor societies do not have to register if they do not hold regular meetings or have fund raising activities; they just need to notify Student Engagement at:  
Honor Society  
Registration: <https://uttyler.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/616598>
- Student Engagement needs pictures of items that students can wear at graduation as part of student organizations  
Co-Curricular  
Regalia: <https://uttyler.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/616552>
- Patriot Engage allows advisors to be advised of scheduled activities and approve them
- Presentation slides are provided with these minutes

### **AVP Research and Research Compliance Officer Dr. Anna Kurdowska**

- Need to promote research compliance because if we fail and do something wrong, there are fines associated.
- We are much more visible after merging, and we get a lot of requests for release of data, and we are audited more than we were before.
- Dr. Kurdowska’s role is to protect the faculty, protect the institution
- Research compliance is not only lab research, but anything we do in human resources or other areas on campus, even perhaps in art, will be considered research, and we are responsible for security, integrity, responsible conduct of research.
- Representative from UT System will be on campus to discuss processes in June
- Contact Dr. Kurdowska with any questions related to activities of researchers of any kind, any kind of research compliance, security or radiation

### **Chief Information Officer Isai Ramirez Updates**

- Two internet outages
  - First caused by physical cut of fiber optics cable in remote location that was difficult to reach
    - working on redundancy as quickly as possible;
  - Second, Houston engineering students affected due to failed piece of equipment
    - repaired within in a few hours and then replaced equipment and reconfigured network
- When employees leave:

- Microsoft accounts are removed after 90 days and files they have shared in OneDrive are no longer available
- If a project has a bigger scope, consider Teams or SharePoint
- Form to request Teams site now in service
- Discussions with faculty on qualitative data analysis tools and possibly IT manage licensing; if want to be involved, message through Teams
- Clip Champ is about to added to the A5 Microsoft license possibly by June

**Senate Updates & Discussion, Dr. Amentahru Wahrab**

- A group of senators are going to present Dr. Calhoun a plaque that we had made
- Thank you to everyone in attendance
- There will be a handoff ceremony at the July meeting passing the gavel to Dr. Banta
- Reminder to nominate yourself or someone else for the vacant at large senate seat

**1:32 Meeting Adjourned**