

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday May 18, 2023

12:35-1:45 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/seK_9z4o9eojpZaTRLpCVxcPRAZZqMsg_u4fSI9Zf6hqxiptUQZbM4vXM4-QfC-m.F4sB_QH-NoILES6c

Passcode: t@5%ffwF

Attendees:

Senators: (* indicates present)

At Large	Staci Zolkoski*	Yonjoo Cho*	Michael Morris
CAS	Matthew Stith	Joseph Vandehey	Sarah Roberts
Soules COB	Barbara Ross Woolridge	Rochell McWhorter	Vivek Pandey*
CEP	Christopher Thomas*	Lauren Kirby*	Forrest Kaiser*
COE	Premanda Indic*	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas	Chung Goh
SON	Colleen Marzilli	Julie George*	Dixie Rose
COP	Santosh Aryal*	Justin (Cole) Wilder	Ayman Hamouda*
Library	Vandy Dubre	Lori Fregoso	Michael Skinner*
SHP		Kimberly Elliott	Jessica Escareno* and Anjali Parti*
SOM		Buka Samten and Jessica Bracks*	James (Ryan) Menard
	Amentahru Wahrab- President Elect	Rick Helfers-Past President*	Harrison Ndetan- President*

Zoom: Mohammed Ali, Christian Alvarado, Kerri Anne Ambort-Clark, Julie Anderson, Emily Battle, Hannah Buchanan, Matt Cope, Mary Fischer, Beverly Golden, Rachel Harrington, Barbara Haas, Lisa Jett, Vicki Jowell, Bryan Krous, Arun Kulkarni, Heshium Lawrence, Becky McKay, Rhiannon Meyer, Sonja Morale, Dalia Nessim, Pierre Neuenschwander, Gina Nickels Nelson, Kim Nimon, Cheryl Parker, Joyce Pitts, Joey Saxon, Ryan Shartau, Jason Smee, Colin Snider, Joel Staves, Cindy Strawn, Cree Summerville, Rahmat Talukder, Sherri Whatley, Troy White, Jennifer Wooldridge, Cara Wreyford, Jacki Wyman

In Person: Ahmed Abdelal, Josh Banta, David Barron, Lou Ann Berman, Gracy Buentello, Ashley Dally, Scott Dillingham, Christine Forisha, Andy Krouse, Poonam Kumar, Javier Kypuros, Amir Mirmiran, Sarah Norrell, Sam Rodriguez, Colleen Swain

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AGENDA

12:35 Welcome and Call to Order/Invocation – Dr. Harrison Ndetan, Faculty Senate President

12:37 Approval of January minutes – Dr. Julie George, Faculty Senate Secretary

12:39 President and Provost Updates: Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Continuing budget process
 - Final budget will be complete after legislative session ends (5/29)
 - Should have final budget by early June and will know more about salary adjustments then
- Strategic Plan:
 - Recruitment-
 - As of today fall enrollment is up ~11-12% from last year
 - Looks like we will have a record number in the freshman class
 - Also seeing increased graduate enrollment
 - Retention-
 - This is a critical piece; we must keep and graduate the students
 - We all play a part in retaining students
 - Please do your early alerts in EAB which will help the students get the help they need
 - Research-
 - Lots of funding opportunities coming-stay tuned
- Summer commencement:
 - Seeking input on this possibility; has deans/chairs support
 - Please email Dr. Mirmiran, David Barron, or Colleen Swain with thoughts and concerns
 - Will plan to start next year
- EOC evaluations:
 - Had several issues arose both with system and migration
 - All issues should be fixed now and everyone should be able to access their evaluations

12:51 EVP Health Affairs/Vice Provost Updates: Dr. Julie Philley

- Medical students first cohort starts in June and their white coat ceremony will be July 1
- SVP of Research search committee has been formed

12:53 Research/Scholarship and Graduate School Update: Dr. Steve Idell

- Recruitment is going well in all colleges
- Internal grants: 8 were funding; in any money frees up may do more
- Potential USDA grant for main and north campus
- For any grant you are considering, seek potential partnerships
- CTSA-eligible for pilot grants

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- Recruitment doesn't work well without mentorship-please consider and take part in mentoring others

12:56 Experiential Learning Transcripts: Dr. Kypuros, Dr. Kumar, Lou Ann Berman, Colleen Swain

- "Experience Transcripts" will be able to show students' actual experience more than a simple academic transcript
- Experiences are documented in different ways and aren't captured in a course name/number
- So many learning opportunities are outside the classroom
 - Examples-UG research-early and active engagement
 - Internships-purposeful and related to degree
 - Study Abroad-can often be augmented by experiential learning
 - Community engagement that is tied to SLOs in specific courses
- Students could choose two activities to be intentional in doing during their time here
- Important to document "soft skills" like communication, leadership, professionalism, work ethic, teamwork/collaboration, etc.
- These will better illustrate the value of the degree and university experience and reinforce marketable skills
- Questions: Will this be included when the student pays for/requests an official transcript?
Yes
- This provides validation to the resume and verifies activity from the university.

1:16 Legislative Update: Matt Cope

- Things are still changing daily
- SB 2123: Joint Medical Admissions passed and waiting for Governor's signature
- SB 695/HB 794: Extends state form funding to College of Pharmacy-it's moving along and hopefully will pass; in Senate committee now and has already passed in the House
- SB 17: DEI-on House floor tomorrow; Some of the SB 16 language from SB 16 (CRT bill) rolled into this one
 - University to promote academic freedom
 - Still prohibits DEI offices, statements in hiring and admissions
 - Restrictions don't apply to scholarship/research or student recruitment
 - Removed compliance audits and takes out language about punishment, fines, and fees
 - Expect a lot of opposition-this may or may not pass
- SB 18: Tenure bill-on the floor today but was taken down for a procedural issue
 - Will go back to committee and will probably return next week
 - Changes from the original bill-tenure with 6 year review, other criteria added to dismiss faculty for varying reasons; sets due process
- Senate budget process:

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- In committee now of combined House and Senate; most of this will happen behind closed doors
- Seeing increased willingness to increase form funding ~5-7%, which will be comparable to other regional university funding based on our number of at risk students
- New programs could be funded like the new nursing programs, as well as other programs on the North campus

1:28 Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Harrison Ndetan

- Thanks to the current Senate officers for all their hard work this year
- President-elect for 23-24 academic year: Dr. Josh Banta
- At-Large Senator for Class of 2026 election will be completed soon
- School/Colleges should be electing Senators for upcoming class-emails have been sent to deans/chairs to remind to have election
- FAC updates:
 - Council has followed legislative session closely
 - Different committees have been working hard
 - Governance committee has been working to improve graduate student support, dependent tuition, and family leave tax
 - Student success: working to improve childcare, wellness, peer mentorship, advising, student ambassador programs, and microcredentials
 - Goal of shared governance is increased transparency and awareness; no school has the perfect structure, important to include administration in these discussions to improve
 - Academic affairs: focusing on free inquiry in research/scholarship, provide ACUE training, opposing “professionalism/collegiality” requirements in promotion and tenure
 - Health affairs: working to improve coaching and leadership, peer mentorship and training programs

1:47 Adjourn