

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday March 27, 2025

12:30-1:50 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/AOa0Z08llvRALazxLSuucpaWFNscdWXwSlbDNsJ7By7m7qX-FUuRFUjOqv8dh9zo.RLasqNQbd42itCPF>

Faculty Senate

	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
At Large	Nelson Fumo	Dominick Fazarro*	Kevin Gosselin*
CAS	Vacant	Kenneth Bryant	Katrin Kellner
Soules College of Business	Vivek Pandey	Brent Beal*	Marwan Al-Sharmi
CEP	Forrest Kaiser	Ramona Grad*	Gina Doepker*
COE	Chung Goh	Aaditya Khanal	Ali Ghorshi
SON	Dixie Rose^	Gina Dudley*	Michelle Nelson
COP	Ayman Hamouda	Santosh Aryal	Farah Deba*
Library	Nicholas Bambach	Michael Skinner	Esmeralda Rodgers
SHP	Jessica Escareno	Ahmed Abdelal	Arturo Arce-Esquivel*
SOM	James Menard	Pierre Neuenschwander	Sujitha Nandimandalam

*means member was in attendance

Senate Executive Officers 2024-2025

Joshua Banta* President	Yanira Oliveras* President-Elect
Amentahru Walhrab* Past President	Catherine Ross* Parliamentarian
Dixie Rose* Secretary	Pierre Neuenschwander Treasurer

In Person Attendance: Zita Husing, Jeff Noblett, Poonam Kumar, Amir Mirmiran, Rick Helfers, David Christian, Isai Ramirez, Gracy Buentello, LouAnn Berman, Ashton Maisel, Samantha Cockrell, Kevin Kjosa, Hosin Min

Zoom Attendance: Rhiannon Meyer, Gina Nickels-Nelson, Haley Gallagher, Kim Nimon, Lynn Harris, Matthew Kelly, Rochell McWhorter, Kailey Henderson, Tammy Cowart, Emily Battle, Ann Beebe, Ashleigh Dinkins, Heshium Lawrence, Melissa Watson, Stacey Hiles, Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark, Jolain LaMott, Jaema Krier

12:30 Welcome and Call to Order, Dr. Josh Banta

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were approved
- Reminder to sign in either on the sign in sheets or in the chat on zoom

President updates (Dr. Julie Philley, President)

- New interim Chief Legal Officer, David Northcutt
- New Athletic Director, Dr. Sam Ferguson from ACU will join April 7
- Open searches
 - Dean for the Fisch College of Pharmacy
 - Dean of the Grad School
 - Leader for Behavioral Health
 - COO of North Campus
- Reminder about homecoming on April 11 and 12 – please participate
- In general, not a super friendly higher ed session in the Legislature, but expect more emphasis on other things
 - Will look at FS and curriculum
 - Thank you for work on info for SB17 review – proud of work we do on this campus and saw nothing concerning – able to meet open records request for all information on SOM
- Remote work
 - Federal level going away – state will look at some level
 - Big proponent of flexibility – document staff with HR in proper channels
- Master plan
 - Feedback has been encouraging
 - Stairs are still on track to open the first week of May will open up
 - Working on timelines and budgets for further upkeep – looking at all kinds of funding sources – will provide timeline in near future
- Important to keep each honest and stay united as a campus
- Question: What are you most worried about? Response: Not a huge worrier, feel responsible for us to stay focused on success of our students and not get bogged down in what is going on beyond our campus.
- Question: Students seem less able to handle critical thinking as well as mental health issues. What do we really know about long term problems from COVID?

Response: Solution is how to address and help change perspective to make them stronger

- Comment: Great to see the changes with walkability and want to acknowledge great relationship with productive engagement

Provost Updates (Dr. Amir Mirmiran, Provost)

- Announcement coming about graduate dean candidates coming to visit for interviews – presentations will be open to faculty
- Candidates for the Pharmacy Dean will be on campus in next few weeks
- CPL (Credit for Prior Learning)
 - Working on process for this and want feedback
 - Focus is on BAAS at this time
 - Draft will be presented at next meeting
- AI proposals – 9 across campus; will be reviewed in the next 2 weeks and then a group will make a pitch to the committee and then awarded in April
- OER – encourage to attend the presentations through CETL with three different perspectives of how to integrate including AI
- Credit to Dr. Swain for implementing – for adding “Uber for Tutor” model for tutoring – make sure you discuss with your students
- Textbook adoption for fall by deadline of April 15
- Question: Will opportunities be provided? Response: OER already sent from CETL via email April 9 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Question: Is Follett a good change? Response: Challenge has not been their fault – contract has been on month-to-month but have not been able to complete the contract due to some issues that are currently being worked on to resolve. Response from Stephanie Fenter – working to understand and please bring any challenges to her

Budget updates (Dwain Morris, Chief Financial Officer)

- *(See slides for further detail)*
- Future budget – working on revenue estimates for next year
- Meeting with Deans and Administration to get help to become more precise in projections
- If you have things that you haven’t done yet – consider pushing out to next business year (delay expenditure) which will help reach goal
- Question: How does projected loss compare to other UT Systems? Response: Only one other runs in negative; most run 1-3% gain

- Breakdown of Total Operating Revenue – Tuition and fees that are non-auxiliary are about \$70-80 million; state appropriations about \$50-55 million
- Question: Why are we and one other the only running negative? Response: Others are bigger institutions and can spread cost easier; a lot is our spending habits
- Pell grants close to \$30 million - Not at risk of losing Pell grant funding this year
- Question: When will you come back for deeper explanation? Response: Will come next quarter – hopefully June

Legislative updates (Courtney Smith, Associate Vice President for Government Relations)

- SB37 was heard in Committee a week ago today and was present for all of testimony
 - very engaged committee hearing
 - committee had questions for almost every presenters
 - Today written with Faculty Senate as advisory only, term lengths of service on Senate, establishes a general education review committee, hiring practices that will put more things at the Board of Regents level, lays out expectations of a Regent
- Request for info from SOM – only had 48 hours to respond - very thankful for responsiveness
- Federal Level – NIH – IDC – injunction now in place so no cap as of today
- DOE – still requires congressional action
- 3 UT Tyler students interning in government offices – one in the Governor’s office, one in the Lieutenant Governor's office, and one in a House Members office
- Question: What are you hearing about the continuing carve outs for SB17?
Response: Only one that currently removes it are only targeted to dentistry and medicine.
- Question: And how do you think the curriculum? Response: only hearing about core and not any mention for upper-level courses
- Question: Is there evidence of push back (HB 2899) Response: Committee is truly wanting feedback and to understand environment of higher ed
- Question: Faculty with courses such as African American Literature are concerned about being fired – should they be worried? Response: no matter what happens we need to be honest about what we can and cannot do; not going to have firings without conversations and looking for creative solutions; statement from committee – we don’t want to hurt higher ed – just want to make it better
- Question: What is your personal assessment of their motivations? How close are they to Vance’s position? Are you serious about their altruistic approach? Dr.

Philly's response: everyone in meetings in Austin has been very supportive of UT
Tyler Response from Courtney: a couple of institutions have brought the focus onto
higher education but can't speak to every politicians position.

- Comment: Committee substitute for SB37 will be biggest sign if they are on our side or not
- Comment: Look at Promise for a show of support

(Re-)Introducing the Center for Teaching and Learning (Dr. Danielle Bailey, Director)

- *See slides for details*

Information About Pregnant and Parenting Student Support (Ashton Maisel, Parent & Family Programs Coordinator, Student Engagement)

- *See slides for details*

Faculty Senate President's Updates (Dr. Josh Banta, Faculty Senate President)

- *See slides for details*

2:13- Adjournment