

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday October 17, 2024

12:30-1:50 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

[https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/TBx9noGcCuQPQXTP-](https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/TBx9noGcCuQPQXTP-HVc2eL0yZgcWdvSBCnLMWax7nbJ8aNbSqREHX6QEnn3qdPZ.gmSDW_73u94XzJ8)

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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: John Yoder, Ona Tolliver, Hosik Min, May Abdelaziz, Mena Souliman, YonJoo Cho, Lorri Allen, Terra Gullings, Kristine Duncan, Andy Krouse, Jeff Noblitt, Christina Forisha, David Barron, Marissa Glosecki, Poonam Kumar, LouAnn Berman, Colleen Swain, Gwen Williams, Michael Ferguson, Matt Stith, Rick Helpers, Tina Melamed

Zoom Attendance: Jaema Krier, Kim Nimon, Rhiannon (Dolly) Meyer, Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark, Gina Nickels-Nelson, Becky McKay, Julie Delello, Zahide Sunal, Yvonne Ralph, Tanya Schlemmer, Elizabeth Lisot-Nelson, Susan Rossman, Natalie Serrano, Rochell McWhorter,

Lynn Harris, Nicole Phifer, Rich Kenney, Zain Al Hour, Barbara Haas

12:32 Welcome and Call to Order, Dr. Josh Banta

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, Dr. Dixie Rose

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

Provost Updates, Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Board of Regents have approved for Promise Plus scholarship (Patriots Promise) an increase in the AGI to \$100,000
- Signed co-enrollment agreement with Panola College
 - 4th agreement – already signed agreements with Kilgore College, TJC, TVCC
 - another 6 in process that hope to have completed by mid-spring – helps create an accelerated pathway to baccalaureate degree
 - Working with UA in the general sciences and pre-med in the STEM fields as well as teacher preparation to plan to come in with 30 hours allowing them to complete a baccalaureate degree in 3 years
 - Hopeful that this will create blueprint for use with other area high schools
- OER
 - UTT featured as one of the successful campuses on what we have been able to accomplish with OER
 - Two OERs have been developed by political science in 2020 and have saved students about \$350,000 since then
 - \$400,000 saved by students due to OER/no cost material
 - Library will check textbook adoptions and see if there is the possibility to purchase ebooks (\$737,000 savings to students from 393 sections through this)
 - From chat: Here is the Library-Provided eTextbooks Guide that we (at the library oversee) that Dr. Mirmiran is referring to - <https://libguides.uttyler.edu/textbooks>; Also, here is Terra's OER guide that is a very helpful resource for those interested to adopt or create an OER for their classes - <https://libguides.uttyler.edu/oer>
 - Not only cost savings, but also increase in accessibility to more customized and relevant course materials with OER
 - Students have better learning outcomes, higher grades, and higher passing rates in courses with OER

- Inviting faculty from other UT System schools who have implemented OER to come to campus and share their successes such as working in partnership with grad students reviewing OER
- Additional benefits of OER – flexibility, concept of open pedagogy, using multiple sections from OER instead of just one textbook allows for customization of content, relevancy of course content to industry needs (can be updated annually or every semester), curricular innovations at the department level, and better integration with the LMS which improves student engagement in the course
- 36 credit hours of core curriculum uses OER with a goal of all 42 credit hours in the future
- Question – survey received asks if the library asked if the textbooks were required or recommended – can recommended textbooks be considered as well? Response – limited library funds so priority will go to required first
- Question – the survey seemed redundant – could they get the info from the bookstore? Response – this is a goal in the future but the new bookstore is not quite up to speed on this area yet
- Question – As faculty members, we are expected to produce and publish research which then has to be published by publishers. If we move in the direction of OER, are we not making it difficult for the process of tenure and promotion? Dr. Mirmiran – OER is viewed as a partnership with faculty and want to make sure that not only faculty are not inadvertently negatively affected by this, but also this is considered as part of the tenure promotion, so just, like we consider and value the other things that the faculty would do this should be part of that. UT Tyler Press, which is right now part of the College of Arts and Sciences, would be more than happy to work with faculty and we would be again investing in those type of initiatives for either adopting an OER or creating a new OER that could be used elsewhere. We are also looking to see if there are opportunities for our faculty can partner with faculty from other campuses within UT system to develop an OER that would be valued as part of the branding of UT system as well.

Office of Sponsored Programs Lisa Bush, Associate Vice President, Research Administration

- Postponed to January meeting

Dr. Colleen Swain, Associate Provost for Academic Success and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

- Documents provided with minutes for review

- 3.20 Faculty Roles – looking at providing clarity so you are not guessing at what the expectations are
- HOP 3.20 document – point out taking attendance (important to be transparent; things are not required are often left undone; TT checking attendance in all core courses)
- HOP 3.28 document – syllabus policy
- HOP 3.24 document – Faculty Annual Evaluations
- Please provide any feedback to Dr. Swain
- Question – do you make them get a doctor’s note if they miss if attendance is part of grade? Dr. Swain - If a pattern is seen, recommend requiring documentation.
- Question – I’m concerned that mandatory attendance policies shift the role of faculty from educators to enforcers. At an institution where students voluntarily enroll, their internal motivation should drive attendance. This is an education they are paying for, and if a student chooses not to show up, that’s their decision. However, absenteeism doesn’t automatically equate to failing to complete the work.; Dr. Swain - true, but our expertise is what students are paying for; don’t want students to waste money
- Question – when will these policy change go into effect; Dr. Swain – This is the initial socialization of ideas and then will go through normal HOP process
- Comment - Opportunity to think about how we teach and applaud the effort of inclusion of faculty

Dr. Jacqueline Fay, President, UT System Faculty Advisory Council

- Role of FAC
 - Facilitates the flow of ideas and information between and among the Board of Regents, the System Administration, and the faculty of UT System
 - Allows faculty representation from every UT campus to share ideas, information, and best practices
 - Identifies issues of concern to faculty, Board of Regents or well-being of the UT System
 - Serves as a standing group from which UT System administration may solicit faculty feedback on issues and projects as needed
 - Conducts fact-finding, background exploration, exposition, analysis, and deliberation on issues
 - Develops recommendations and/or action plans
- Selected FAC Accomplishments

- CoVID policy, tenure clock
- Endowment rules
- Parental leave and sick pool
- Workload policy
- Student success efforts
- SB 16-18
- Teaching evaluation
- Physician burnout taskforce
- Non-tenure track faculty “rights”
- Regents’ Teaching Award funding
- Shared Governance Philosophy
- Senate leadership compensation
- Meeting Structure
 - Three formal meetings in Austin per academic year: October, January, and April
 - October meeting has this orientation; otherwise meetings have the same structure
 - Committee work on Teams and email between meetings
 - Campus reports – over Thursday night working dinner at UT System
 - Speakers
 - Committee work with reports at the end of the meeting
- Committees
 - Academic Affairs, Governance, Health Affairs, and Research are standing committees
 - Each has annually elected co-chairs, ideally one from health and one from academic campus
 - Temporary task forces such as Great Discussions Task Force
- Question – what are some of your great conversations that the task force are looking at? Dr. Fay - Plan to make recommendations of great programs to support faculty to train students to have challenging conversations as well as faculty knowing how to have them

Senate Updates & Discussion, Dr. Joshua Banta

- Misc updates
 - Stairs (between Steward Hall and HPR) revitalized during Thanksgiving break
 - Deadline to RSVP for holiday party is November 22
- Reminder about overview of open and closed sessions of Faculty Senate

- Legislative updates
 - QR code to download recording of committee meeting on higher education
 - Further discussion will take place in the next closed Senate meeting
- Shuttle services
 - Report of findings of ad hoc committee
 - see attached PowerPoint for further details

1:51 Adjournment