

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/G9_CHZDChE53qllhP0hTQPQcAJ7_eJDrjnWuJP0xs10P8iZ86

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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	Vacant President-Elect
Amentahru Walhrab* Past President	Catherine Ross* Parliamentarian
Dixie Rose* Secretary	Pierre Neuenschwander* Treasurer

In Person Attendance: David Christian, Isai Ramirez, Courtney Smith, Christine Forisha, Jeff Noblitt, Daniel Deslatte, Gracy Buentello, Cynthia Martinez, Rick Helfers, Colleen Swain, Ericka Freeman, Chloe Forehand, Marti Hulbrook, Rosemary Cooper, Leah Velarde, Anna Kurdowska, Chris Frydenlund, David Barron, Dwain Morris, Riqing Yu

Zoom Attendance: Elizabeth Lisot-Nelson, Yonjoo Cho, Jaema Krier, Sonia Hernandez, Nicole Phifer, Rochell McWhorter, Julie Delello, Matthew Kelly, Colin Snider, Traci Taylor, Tammy Cowart, Belinda Deal, Sonja Morale, Richard Kenney, Heshium Lawrence, Becky

McKay, Cindy Davis, Rhiannon Meyer, Vicki Jowell, Zain Al Hour, Bruce Bettinger, Hannah Buchanan

12:31 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

Provost Updates, Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Career success conference – October 24; Keynote Jeremy Schieffling (breakfast, lunch at UC; keynote in Theater); do not “cancel” class, but instead integrate the conference into your class – recommend sessions and then discuss in class
- Provost and Vice Provost from UT Dallas regarding Lead UT Dallas – have 2 programs; best option for UTT is to have one program that includes components from each; launch in Fall 2025
- AI – wonderful program put on by CETL; AI academic committee looking at applications for funding
- Peer Observation of Teaching – Deans, Chairs, ADT, Faculty Senate, Faculty Affairs; what do we need to do to make sure that the quality of teaching is at high standard; 80% of students enrolled in at least 1 online class; 42% of all SCH is online; 80% of SCH in grad is online; 74% is graduate completely online; must have same quality of courses online as face-to-face; math does teaching triangle where they go to each other’s classes and give suggestions on improvement
- Question on Peer Observation of Teaching – is the initiative bigger to include best teaching practices? Should CETL be involved in task force? Dr. Mirmiran - Included ADT to give the feedback on best practice; could we develop online resource of do’s and don’ts of online? Dr. Kumar has already developed – possibly have presentation at next faculty Senate
- Comment – include adjunct faculty to participate in peer observation as well – want to have the observation of all faculty including full-time faculty and adjunct faculty

Senate Updates and Discussions – Dr. Joshua Banta

- Kick Ball game

- Career success conference – parking will be disrupted
- Fall Fest on Saturday
- Midnight Breakfast on October 22
- Detailed context of faculty senate
- See attached PowerPoint for further details

Dr. Anna Kurdowska, Associate Vice President for research and research compliance officer and Chris Frydenlund, Senior Manager, Research Compliance Officers

- Job is to follow rules provided by UT System
- Role of the office is protecting the institution and provide sufficient support and training
- Charges are around compliance, lab safety; will work with commercialization

Steven Meyers, President, Staff Senate

- Introduction to give face to name
- Representation from all around campus on Staff Senate
- Available to collaborate
- Big focus is training this year such as leadership training, orientations

Allison Schwartz, President, Student Government Association

- SGA really focused on shared governance; student success is important to continue so communicating the student needs

Isai Rameriz, Chief Information Officer updates

- Feedback on how to support classroom after hours – 1 person staying until 6 p.m. on academic campus on M-Th; just press help button on the Creston screen
- At end of fall semester, will be upgrading in the Pharmacy including adding the Creston panels with help button; starting on 3 classrooms and then will hope to get other 3 next year
- Submit IT at help.uttyler.edu for any Wi-Fi connectivity issues
- Separate issue of bandwidth when everyone is using:
 - submit incident report as well because they can investigate
 - working to update all network and integrate both campuses (multiyear project)
- IT will have a representative at One Stop at beginning of each long semester

Katherine Romero, Vice President, Student Government Association

- Midnight Breakfast – asking for volunteers to arrive at 9:15 p.m. to get instructions and plan to stay until midnight
- 20 volunteers across faculty and staff

Courtney Smith, Associate Vice President for Government Relations

- Receiving a lot of attention because of record enrollment, new programs, new schools, and a lot of excitement on campus
- Visits from 2 Congressmen in last 2 weeks – Congressman Moran invited Congressman Tim Wahlberg, his colleague from Michigan and the Chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Congressman Moran and the mayors of Smith County as well as County Judge Neil Franklin were on campus for an education and workforce development meeting just yesterday
- Hosted a State House Committee hearing in September at Soule’s College of Business
- Representative Cody Harris will be touring the Palestine University Academy later in October
- UT System has started a Texas Legislative Fellowship Program (similar to the Archer Fellowship, but state) that will be offered every other year
- Dr. Philley testified in mid-September on our two budget requests before the Governor’s Budget Staff and the Legislative Budget Board
 - Investment in our College of Education so we can provide the public school teachers that our area and state desperately needs
 - Expansion of our rehabilitation sciences programs including a Doctorate of Physical Therapy, Doctorate of Occupational Therapy, and expansion of our neurology services to encompass programs for Parkinson’s and dementia
- Priorities of the state legislature will become more clear after the election but will probably include such items as the power grid, insurance premiums and how insurance has handled recent large catastrophic storms
- Always happy to discuss current issues and questions and can be reached at courtney.smith@uttyler.edu

1:32 Adjournment