

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday September 19, 2024

12:30-1:50 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/YiYKXr3dS1s-7OKjBVAMGVN3-DvcvB3jbHr_1X_Yi8xWBHNYjI32h-cCOk4sUKD8.bcrIxO6q3-uvE05x

Passcode: CMeE*uw5

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

In Person Attendance: Andy Krouse, Christina Fonsha, Gwen Williams, David Barron, Kathleen Davis, Kristin Moorman, Yvonne Ralph, Zita Husing, Rick Helfers, Julie Phillely, Daniel Deslatte, Dawn Sousa-Hearn, Steve Ayers, Dwain Morris, Colleen Swain, Poonam Kumar, Lou Ann Berman, Kim Livingston-Cobb, Kouider Makhtari, Stephanie Fenter, David Scott, Wei-Chin Ho, Marti Halbrook, Sarah Sass, Kevin Kjosa

Zoom Attendance: Lynn Harris, Kerrie Anne Ambort Clark, Michael Kennedy, Christy Gibson, Yonjoo Cho, Rachel Clark, Gisele Armond Abron, Kim Nimon, Becky McKay, Martin Rivera, Cara Wreyford, Laura Waits, Zain Al Hour, Sonja Morale, Wendy Duncan, Sonia Hernandez, Tanya Schlemmer, Valerie Miller, Lorri Allen, Jennifer Austin, Rhonda Toole, Mary Fischer, Matthew Mekalip, David Christian

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

- Introduction and agenda – passionate about leveraging strengths across our wide array of academic disciplines (looking for commonality); walkability and connectivity between campuses

12:32 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

12:35 President Updates, Dr. Julie Philley

- Thankful for seamless transition with leadership of Senate
- Beginning discussions for legislative asks: funding for rehabilitation science – expanding OT, considering PT, continuing ST, movement disorders; revitalization of buildings on campus
- 10,541 enrollment – couldn't do this without faculty and the best enrollment management team; highest percent increase in UT System
- Branding – when to use athletic and when to use academic; questions will be answered as they come up and processes in development; looking for ways to engage students on campus (student life) and how to devote resources to there
- Recent dean changes will be deferred to Dr. Mirmiran
- Meeting on Monday Dr. Archie Holmes to discuss lessons learned from our merger to share with UTSA as they begin the process of merging as well
- Parking – new lot – if we are student centered, we should not make it completely designated to staff/faculty
- Questions – Does having parking for faculty, actually serve students better because they could be available? Completely fair question – one size does not fit all; parking for each college is different; do not want the perspective that there are empty faculty spaces and not spaces for students when they are trying to get to class.
- Talk about campus revitalization you have in mind – we have no funding yet; very passionate to have a unified entrance with sustenance that people want to use for photo opportunities; better registrar access; consider building out the 4th floor of

Soules; adequate spaces for organizations; many other things – this fall will start construction between Stewart and HPR with a feel of Spanish steps – demolition on Thanksgiving break

- Daniel Deslatte – plan to add another level to the Soule’s parking garage and are looking into a shuttle service to off campus housing as well as a shuttle that would move around the outer perimeter of the campus
- Dr. Philley – there are also plans for shuttle service between the two campuses; before this is a reality, the university will provide transportation if an acute crisis occurs with ride share, etc.

Provost Updates, Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Proud of enrollment management and faculty who have grown enrollment; retention has also improved over last year; retention still lower than hoped, so need to work; new programs – admission (processing applications more rapidly)
- Pharm – enrollment and prep for accreditation; have met with the faculty; thankful for Interim Dean Ochoa
- SOM – Dean Willis stepped down for personal reasons; Dr. Sue Cox has agreed to serve as Interim Dean while they begin the search for a new dean
- Retreat with the Deans in late summer – changing landscape of higher ed: enrollment cliff, nontraditional, 3-year program, outcome based performance funding (already happening for CC) – Texas only state in those surrounding that do not have such funding for universities; microcredentials and prior learning
- Need short term focus; 3 action items:
 - How to address AI so we do not fall behind; AI internal grants; professional development around AI; CETL, ADT, Library, ODL
 - Refreshing the curriculum; real work relevance of programs (aligns with QEP)
 - Professional development and mentorship; Office of Research working based on model they have in Houston as well as UT System; using opportunities from ADT and CETL; similar mentorship with online courses; Provost from UTD to discuss Lead UTD to train administrators (deans, chairs, etc.)
- Question: Concerning refreshing the curriculum, is there any plan to create an internal grant that will be used to teach project-based learning with real clients in the community if project-based learning is used selectively it is not working well? Yes, we would incentivize redesign of selected courses and programming with challenge based instructions as well as project based learning; want to not just serve industry, but also appeal to students

IT updates, Isai Ramirez, Vice President, Information Technology, Chief Information Officer

- Incidence are trending down – down 32% start of this fall compared to last fall semester; accomplished by infrastructure and proactive approach to making sure computers are up-to-date and working well
- New technology assessment focused on accessibility – currently by email which causes delays; on the health campus there is a form and are planning to roll out to main campus; fully expect questions about prior use or use on other UT institutions; here to help to ensure in line with law and policies; tickets to IT – always have hundreds in the waiting for more information; pay attention to emails and respond back promptly
- Information security – be very vigilant on information security; if you see a suspicious email, report it!; don't approve on Duo if you are not trying to personally log in – it only rejects that log on attempt;
- Input: considering extended IT support in the evenings; and revisit the ticket process as it can be very slow – on list to provide after hours and 80% of tickets are closed in first contact with user; be sure to reply if a comment is made on your ticket so that they have the needed information to continue to work to resolve the issue
- Question: Can we get help now buttons in all classrooms? Yes, send email and will find a short-term solution until they can be installed
- Input: Wifi connection in grad school on 2nd floor of HPR very spotty; send email with location and they will investigate

Facilities updates, Andrew Krouse, Executive Director of Facilities Management

- Greatly appreciate support in surplus open house; one last one on next Friday between 9-1; after that date, nothing else available for the rest of the year; meet in lobby of Soule's
- Working on shred contract; if needed, contact Andy to see if can be included and will be place strategically around campus
- Just completed 7-year sustainability effort; surpassed the target of 3% reduction of energy with a 14% reduction in electricity and a 30% reduction in water usage

Bookstore updates, Kathleen Davis, Regional Manager, eFollet

PowerPoint and User Guide provided – contact mails included in slides (Demo video: Here is a link to a demo video of the faculty experience for Follett Discover - <https://follett.com/video/follett-discover-the-faculty-experience/>)

- Course materials moved to 1st floor and plan to give some space back to the campus for student services
- Implementation of new platform for textbook adoptions including OER
- Until implemented have current digital adoption tool – watch for email in the next few weeks (from text239)
- UT Tyler gear – new styles available at lower cost; dorm supplies; convenience items; tech offerings (in store = accessories; online = bigger items); can still use financial aid online to help with the items they need; graduation supplies
- Offer bulk ordering for departments (e.g. polos) and on-demand print service
- 10% discount on faculty purchases

Recognition of immediate past president Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab's service, Dr. Josh Banta

- Integral part of Faculty Senate for several years serving on numerous committees at both the University and UT System levels
- Tireless advocate for shared governance
- Firmly grounded in the big picture
- Played a crucial role in the recent salary adjustments and in guiding us through the intricacies of SB17 and SB18
- Strengthened the apprenticeship system for the incoming Faculty Senate Presidents

1:40 Senate Updates & Discussion, Dr. Josh Banta

- Explained Faculty Senate structure
- Announcements
 - Investiture Ceremony for Dr. Philley on October 1 with campus celebration on September 30th and celebrations on each of the distance campuses
 - Career Success Conference – encourage students to attend
 - Faculty versus students kick ball game that benefits the patriot pantry; entry is one non-perishable canned good; October 20 from 12-1:30 p.m.
 - Tailgating before games – come engage with students and cheer on our athletes

1:56 Adjournment

