

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate
Thursday, November 16
12:30 - 1:40
Hybrid Meeting
Recording of Meeting Click [Here](#)
 Passcode: B8uEIE*r

Faculty Senate

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
At Large	Yonjoo Cho *	Nelson Fumo	Staci Zolkoski *
CAS	Joseph Vandehey *	Austin Seybert	Elizabeth (Cory) Sills Kenneth Bryant
Soules College of Business	Rochell McWhorter *	Vivek Pandey	Brent Beal
CEP	Lauren Kirby *	Forrest Kaiser *	Ramona Grad
COE	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas	Chung Goh	Aaditya Khanal
CNHS	Julie George *	Dixie Rose *	Gina Dudley *
COP	Yanyan Wang	Ayman Hamouda	Santosh Aryal
Library	Lori Fregoso *	Nicholas Bambach	Michael Skinner *
SHP	Kimberly Elliott *	Jessica Escareno	Ahmed Abdelal
SOM	Jessica Bracks	James Menard	Pierre Neuenschwander *

* means member was in attendance.

Senate Executive Officers 2023 - 2024

Amentahru Wahlrab *	Joshua Banta *
President	President-Elect
Harrison Ndetan *	Richard Helfers *
Past President	Parliamentarian
Staci Zolkoski *	Dixie Rose *
Secretary	Treasurer

In Person Attendance: Amir Mirmiran, David Barron, Lou Ann Berman, Austin Seybert, Ona Tolliver, Jeff Noblitt, Wei-Chin Ho, Rick Helfers, Sarah Norrell, Christine Forisha, Joshua Banta, Dominick Fazarro, Leonard Brown, Chuck Brown, Isan Ramirez, Yvonne Ralph, Tom Roberts, Matt Sith

Zoom Attendance: Lynn Harris, Lauren Kirby, Forrest Kaiser, Joseph Vandehey, Amy Clem, JoyPitts, Gina Dudley, Nick Bambach, Hannah Bachanan, Josh Neaves, Johnna Darby, Lori Fregoso, Nicole Phifer, Matthew Mekalip, Julie George, Sarah Bowdin, Sonja Morale, Mohammed Ali, Frank Dykes, Jennifer Garner, Becky McKay, Cheryle Parker, Jaema Krier, Roger Lirely, Michael Skinner, Kimberly Elliot, Gina Nickels-Nelson, Gina Dudley, Pierre Neuenschwander, Tuan Le

12:30 Welcome and Call to Order Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab

- Importance of shared governance
 - Couple of things came up at the last closed session. Based on that, Provost Amir Mirmiran will talk about the budget and other things from Academic Affairs.
 - President Calhoun and Dwain Morris are in Austin at the Board of Regents meeting.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes Staci Zolkoski

- Minutes have been posted.
- Minutes were approved.
- Staci asked for everyone to sign in via the chat box on zoom or the papers on each table.

Provost Updates, Budget Updates Amir Mirmiran

- Everything on the agenda for the Board of Regents, including our new doctoral program has been approved.
 - Still needs to go through Coordinating board and the SACCC but good sign.
- Review budget based on feedback.
 - Clarity about the budget.
 - Earlier this week University Council, Dwain Morris provided a review – this is going to be a repeat of what was said there.
 - 1 – budgeting process
 - Budget office – turnover and transition,
 - Streamlined process – identified issues that have impacted the process.
 - We want to make sure this year would start with a new process.
 -
 - 2 – funds availability
 - We technically have a budget at the beginning of the year.
 - We rebudget on a regular basis – budget transfers – depending on which department needs some funding, we can transfer.
 - New hires – don't technically get a paycheck until October 1st. That is because of availability of funds and some chairs and

deans can't hire graduate students because of when budget is loaded. – fixing these barriers.

- 3 – budget structure – cost structure, cost center, or cost department structure – wanted to identify what is the source of funding, and what is the purpose of the fund
- Lack of budget at the beginning of the year in no way shape or form implied people would not be able to spend because this was something that was clarified in the meeting that Dwain and his team have had with all the deans.
 - Met on a monthly basis to provide feedback on what their budget is and what challenges they have.
 - They told deans that based on what was submitted and based on last year's budget expenditures, please feel free to spend money as necessary so there would not be a barrier for spending what needed to be spent at the beginning of the year.
- Going through the budget loading process right now.
- Additional changes will occur this year.
- Availability of funds or expenditures – this is based on what we've seen over the last several years – pretty flat enrollment.
 - We got funding during Covid from Federal Government to help, but this has gone away.
 - We need to do whatever is necessary to increase revenue and also picking and choosing what needs to happen with expenditures.
 - Not hiring a SFO (chief revenue officer) and review positions on administrative side.
 - Work through shared governance to increase revenue and decrease expenditures – make sure deans assess budgets, what can be done to be more efficient?
- Program Health Assessment – met with everyone except for School of Medicine and Pharmacy
 - Met with leadership team – deans, chairs, directors, department chairs to provide feedback for everyone program.
 - List of peers – what their enrollments have been for last 9-10 years – info from Coordinating Board, program size, tuition, market share, modality of the program.
 - Look at program to see what our market share is and see if it's realistic.
 - What changes/improvements can be made?
 - Barriers with recruitment?
 - We've come up with several action items for particular departments and colleges.
 - Talked about opportunities for us to increase enrollment and talked about partnerships and also looked at barriers.
 - Early alerts are something discussed – we want to ensure the number of faculty providing early alerts increases to 100%. We want to let transfer

students and freshman know within the first month or two how they are doing.

- This has shown early alerts help students recover if they are going in the wrong direction.
- What is the target enrollment to break even? Or what are other programs – new or struggling – how can we assist them?
 - Microcredentialing? Certificates? Some tracks that would be more attractive?
 - Talk to marketing and enrollment management.
 - Revisit program to see about repackaging the program with other majors.
 - Maybe working between 2 colleges and having programs that are coming at the intersection of 2 different disciplines.
- Come up with ways for higher enrollment that helps with our financial status as well.

VP Information Technology - Isai Ramirez

- Late August/beginning of September – ended setting for expired passwords.
 - Information security offices – it has determined changing passwords doesn't make it more secure.
 - If you feel like your password has been compromised, there is an option on the website to reset it.
 - Please be careful with Duo – if you aren't on a site and trying to access something from a UT Tyler domain – sister institutions – 5 people gave away credentials – gave away paychecks – went to PeopleSoft to change bank information reject random duo requests.
 - More safeguards against fraud. – Preventing potential perpetrators
 - Asks for previous direct deposit information.
 - Working on other potential upgrades –
 - www.uttyler.edu/it - surveys for information from faculty, staff, and student needs – please fill out.
 - Educause
 - working on a public list of what we have technology.
 - Technology review assessment process – assess and get inventory of all software from the institution.
 - Software center – gives you some information on what is available.
 - Will provide Tahru with what we do have.
 - Virtual desktop – list coming soon.
 - ServiceNow – name of software, what does it do – by January or February to have something clear and easy to fill out – use this to augment a comprehensive list of what we are able to use.
- We have access to Microsoft Bing AI tool – data in there stays there. We as UT System – we haven't been able to secure a contract with other platforms.
 - We need guarantee data stays within our environment only.
 - Need to protect HIPA and FERPA data.

- Not legally bound in a court of law for protection.
- Guide to use of AI tools
 - Guidelines for copyright.
 - Acceptable use
 - Companies already have a list of unacceptable use of their products.

Senate Updates

- If you have concerns, please reach out to your senator.
- Task force for new and better evaluation system for faculty
 - 3 representatives from senate
 - Lauren Kirby
 - Yanyan Wang
 - Amentahru Wahlrab
 - Couple of deans and a few other people
- Core document and then expand upon based on your department.
 - In process
 - Rational evaluation process
- Senate Bill 18 – passed in June and signed into Law – doesn't impact until beginning of next year.
 - Most campuses have already gotten rid of DEI offices and have been working to expunge websites to any references to it.
 - Model policy for impact on teaching and research is being written at system level and will then come to individual campuses.
- SB 18 – tenure bill
 - Turned in to tenure being granted by an external body above the individual university – in our case the Board of Regents.
 - System is creating a document that will be sent to individual campuses.
- Opened floor for discussion – no questions.

1:27 Adjournment