



UT Tyler **STAFF SENATE**

Staff Senate Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. | COB 307
[Zoom Link](#) | Passcode: W!b9yBaU

❖ COMMITTEE UPDATES

➤ Leadership

- State Banned Software List
 - Govern Abbott has recently updated the prohibited technologies ban list for state agencies. Complete list can be found at <https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot/itd/cybersecurity/prohibited-technologies-list-cybersecurity.pdf>
- Guidance For Law Enforcement Action Service Process on Campus (ICE)
 - <https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/police/guidance-for-law-enforcement-action-service-process-on-campus/>

➤ Star Award

- December and January recipients will be announced at March meeting.
- Nominations for February will be open until the 25th. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so at https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ey74ctmUZIGEyMu

➤ Benefits

- “Did You Know?”:
 - Tax Season Discount - E-file.com offers 50% off on Deluxe and Premium e-file options with code MYEDU50 at checkout.
 - Rental Vehicle Discount - UT System Enterprise contract does allow for personal rental discounts. It’s not the same pricing as business prices, but it is a discounted rate.

- ◆ Companies: Enterprise and National,
<https://elink.enterprise.com/en/uttyler.html>, Personal Use Code – UTS999, PIN – UNI (as in University)

➤ **Faculty and Staff Awards Banquet**

- Save the date and details will be provided in the near future

➤ **University Appreciation**

- May 12th - 16th, and May 27th - 30th
- Luncheon on main campus only is Tuesday, May 13th.
- Save the date and event details will be provided at a later date.

❖ **GUEST SPEAKERS**

➤ **Dr. Joshua Banta, Faculty Senate President**

Campus Accessibility Initiatives

- Faculty Senate and the University are collaborating to improve campus walkability.
- A new pathway was added between the Stewart Administration Building and the Business Building.
- A second pathway is being developed to connect the Alumni House to the main campus.
- Student Government Association is identifying additional areas needing improved access.
- Efforts are being made to enhance navigation for the growing student population.

Transportation Updates

- The City of Tyler transit system is free for faculty, staff, and students with a valid ID.
- The previous bus system was ineffective due to long, looping routes.
- The city has transitioned to a micro-transit system where riders can hail a bus via an app.
- The system provides direct transportation to designated bus stops within a zone.

Signage and Mapping Improvements

- A university committee, led by Jeff Noblet, is working on improving campus maps.
- The initiative includes high-quality, interactive digital maps with turn-by-turn navigation.
- Efforts are underway to improve physical signage with clear and informative displays.
- Plans for indoor signage are also being discussed.

Shuttle and Parking Considerations

- Faculty Senate is exploring potential shuttle services to support students traveling across campus.
- Previous shuttle implementations failed due to inefficient route planning.
- A proposed pilot program would run point-to-point routes for students needing reliable transport.
- Faculty and staff parking alternatives, such as an off-campus lot with a dedicated shuttle, were discussed.
- Some faculty members suggested adjusting parking permit pricing based on distance from campus.

Alternative Transportation Options

- A bike loan program is in place, and additional bikes are being considered for expansion.
- A previous bike share program was unsuccessful due to poor maintenance and tracking.
- Scooter rentals with geofencing capabilities are being explored as a potential alternative.
- Data indicates that demand exists for alternative transportation among students.

Student Needs Assessment

- Many students, especially international and graduate students, do not own cars.
- Faculty Senate is working with the Health Science Center to address transportation needs between campuses.
- Some students are using personal funds for Uber rides due to a lack of shuttle services.
- A survey is being developed to assess transportation and accessibility needs.

Faculty and Staff Onboarding

- Collaboration with HR is underway to enhance the onboarding experience for new employees.
- Efforts include improving training modules, streamlining campus navigation guidance, and making compliance training more accessible.
- Focus is on a structured approach to ensure all employees receive necessary resources and information.

➤ **Campus Announcements**

- Strategic and Master Plan Refresh
 - Cowan Center on Friday, February 21 @ 9:00am
- Homecoming
 - Sunday, April 6 through Sunday, April 13
 - Fireworks, lip-sync, crawfish boil, and sporting events
 - Looking for volunteers to assist with events. If you are interested in helping with homecoming, reach out to Robert Smith at robertsmith@uttyler.edu, or getconnected@uttyler.edu
- Food Truck Mondays
 - Available at the loading dock of Robert Muntz Library, facing the lake
 - Participation during Spring and Fall semesters will determine if food trucks will be available during the Summer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 26 at 3:00 pm, COB 307 or via [Zoom](#)