

Faculty Voices

Updates from the Faculty Senate



Honors College Dean Searches (1 p.m. in JPL Assembly Room)

February 1st Ann Eisenberg

February 4th Miguel Diaz Barriga

February 8th Sean Kelly

February 15th Hui-Ching Chang

Notes from the Chair and Secretary of the General Faculty

SYSFAC met in January. Faculty have now been included on work related to the Intellectual Property policy. The new Regents were also introduced, including Regent Tucker, who is a proponent of faculty governance and the dual credit initiative. Tony Cucolo, Associate Vice Chancellor, spoke and stated that he recognizes the burden of the Hazelwood Act, specifically on UTSA. The Chancellor is looking to implement a leadership initiative course for freshmen and seniors across all disciplines. There will likely be a pilot program at some select schools before full implementation. He has also instituted the Rooney Rule at all institutions, which requires all administrative positions to consider women and minorities as final candidates.



Questions or Feedback about the Newsletter?

Contact Emily Bonner at emily.bonner@utsa.edu

Provost's Report

Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick reported that a new Dean of Libraries (Hendrix) has been hired and will start in May. Four candidates will be coming in for the Honors Dean search (see note on p. 1). The search committee is still reviewing candidates for the COEHD Dean search. Finalists should be on campus sometime in March.

Dr. Frederick offered to share student survey course data collected to help identify which summer classes are most desired among students. He encouraged departments to try and add additional courses to the summer term if needed. He said that the instructor drop policy will be on its way to the HOP committee in February. There should hopefully be something in place by the fall.

There there was recently an audit on workload credits. UTSA did well, but there are some areas for improvement. One of these is documenting what research faculty plan to do to obtain those credits. He encouraged all colleges to document this and is implementing a plan to pay faculty research out of a separate cost center to better document their research credits. He asked that anyone doing research send their college a short write-up of what they plan to work on. Working to document and justify UTSA's research expenditures will benefit the university going forward.

Dr. Frederick reported on a new system (student success collaborative campus) that will be launched soon, and will replace the early alert system. It will provide better communication capability between students, faculty, and advisors to aid in student success. He said it should be implemented in the fall, but encouraged faculty to give input to better tailor the system. DegreeWorks will still be utilized for degree auditing purposes.

Other Business

Alistair Welchman reported that the curriculum committee considered a request for a Minor in Sport Management. There were no major concerns and the minor does not require any additional faculty or resources. The committee voted to approve the proposal, and the Senate voted to unanimously approve the proposal.

Gregory Hazelton reported that the campus carry special committee is continuing to gather data, and a survey has been sent to faculty.

Brian Halderman, Program Director for Community Engagement, said that UTSA is one of 361 institutions that hold the Community Engagement classification, as of last January. He said there are 4 areas that need reclassification (in 2025): Assessment, partnerships, faculty rewards, and integration & alignment. He said the center's mission statement and vision are aligned to create a culture of civic engagement on campus. He explained some of the work that the center does (including service-learning course development & support, and tracking university-wide civic engagement efforts to report collective impact). Mr. Halderman stressed the importance of community engagement and said that any feedback or other ideas may be sent to him. He said there is also a service-learning advisory council on campus that can provide more information.