

FACULTY VOICES

Senator Spotlight



*This month the Senator Spotlight is on **Dr. Karen Daas**, Chair of the Faculty Senate*

What department do you represent? *Communication*

How many years have you served on Senate? *3*

How many years have you been at UTSA? *8*

What is your research and/or creative activities focus? *I research aspects of personal and social identity, specifically cases of contested identity.*

Why did you decide to get involved with the Senate? *I wanted to learn more about the University and meet more people outside of my department.*

Describe what you have learned during your time on the Senate. *I have learned a great deal about the policies of the University, the issues that are most important to faculty, and the interconnectedness of the seemingly separate groups and offices on campus.*

What would you say to your peers who might be considering accepting a nomination for a position on the Senate? *Serving on Senate is a valuable experience that allows you to influence the faculty experience and more fully understand how the University entity functions.*

GET INVOLVED!

HOP Policies

Periodically Senators send out HOP Policies for “stakeholder” feedback. Be on the lookout for these emails from your Senator and respond to the appropriate party and make your voice heard!

Faculty Issues

Talk to your Senator if you have an issue related to faculty governance. Your input and insights are valuable.

Run for Senate!

Consider attending a meeting and running for Senate. We meet monthly and discuss issues related to the HOP, curriculum, system, institutional policies, etc.

Questions about the newsletter? Contact emily.bonner@utsa.edu

Updates from the Faculty Senate Chair

HOP 5.09 (Class Attendance) was reviewed in April and the revised version passed at the May meeting. HOP 4.20 (Authorized Leave) is currently under revision. HOP 9.48 (Campus Carry) is a new policy that was drafted by Legal Affairs and will be reviewed/approved by the Regents at their next meeting in the spring/summer. The policy is not currently under stakeholder review, but can be reviewed in the fall to address any concerns/proposed changes.

Notes from Secretary of the General Faculty

Dr. Jill Hernandez reported the following:

- SYSFAC's Academic Affairs committee is continuing to work on dual credit, with site visits temporarily on hold
- A resolution was drafted stating that DFW rates shouldn't be tied to performance evaluations. The resolution has been sent to the Chancellor and Regents.
- The Academic Affairs committee plans to look at faculty-generated resolutions to this issue in the fall.
- The coordinating board's 60 x 30 initiative is a goal for 60% of Texans to have a post-high school credentials (dual credit, degrees, certificates, etc.) by 2030. This is another long-term project that the Academic Affairs committee will be looking at.
- A whitepaper on shared governance is being developed based on an institutional survey conducted last fall.
- TRS currently has a \$1.6 billion shortfall that will be looked at in greater depth in the fall.
- Graduate student funding was discussed during the UT System visit to UTSA in April. The CONACYT initiative, which will bring research money to Ph.D.s, was also discussed.
- UT institutions are waiting to see how Chancellor McRaven's Leadership Quantum Leap will be implemented on each campus. Currently, the Chancellor is envisioning a one-hour lower-and-upper division course for each undergraduate. System has indicated they plan to pilot the course in Fall 2016.

Have a wonderful summer!



Faculty Senate priorities for 2016-2017:

- Draft a resolution related to the waiving of prerequisites for transient students in summer courses
- Propose suggestions/revisions to the new HOP policy on Campus Carry
- Remain active in System and University governance