

SENATE HIGHLIGHTS

UTSA FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

UTSA
Faculty Senate



2021–2022 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAD MAHOOD: CHAIR

RENE ZENTENO: VICE CHAIR ELECT

CHRIS PACKHAM: SECRETARY OF
THE GENERAL FACULTY

CURTIS BREWER: PARLIAMENTARIAN

MARY MCNAUGHTON-CASSILL:
SECRETARY

DREW JOHNSON: CHAIR, ACADEMIC
FREEDOM, EVALUATION AND MERIT
COMMITTEE

JURGEN ENGELBERTH: CHAIR,
GRADUATE COUNCIL

JOHN WALD: CHAIR, BUDGET
COMMITTEE

MATTHIAS HOFFERBERTH: CHAIR,
HOP COMMITTEE

ALEXIS GODET: CHAIR, FS RESEARCH
COMMITTEE

ANDREW LLOYD: CHAIR,
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

DIANE ABDO: ADTS REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR FULL FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES & REPORT,
[CLICK HERE](#)**

**FOR MORE DETAIL,
CONTACT YOUR SENATOR**

The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate updates from the Faculty Senate and to encourage faculty participation in the spirit of shared governance and the success of UTSA students, faculty, and staff.

Leadership Report PROVOST KIMBERLY ESPY

For additional details see full presentation

- Summer schedule sign-up is now open. Please encourage your students to use the summer as an opportunity to catch up and get ahead. Fall schedule sign-up has been moved and will now begin on April 18.
- Academic Innovation is offering a rich faculty professional development plan for Summer 2022. Visit the [website](#) for the full schedule of opportunities.
- Academic freedom & tenure conversations are ongoing and continuing – some of the dialogues held to date are noted in the slide below.

TENURE/ACADEMIC FREEDOM	
Engagement Opportunities	
<p>ULC Discussions</p> <p>Senior Leadership & DCC/FS Chairs Feb. 18, Feb. 22, April 5</p> <p>University Leadership Council Mar. 2, Mar. 23, Apr. 27</p> <p>Deans' Meetings Feb. 21, Apr. 4</p>	<p>FS/DCC/SS/SGA Leadership Meetings</p> <p>College Senators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCEID Feb. 16 • COEHD Feb. 25 • COLFA Mar. 3 • COS Mar. 4 • HCaP Mar. 4 • ACOB Mar. 24 <p>College Dept. Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCEID Feb. 16 • COEHD Feb. 25 • COS Feb. 27 • COLFA Mar. 3 • HCaP Mar. 4 • ACOB Mar. 24 <p>SGA Executive Team Meetings Mar. 8, Mar. 22</p> <p>SGA Student Senate Briefed Mar. 10</p> <p>Staff Senate March 24</p> <p>Deans, Colleges and Leadership Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COS Mar. 9 • HCaP Mar. 11 • COEHD Mar. 11 • ACOB Mar. 25 • COLFA Apr. 1 • KCEID Apr. 1

- UTSA/SSA Update: Much progress has been made in merger of the Southwest School of Art (SSA) with UTSA, as noted in the recent email [update](#). Kudos to COLFA and AAH colleagues who have worked hard to move forward on this exciting opportunity.
- ITC Centennial 2068 Community Stakeholder Visioning Update: The process is continuing. The three task forces have completed their work and their reports are on the [ITC Visioning website](#). Two community conversations have given the public opportunities to provide input. The [community responses](#) are now part of the steering committee process along with the task force reports to inform their work as they develop feasible scenarios to present to President Eighthmy for a path forward. A third opportunity for public input will be held after the steering committee completes their work, sometime in May.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of minutes – March 10, 2022
- Grad Council Exec. Committee election results
 - Corey Sparks: Chair
 - Victor Villarreal: Secretary
 - Elaine Sanders: Parliamentarian
 - Terrence Hill: Council member at large

ALL ITEMS APPROVED

Fulbright Programs Report

AMIRAH NELSON, SENIOR OUTREACH OFFICER, FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

For additional details see full presentation

- The Fulbright Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government. It is led by the United States government in partnership with more than 160 countries worldwide, the Fulbright Program offers international educational and cultural exchange programs for students, scholars, artists, teachers, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach, or pursue important research and professional projects. Learn more the various opportunities at eca.state.gov/fulbright
 - **Specialist program** offers 2-6 week project-based exchanges at a range of institutions across the globe. Over 150 eligible countries and typically 400+ projects are available annually with no out-of-pocket costs for participants. Costs are covered by hosting institutions and the Department of State. Opportunities are available in 24 disciplines and numerous specializations. Eligible host institutions include institutions of higher education, government institutions, cultural institutions, non-governmental organizations and medical institutions. Learn more about eligibility criteria, deadlines and FAQs at fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org
 - **Additional opportunities for U.S. scholars and administrators** ([view catalog](#))
 - **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards** include opportunities for professionals, artists and scholars at all career-levels to teach, research and conduct professional projects.
 - **Fulbright Postdoctoral Awards (OLF)** provide recently graduated scholars (within 5 years of doctoral degree) with opportunities to conduct research and receive professional training abroad.
 - **Fulbright International Education Administrator Awards** enable international education professionals and senior higher education officials an opportunity to engage in a two-week intensive seminar to learn about a host country's education system and establish international networks
 - Bringing Foreign Fulbrighters to UTSA
 - **Fulbright Scholar in Residence Program:** Host scholars from other countries to teach for a semester or an academic year.
 - **Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund:** Host current Fulbright Visiting Scholars for short-term lectureships of 2-6 days on discipline or cultural topics to internationalize the campus.
 - **Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant Program:** Host native speaking language teaching assistants to enhance students' understanding of different languages and cultures.

Q.
A.

Q: What if my field is not included in the list of fields accepted by Fulbright?

A.: There are many specializations within each discipline. Review the list of specializations to find a good fit or you can contact Amirah for assistance (Amirah.nelson@worldlearning.org).

Chair's Report

CHAD MAHOOD: CHAIR, FACULTY SENATE/DEPT. OF COMMUNICATION

For additional details see full presentation

- Meetings are ongoing regarding Academic Freedom, tenure and faculty rights
 - 03-10: Faculty Senate
 - 03-23: University Leadership Council (includes Faculty Senate Chair)
 - 03-24: Faculty Senate Academic Freedom, Evaluation and Merit Committee
 - 03-31: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
 - 04-05: President, Provost, Dept. Chair's Council Chair, Faculty Senate Chair, and others
 - 04-06: Department Chair's Council (includes Faculty Senate Chair)
- According to bylaws, the secretary and parliamentarian must be elected every year. Nominations are now open and may be sent to Chad.Mahood@UTSA.edu
 - Secretary: Mary McNaughton-Cassill has agreed to continue in the role, **if** elected
 - Parliamentarian: Curtis Brewer has agreed to continue in the role, **if** elected



Secretary of the General Faculty Report

CHRIS PACKHAM: SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL FACULTY/ DEPT. OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

- Faculty Senate Chair Chad Mahood is attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates on April 8 & 9.
- Faculty Senate Chair Chad Mahood and SoGF Chris Packham are attending the Faculty Advisory Council meeting in Austin on April 28 & 29.

Academic Freedom, Evaluation & Merit

DREW JOHNSON: CHAIR AFEM/DEPT. OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Committee Report: 2 Documents up for vote today

- Memorandum for Written Comments in Teaching Evaluations
 - Charge: to provide input on proposed changes in teaching evaluations that written comments provided to faculty be made available to department chairs and deans
 - Recommendations:
 - student comments should not be shared with those responsible for the formal evaluation of faculty job performance
 - comments could be securely archived in university offices that have the mission to improve the teaching and learning environments
 - the university Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) should be revised
 - inform students of the ways in which their comments are utilized
 - Discussion:
 - there were concerns that the statement did not address student evaluation bias
 - the question was raised whether, if students comments are not forwarded, there was any other way for students to give feedback on the teaching experience?
 - a Department Chairs Council member shared that this discussion had been raised at the DCC meeting as well and that students are shocked to learn that their comments aren't forwarded, both from a positive and negative perspective
 - there was concern that the recommendations could result in the submission of only negative comments to the chairs, the point was made that as supervisors there is a desire to take care of both faculty and student success and so it is important to weigh anomalous negative comments with positive comments to get the full picture
 - in agreement with recommendation #3, there was discussion that providing a clear process was imperative.
 - The FS Chair reminded the Senate that this was just the first step in the process that, SVP Heather Shipley asked the committee to consider this. They have, and these recommendations will now will go back to her for her response, so this is not the final say.
 - clarification on the result of the vote was requested and it was clarified that the vote would be to proceed in sending the recommendations to SVP Shipley who would in turn meet with AFEM to discuss implementation that would then be reported back to the Senate for vote on whether there is agreement or not on the plan to move forward
 - concern was expressed that there is documentation that faculty of color, faculty who teach from a critical race paradigm, gender and sexuality studies, etc. receive primarily negative evaluations no matter the strength or quality of the faculty member
 - Voting opened and the motion to send the AFEM recommendations to SVP Shipley passed
- Statement on Academic Freedom
 - Charge: to provide a written statement on academic freedom
 - Recommendation:
 - the AFEM established that the audience for the statement was the UTSA community (faculty/staff/students)
 - incorporated into the selected wording are the mission of UTSA as a Hispanic Serving Institution, the importance of academic freedom to teach the content we think needs to be taught without influence from external sources outside the areas of expertise, and why tenure is necessary to protect that academic freedom.
 - it recognizes that there are faculty who are feeling political pressure in teaching their areas of expertise in social justice, race, ethnicity and gender issues and as a faculty body, we stand with them.
 - Discussion:
 - there were multiple discussions over the language used in the statement, which some felt did not address CRT and racial and gender equity, specifically.
 - concern was expressed that the statement seemed to only address tenured faculty and not the right of all educators to teach from any perspective.
 - a suggestion was made to tighten the resolution verbiage to respond more forcefully to the interim charges of the Lt. Governor.
 - a question was asked about the options available to pass this document
 - the FS Chair reminded the Senate that procedure dictates the vote be on the document as presented in its current form. The statement could only be amended at this time, if the person who presented the document expressed willingness to allow friendly amendments. If the motion to move forward with the document in its current form fails in the vote, then an immediate motion could be brought forward to revise the document. He advised that all senators unhappy with the current form of the document should disapprove of the motion to initiate the process of revising or creating a new document.
 - The AFEM chair was asked to summarize the committee's decision to not use the term CRT in the statement. The AFEM chair stated that this was a document of many compromises to get to the current draft and discussion included the definition of CRT and the context for its use. The intent of the verbiage was to be more inclusive to address the issues at hand rather than to use any particular phrasing.

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Academic Freedom, Evaluation & Merit

DREW JOHNSON: CHAIR AFEM/DEPT. OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

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- a question of procedure regarding the possibility of tabling the discussion was raised and the FS chair explained the process for that action: if the motion is tabled, it will move to discussion at the next exec session (4/21) to determine next steps. If this action is followed it would be unlikely that a statement could be finalized this semester.
- there was support for the Senate discussion to be a safe space for all faculty to voice their feedback
- the point was made that this should not be viewed as the only time the Senate can speak out on this ongoing issue.
- the FS chair explained that if the motion is tabled, it will come up again at the next meeting in its exact form but while it is being tabled, new motions can be recognized for a different way to proceed
- the question was asked as to the quickest, simplest most inclusive way to get a strong resolution that properly supports the people who are most vulnerable with another asking if a motion could be made to edit/revise the statement while the motion is tabled to which the FA chair confirmed that motion could be made.
- A motion was raised to table the motion and a second was given, superseding the previous motion. **APPROVED**
- A motion was made and a second was given to create an ad hoc committee with the members indicated below and charged with revising the document to be reflective of the conversation in this meeting for presentation to the Senate in May. **APPROVED**
 - Joycelyn Moody - chair
 - Sonya Aleman
 - Andrew Konove
 - Rica Ramirez
 - Rene Zenteno
 - Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick

Curriculum Committee

ANDREW LLOYD: CHAIR, CURRICULUM COMMITTEE/DEPT. OF MUSIC

Committee Report:

The Curriculum Committee has been tasked with reviewing the new updates to the undergraduate catalog. Your help is needed to look at your department pages for any typos or content issues and get back to the Curriculum Chair by April 30.

AdHoc Governance Committee

BRANCO PONOMARIOV: CHAIR, ADHOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE/DEPT. OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Committee Report:

They are close to having a resolution for a building committee that would be a part of faculty shared governance to provide more faculty input early in the process before buildings are built. Resolution to come.

New Business

- **Rica Ramirez:** COEHD has been tasked to look at P&T and annual review. There is a question about 4th year review and whether it is included in the HOP or whether the Faculty Senate was involved in discussions for this practice - the FS Chair offered to take this question to SVP Heather Shipley to get more information.
- **Candace Christensen:** Asked if anyone knows if UTSA has reached out to the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions about a land acknowledgement? Sonya Aleman provided a lead by reporting that she believes a member of the La Raza Faculty Association worked on a committee under the Office of Inclusive Excellence to draft a land acknowledgment over the past year.
- **Becky Huang:** Brought to everyone's attention that the university is considering doing catalog revisions for both undergraduate and graduate catalog in the same year and so is proposing to do all changes again next year and then to switch to revisions every two years. The Grad Council Chair voiced that the Council is mostly against the change and that further discussions are ongoing.

2021-2022 FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

UTSA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND INTEGRATED DESIGN

- **JOHN ALEXANDER**, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING
- **AUGUST (GUS) ALLO**, FIXED-TERM TRACK REPRESENTATIVE
- **KIRAN BHAGANAGAR**, DEPT. OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- **DREW JOHNSON**, DEPT. OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
- **SANDEEP LANGAR**, DEPT. OF CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT
- **SUE ANN PEMBERTON**, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING
- **JEFFREY PREVOST**, DEPT. OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
- **GABRIELA ROMERO URIBE**, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- **VICTOR DEOLIVEIRA**, DEPT. OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCE AND STATISTICS
- **RICK GRETZ**, DEPT. OF MARKETING
- **DANIEL HOLLAS**, DEPT. OF ECONOMICS
- **HUY LE**, DEPT. OF MANAGEMENT
- **CHARLES LIU**, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & CYBER SECURITY
- **DENNIS LOPEZ**, DEPT. OF ACCOUNTING
- **MAHO SONMEZ**, FIXED-TERM TENURE TRACK REPRESENTATIVE
- **JOHN WALD**, DEPT. OF FINANCE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- **SONYA ALEMAN**, DEPT. OF RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
- **CURTIS BREWER**, DEPT. OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY STUDIES
- **FELICIA CASTRO-VILLAREAL**, DEPT. OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
- **BECKY HUANG**, DEPT. OF BICULTURAL-BILINGUAL STUDIES
- **RICA RAMIREZ**, DEPT. OF INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING AND TEACHING
- **DEVON ROMERO**, DEPT. OF COUNSELING

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND FINE ARTS

- **WHITNEY CHAPPELL**, DEPT. OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
- **BRIAN DAVIES**, DEPT. OF HISTORY
- **KIMBERLY FONZO**, DEPT. OF ENGLISH
- **MARCUS HAMILTON**, DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY
- **DAVID HANSEN**, FIXED-TERM TENURE TRACK REPRESENTATIVE
- **MATTHIAS HOFFERBERTH**, DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY
- **KIM KLINE**, DEPT. OF COMMUNICATION
- **S. ANDREW LLOYD**, DEPT. OF MUSIC
- **HUMBERTO SAENZ**, DEPT. OF ART AND ART HISTORY
- **JOSH THUROW**, DEPT. OF PHILOSOPHY AND CLASSICS

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

- **HECTOR AGUILAR**, FIXED-TERM TENURE TRACK REPRESENTATIVE
- **RAJENDRA BOPPANA**, DEPT. OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
- **LORENZO BRANCALEON**, DEPT. OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
- **JAMES CHAMBERS**, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND IMMUNITY
- **MIKE DOYLE**, DEPT. OF CHEMISTRY
- **ALEXIS GODÉT**, DEPT. OF EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES
- **DMITRY GOKHMAN**, DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS
- **BRIAN LAUB**, DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ECOLOGY
- **RICHARD LEBARON**, DEPT. OF NEUROSCIENCE, DEVELOPMENTAL AND REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY

COLLEGE FOR HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND POLICY

- **GINA AMATANGELO**, FIXED-TERM TENURE TRACK REPRESENTATIVE
- **ROGER ENRIQUEZ**, DEPT. OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- **GINNY GARCIA**, DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY
- **TIANOU ZHANG**, DEPT. OF KINESIOLOGY
- **MARY MCNAUGHTON-CASSILL**, DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY
- **EMILY NICKLETT**, DEPT. OF SOCIAL WORK
- **BRANCO PONOMARIOV**, DEPT. OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- **ZENONG YIN**, DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- **RENE ZENTEÑO**, DEPT. OF DEMOGRAPHY

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

- **LAUREN RIOJAS-FITZPATRICK**, FIXED-TERM TENURE TRACK REPRESENTATIVE

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- **DIANE ABDO**, REPRESENTATIVE, ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED TEACHING SCHOLARS
- **EMILY BONNER**, PAST FACULTY SENATE CHAIR
- **JURGEN ENGELBERTH**, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL
- **CHAD MAHOOD**, CHAIR, FACULTY SENATE
- **CHRIS PACKHAM**, SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL FACULTY