

# SENATE HIGHLIGHTS

UTSA FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER



## 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.

## Consent Agenda

- Approval of minutes – April 7, 2022
- Elect Secretary: Mary McNaughton-Cassill
- Elect Parliamentarian: Curtis Brewer
- Approve Undergraduate Catalog (shared at April Meeting)
- Grad Council Items:
  - M.S. in Health, Community, and Policy
  - M.S. in Kinesiology

**ALL ITEMS APPROVED**

## Leadership Report: Academic Affairs PROVOST KIMBERLY ESPY

*For additional details see full presentation*

- Commencement is upon us. If you have a chance, make time to attend the many activities and events. Note there are two graduation ceremonies instead of three to make it easier on our families.
- Summer: Please remind your students about the opportunity to sign up for summer classes. Summer is a great time to catch up or get ahead. For faculty, please check out the [professional development opportunities](#) available through Academic Innovation.
- Fall class schedule is open.
- A big thank you to all faculty for your hard work and dedication to UTSA!



# University Leadership Update: Student Success

TAMMY WYATT, VICE PROVOST FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

AMY BUECHLER-STEUBING, SR. DIRECTOR FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION & DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

## For additional details see full presentation

Update on services and initiatives overseen by division of Student Success  
Reminder on all the services that are housed under Student Success

- Academic Advising (i.e. TRiO, SSS, LEAD/SOAR, R&R Program)
- Retention and Graduation Initiatives: Graduation Help Desk
- Transfer & Transition Student Success Services
- Student Engagement & Belonging Programs (i.e. FYE, First Gen & Transfer Center, H&RL, FESC, BCFES)
- Academic Success Programs (i.e. Tutoring, SI, Student Success Coaching)

Work closely with strategic partners around enrollment, retention and degree completion efforts (i.e. Strategic Enrollment, Academic Innovation, Career Engaged Learning).

Formally established the Student Success Hub and Spoke model this year.

- piloting done in past year
- implemented an intentional organizational structure with dotted reporting line relationship between the college student success centers and the division of student success.
- Promotes alignment of shared unified goals and metrics, allowing the alignment of funding, initiatives, assessment and research
- Partnership allows increase of organizational capacity to create clarity for students to scale high-quality support throughout the student life cycle as well as identify and promote best-practices and harness the collective expertise of faculty and staff.

Identified four fundamental integrated common goals. Student Success is partnering with Student Affairs, Career Engaged Learning and Academic Innovation to implement these unified goals.

- Increasing student participation in career engaged learning activities and opportunities
- Increase student course outcomes in selected high-priority courses
- Increase student engagement and connection within the colleges including well-being
- Expand student's digital skills and use of digital tools

Recognized importance for solid foundation of training and support for staff. In response, workshops and training have been held. Through this alignment and systematic tracking of the work being done, collective assessment of the work across the institution is possible.

Illume platform - data analytics part of Civitas learning (includes data from Banner and LMS)

- Illume provides predictive analytics that help identify indicators to act upon
- In the Fall, began looking at LMS engagement data and it became one of the strongest persistence predictors
- Experimented in Fall/Spring with different response outreach actions - working to create a blueprint to automate some messaging, send information to different teams to inform the way students are supported.
- Illume Course Insights - added 7 -10 years of course outcome data in the system to help identify places where historical course outcomes are showing impact on a student's likelihood to persist and/or graduate. After further research, action plans are created for student success.

Other Student Success efforts include:

- Advising Appointment/Registration Campaigns
- Enrollment & Balance Clearing/Reduction Campaigns
- Real-Time Monitoring of Course Availability/Need
- Pre-Loading Courses for Incoming FTIC Cohorts
- Graduation Help Desk Proactive Outreaches



Q.  
A.

**Q: What kind of resources/training do you have for your Peer Mentors and is this training open to other Peer Mentors?**

A: Yes, there is robust training for all student employees. Efforts have begun to partner with colleges who want peer mentors. Training is provided and peer mentors are CRLI certified. Partnerships are possible for those with grants who want similar training. Contact Student Success for more information.

**Q: What happens when mid-term grades are submitted? Where does that information go particularly for struggling students?**

A: Over the years there have been variations of what could be done. The integration of Civitas and the LMS provides engagement data and grade data. So, based on mid-term grades and average grades, proactive outreach through calling campaigns is possible to selected populations (i.e. this spring, Student Success coaches reached out to population with high concentration of DFW mid-term grades to schedule appointments with SS coaches for help).

**Q: If only data from subsets is used, could the call for mid-term grades be adjusted to only the subsets used?**

A: The hope is to monitor all courses, at present it is in pilot phase. This information helps students in a variety of ways, i.e. knowing mid-term grades helps students to determine if assistance or services are needed.

# University Leadership Update: Business Affairs

**KEVIN PRICE, SR. VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPUS SERVICES**

*For additional details see full presentation*

Update on dining services

Based on feedback, a number of dining changes are planned for fall.

- Dining Renovation Objectives
  - Add a broader variety of dining options
  - Add healthier food options
  - Increase options for diners with dietary restrictions
    - Vegan, vegetarian, gluten-intolerant, etc.
  - Improve efficiency and convenience
  - Enhance the dining atmosphere
  - Enhance Roadrunner Café
- The Starbucks mobile app will be activated for those wishing to use the Starbucks app
- Chick-fil-A will add a GrubHub Ultimate feature where orders can be placed online and place in line will be visible on app
- Additional Grab & Go options will be added at RowdyMart
- Freshens Fresh Food Studio will replace Steak 'n Shake



Q  
A

**Q: Will the Roadrunner Cafe be opened during June?**

*A: No, it will not be open. Renovations will occur all summer to facilitate opening in August.*

## Chair's Report

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

*For additional details see full presentation*

- Attended Texas Council of Faculty Senates - many are also discussing statements in reaction to Dan Patrick's proposed Senate interim charges
  - Voted to draft an update to preliminary statement issued in Feb.
  - Reminder for all faculty: [Texas Association of College Teachers \(TACT\)](#) membership offers Educator's Professional Liability Insurance
- UT System FAC Exec Committee issued a statement on tenure on April 25 (see the Senate SharePoint for full statement)

## Secretary of the General Faculty Report

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

- Attended the Faculty Advisory Council meeting in Austin .
  - UTSA continues to be in a better position than most other UT System campuses.
  - Currently chairing the FAC Research Committee
    - UT System research is less connected than UC System, key goal is to connect UT campuses together to harness the distributed power to change that.
    - Seeking funding from UTS for a research symposia across UT campuses - modeled on Bridging Barriers approach at UT Austin
- Faculty Senate Retreat for all Senators (AY 2022/23) most of day on Wed. Aug. 17 JPL 4.04.22 (Assembly Room) Retreat will be in-person only.
- Recognized passing of UTSA colleague Kim Fisher on April 15.

Q  
A

**Q: Would cross-campus research symposia be limited to UT System campuses or would it be open to the public to showcase the research as well?**

*A: It would be across the UT System to encourage the campuses to work together - pan-UTSA, pan-discipline*

## Curriculum Committee

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

Thank you to all who helped with the undergraduate catalog review.

## AdHoc Governance Committee

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

**Committee Report:**

The committee proposed a memo that specifies the function and the composition of a permanent University Building Advisory Committee to oversee which new buildings are built and the addition of this language to the HOP. Currently the HOP language is ambiguous.

**Vote to move discussion forward: APPROVED**



## Research Committee

**ALEX GODÉT: CHAIR, RESEARCH COMMITTEE/DEPT. OF EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES**

### Committee Update:

The committee met with Dr. John Saygin of VPREDKE to discuss pre-award and post-award issues. John reported that all positions were filled and everything was going well. The Research Committee disagreed and so want to provide a one-pager to VPREDKE offering the vision of research that faculty are experiencing and explore how peer institutions are dealing with their funding and grant proposal administration. The committee will need to work with interim VPREDKE and current VPREDKE is leaving UTSA.

## Ad hoc Academic Freedom Statement Committee

**JOYCELYN MOODY: CHAIR, ADHOC ACADEMIC FREEDOM STATEMENT COMMITTEE/DEPT. OF ENGLISH**

### Committee Report:

The committee revised the previously presented statement written by AFEM to specifically address Critical Race Theory and FTT faculty and graduate student instructors who teach CRT and sexuality studies. Also adding language to define CRT and clarifying that the term "faculty" be inclusive of FTT and graduate student instructors. (See Senate SharePoint file for full statement)

### The Faculty Senate voted to enter a Closed Executive Session: APPROVED

The Faculty Senate resumed open session for further discussion.

- Statements from faculty were read expressing concern that the memo's current inclusion of CRT would play into the Lt. Governor's agenda and that the priority should be the greater issue of academic freedom rather than a single topic.
- There was concern about the chosen language in the statement, to which the chair of the ad hoc committee asked for clarification.
  - it was expressed that K-12 CRT and CRT in higher education were two separate issues and should not be combined.
  - there was concern about quoting the American Bar Association and whether they, as non-academics, were the right group to reference
  - a member of the ad hoc committee voiced that the American Bar Association reference was not a statement of positionality, but rather an account of the history and tenants of the area as they emerge out of the field of law. The committee chose this a neutral source.
  - the committee member also voiced that the inclusion of K-12 was important as a show of solidarity with all educators and the connection of teaching future K-12 teachers
- The concern was raised regarding the strategic timing of a statement and whether a longer-viewed approach with outreach to explain the issues should be considered
- There was concern regarding the clarity of the statement for an audience unfamiliar with CRT
- Concern was expressed that the time allowed for faculty to review the statement was insufficient. The faculty senate chair indicated he had received similar feedback but the timing was determined by the FS meeting schedule
- Statements from a faculty senator unable to attend was read expressing support for the causes of the resolution but questioning whether the means are prudent at this time and what the public effect of the resolution would be.
- Addressing the question of timing, it was raised that one of the stalling tactics often used to delay change is that it needs to happen incrementally and that it is never the right time
- A faculty statement was read that expressed that a wait and see approach from administration sends a message to students, TT & FTT faculty and graduate students that their academic freedom is unworthy of defense and that silence should be practiced
- There was concern that only comments opposed to the resolution have been read into the record and that the political agenda of lawmakers is set and the statement will not affect it
- The importance of speaking with one voice was expressed

### The Faculty Senate Chair called for approval to conduct an electronic vote on the resolution: APPROVED

- Email link for vote (to approve/disapprove/abstain the statement in its current form) will be sent by Melinda Utoft
- It was asked whether the statement would be released immediately if approved. The FS Chair stated that if approved, the statement would be posted on the faculty senate website and included in the minutes and newsletter
- FS chair encouraged all faculty senators to discuss this topic with their faculty before voting as all opinions should be represented. It was asked whether the faculty senators could share the draft of the statement with their faculty for feedback before vote and that was confirmed and encouraged by the FS chair with understanding that the statement is in draft form

### Electronic vote to approve statement in its current form: PASSED

## New Business

- **Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick:** Thanked outgoing chair Chad Mahood for his service as chair to Faculty Senate

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
- **JOYCELYN MOODY**, 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 ZENTENO**, 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