

# SENATE HIGHLIGHTS

UTSA FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

**UTSA**  
Faculty Senate



## 2020-2021 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**CHAD MAHOOD: CHAIR**  
**VACANT: 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 ABDON: 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: Academic Affairs

**PROVOST KIMBERLY ESPY &  
SENIOR VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS HEATHER SHIPLEY**

- UTSA welcomed the most diverse cohort of tenured/tenured track faculty members in its history during 2021-2022 academic year.
- The number of undergraduate degrees awarded has increased and the average time to degree has decreased.
- The number of degrees conferred annually to Hispanic students has increased steadily over the past decade
- First, second, third year retention rates have increased.
- The six-year graduation rate has increased.
- Online/Master's/Doctoral Program Enrollment
  - Over the past five years we have seen a 14% increase in the number of masters enrollment and a 29% increase in doctoral enrollment.
  - Over the past five years we have seen an 8% increase in the number of masters degrees awarded and a flat rate in doctoral degrees.
- SSA operational planning is moving forward. Dean Martinez is leading the COLFA phase 2 visioning.
- COVID-19 protocols: Testing program has been extended.
- Whataburger Resource Room: important wellbeing support program for UTSA students.

### Q&A

**When you submit a report through the Roadrunner Roadmap site will you be contacted with status update?**

*You will not be contacted after submitting a report unless there is something specific for you to do. If you don't hear back, proceed as usual.*



## University Leadership Updates

**CARLOS MARTINEZ, SR. VP FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING, COMPLIANCE RISK MANAGEMENT & OFFICE OPERATIONS AND CHIEF OF STAFF,  
LT ROBINSON, DEAN OF STUDENTS AND  
STEPHANIE SCHOENBORN, INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE**

### Critical Incident Response Planning Overview

Maintaining an environment that supports teaching, learning and discovery will require a thoughtfully coordinated approach. Other Critical Incident Scenario protocols which faculty may encounter are currently under development, and will be shared when complete.

#### IMPORTANT:

**If someone is causing a disruption in your classroom, ask them to leave and consult with your department chair on the situation. Don't hesitate to reach out to the BIT or other campus resources.**

#### Q&A

##### Are there different protocols for different scenarios?

*Yes, there are different protocols specific to each scenario. Some are similar but other may have different resources. Some scenarios may not initially require UTSA police presence. Educating the community to the specific protocols will help address the situation correctly.*

##### What does it mean to monitor social media?

*We don't use any data analytical tools, but we monitor for comments that UTSA is tagged on and respond appropriately.*

---

## AMBIKA MATHUR, VICE PROVOST OF GRADUATE STUDIES & GRADUATE SCHOOL DEAN

Graduate School Initiatives

Updates: Phase 2 Implementation of Graduate Student Success Task Force

[Task Force Report available here.](#)

#### Recommendations:

- Graduate Assistantships: Establish uniform definitions around GA categories with defined rights and responsibilities and uniform appointment processes and appointment letter templates.
- Define funding packages for doctoral students to ensure fairness, integrity & transparency.
- Recruitment & Enrollment: VIP and Keep Running With Us programs have netted very high quality students. 75% of students admitted through these programs are Hispanic or African American.
- Graduate Programs, Processes, and Faculty
- Value Added Programming

GSA (Graduate Service Assistant) - a new proposed category for individuals with expertise in a service area who can then be appointed to a Graduate Assistantship aligned with their expertise (i.e. a student in a counseling program working in an office that deals with counseling, they can be appointed as a GSA using their expertise.

**NOTE: If students are hired on grants which do not follow the semester, or if international students are coming in late because of various visa reasons, etc. they can be appointed later.**

#### Q&A

**There are concerns regarding the differences between salaried Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) vs GRA on stipends/fellowships. Students with fellowships do not have access to the same resources because they are not "employees".**

*Dean Mathur and Dr. Espy are working with Business Affairs to ensure students are not penalized for being successful.*

# Consent Agenda

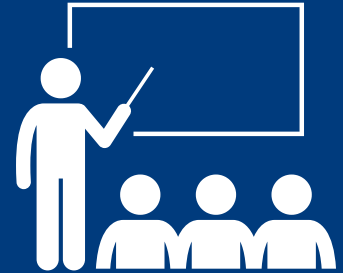
Approval of minutes: **APPROVED**

## Curriculum Committee

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

8 Curriculum Proposals:

- Nutrition for Health Professionals (NHP) Certificate Proposal - **APPROVED**
- Minor in Health, Aging - **APPROVED**
- BS Health, Aging & Society - **APPROVED**
- BS Geoscience: Environmental Geoscience Track - **APPROVED**
- BS Geoscience: Geology Track - **APPROVED**
- BA African American Studies - **APPROVED**
- BA Physics Teacher Certification Concentration - **APPROVED**
- Concentration in Black, Indigenous, and Latina/x Literature in English Major - **APPROVED**



## Chair's Report

**CHAD MAHOOD, PH.D.**

**FACULTY SENATE CHAIR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DEPT. OF COMMUNICATION**

A university-wide Campus Climate Survey Town Hall is scheduled for Fri. Oct. 22 at 3pm. There will also be individual sub-town halls scheduled in the coming weeks addressing the Campus Climate Survey at the college level. As you hear those results at your college level, feel free to bring those reports back to faculty senate.

REMINDERS:

- Chad attends Graduate Council meetings and can help funnel faculty questions to that group.
- Please help distribute the new Faculty Senate newsletter to your fellow faculty members. It is also available [online](#).



# Secretary of the General Faculty Report

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

- Attended Faculty Advisory Council for UT System
  - Very broad range of responses to COVID depending on university location and broad range of sentiment among faculty based on those responses.
  - UT System identified mental health of students as a target this year
  - Foreign influence on PI's, particularly in STEM

## HOP Committee

**MATTHIAS HOFFERBERTH: CHAIR, HOP COMMITTEE/DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY**

2 Proposals for review

- Reasonable Accommodations: procedural changes to streamline pregnancy and religious accommodations - APPROVED
- STEM - new policy on controlled substances in research - any questions about policy, reach out to HOP Chair

## - Upcoming Events

**Friday, Oct. 22** · 9:30am - 11am · ONLINE

Competing for Funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF)  
UTSA Knowledge Enterprise

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Oct. 22** · 3pm · ONLINE

University-wide Campus Climate Town Hall

[VIEW HERE](#)

**Thursday, Oct. 28** · 1:30 pm - 3 pm · ONLINE

National Institutes of Health (NIH): Overview & R01 Primer

[Learn More](#)

**Friday, Oct. 29** · 9:30am - 3 pm · ONLINE

National Institutes of Health (NIH): Overview & R01 Primer

[Learn More](#)

**Monday Nov. 1 - Thursday Nov. 4** · ONLINE

Fall 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration

[Learn More](#)



## 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
- **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 DEOLIVERIA**, 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 ENGINEERING

- **KIRAN BHAGANAGAR**, DEPT. OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

### 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 GODET**, DEPT. OF GEOLOGICAL 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
- **WILLIAM LAND**, 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