

# SENATE HIGHLIGHTS

UTSA Faculty Senate Newsletter



## 2022-2023 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Rene Zenteno: Chair*
- Chad Mahood: Past Faculty Senate Chair*
- Chris Packham: Secretary of the General Faculty*
- Corey Sparks: Graduate Council*
- Valerie Sponsel: ADTS Representative*
- Curtis Brewer: Parliamentarian*
- Mary McNaughton-Cassil: Secretary*
- Felicia Castro-Villarreal: Academic Freedom, Evaluation & Merit (AFEM)*
- Kirsten Gardner: Budget Committee*
- Sonya Aleman: HOP Committee*
- Alexis Godet: Research Committee*
- Andrew Lloyd: Curriculum Committee*

## Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting
  - Approval of newly appointed Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- ALL ITEMS APPROVED**

## CHAIR'S REPORT: Rene Zenteno

- The Chair will meet with the Provost and Dr. Shipley on a monthly basis. In his first meeting, he shared the outcomes from the Faculty Senate retreat and the Senate's four priorities.
- To improve channels of communication between Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs, one of the senate committees will address this as part of the shared governance topic.
- The Chair and the Secretary of the General Faculty will attend the UT System Faculty Advisory Committee (SYFAC) meetings in Austin with other members of UT System institution Faculty Senate committees. Upcoming meetings: Oct, 6-7, 2022, Jan. 26-27, 2023, and April 27-28, 2023.
- The October FS meeting will be held in person at the UTSA Southwest Campus with a reception to follow hosted by the Provost. This will be the only in-person meeting this semester. In-person/hybrid meetings should resume when the Assembly Room, currently under renovation, re-opens in the spring. The official Faculty Senate photo will be taken at the October meeting.



The question was asked about adding a Building Committee and the Chair informed the group that the committee added last year was ad hoc but that the Executive Committee would discuss adding a new committee. He mentioned that the Faculty Senate Chair participates on the Space Committee of the University, but the ability to provide feedback on plans for future projects at the university to ensure sustainability is very relevant and will be discussed further.

**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*

- Student Success Initiatives update:
  - Additional funds from UT System and the MacKenzie Scott gift expanded the impact of the Bold Promise program. The family income threshold was increased from \$55K to \$70K resulting in over 1,110 incoming freshmen students eligible for BP funding
  - Outreach programs have been implemented to help students register for classes
  - The Roadrunner Success Playbook is an available resource in Blackboard for students
  - The renovation and upgrading of classrooms continues
  - The Academic Success District and Student Success Centers in each college, coupled with great mentoring from faculty, improve our graduation rates and time-to-degrees
- COLFA update:
  - Southwest School of Art transition is complete
  - The creation of a new School of Art and new School of Music was announced on Sept. 1
- Institute of Texan Cultures update:
  - The Steering Committee of the ITC 2068 Visioning process has delivered its final report to President Eighmy with three feasible scenarios. The process has now entered an evaluative phase under VPBA/CFO Veronica Salazar, where each scenario will be evaluated by subject matter experts to determine the best course forward.
  - A national search for an associate vice provost for public engagement & research/chief curator for the Institute of Texan Cultures is underway
- Campus Climate Initiative update: next step is to determine priority focus areas, develop implementation plans and align with college/division action plans. Town halls will be held sometime in October.
- Hispanic Thriving Leadership Council will continue work to determine how we reach the next level to become a thriving institution.
- Colleges are working to complete the promotion and tenure guidelines and annual review standards. The goal is to complete the process this year.
- Board of Regents require each institution to refresh its strategic plan every 10 years. We are at the midpoint of UTSA's Strategic Plan, it's time to celebrate accomplishments, reflect on where we are headed, and to consider if goals need to be modified. Process will be led by the college deans. Main work will start in the Spring led by Lisa Jasinski from the president's office.
- National Impact Travel Awards will be continued. There are opportunities for faculty and staff.
- The New Academic Innovation Center, across from the Tomás Rivera Center, will open in October. It will be a living lab. There will be an opening ceremony.
- The Undergraduate Research Student portal in Career Engaged Learning can assist with securing student workers.

## Secretary of the General Faculty Report: *Chris Packham, Chair*

- The next UT System FAC meeting will occur prior to the next FS meeting, please forward topics that should be considered at the System level to either Dr. Packham or Dr. Zenteno for consideration.
- Congratulations to Dr. Zenteno for being named a fellow for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) La Academia de Liderazgo for 2022-2023.

## University Curriculum Committee Report:

### Andy Lloyd, Chair

#### Curriculum Proposals

- Bachelor's in Social Work - **APPROVED**
- B.S. Nutrition and Health - **APPROVED**
  - with a concentration
    - 1) Child and Maternal Health or
    - 2) Nutrition Sustainability and Food Systems

## New Business

- Faculty Senate Priorities:
  - Discussion was continued of priorities determined by the Faculty Senate at the August retreat. The Chair explained that clarification of the top two priorities was needed.
  - The Secretary of the General Faculty recapped the August retreat and discussed commonalities among the Senate members and the Faculty Senate Mission Statement. Alignment with Faculty Senate committees was discussed.
  - A revision to the FS mission was suggested and the role of the faculty senators was discussed.
  - Priorities established at the retreat were discussed and committees assigned to address each priority within their meetings (*notated in italics below*)
  - The top two priorities identified at the retreat were:
    - **Faculty Equity and Compensation**, addressing inflation, retention/salaries and resources - **Full Senate**
      - Ensure adequate funding to recruit diverse, talented faculty and retain/advance them once tenure is received.
      - Recruit and retain FTT faculty
      - Promote clarity, transparency and equity
    - **Maintaining R1/NRUF status - Full Senate**
      - What is UTSA's plan?
      - Administration/infrastructure: retain support staff for consistency
      - GRA recruitment, competitive fellowships
      - Improve research support
  - Other priorities discussed at the retreat:
    - Shared Governance - **Academic, Freedom, Evaluation & Merit Committee**
    - Efficiency of meetings (more discussion, fewer presentations, pre-meeting communication) - **Executive Committee**
    - Financial transparency (budgets, IRM, funding, hiring) - **Budget Committee**
    - Increased research administrative support with funding
    - Faculty Advocacy - **Full Senate**
- The meeting broke into break-out groups tasked with contributing possible goals and coming to a consensus to identify 3 to 5 goals connected with the top two priorities.
  - Goals discussed from break-out groups:
    - clear, universal promotion and tenure guidelines
    - response on memos/resolutions put forth
    - financial support and infrastructure to advance research
    - graduate student research support and GRA support
    - models for inflation
    - increasing administrative support
    - salary equity for FTT faculty
    - advocate a systemic way for merit to be awarded each year to improve retention
    - compare RSC staffing at model universities
    - discussion with leadership regarding research issues at UTSA
    - study what faculty look like at other R1 universities
    - educate administration on faculty perspective & research creative solutions, salary compression, reward systems to keep good faculty
      - establish what the faculty at UTSA wants to look like - Vision
- Faculty Senate voting, on the goals identified, will be conducted following the meeting.

## 2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

### Alvarez College of Business

- **Dennis Lopez**, Dept. of Accounting
- **Don Lien**, Dept. of Economics
- **Zijun Wang**, Dept. of Finance
- **Maho Sonmez**, Fixed-term Tenure Track Representative
- **Charles Liu**, Dept. of Information Systems & Cyber Security
- **Huy Le**, Dept. of Management
- **Victor DeOliveria**, Dept. of Management Science and Statistics
- **Rick Gretz**, Dept. of Marketing

### College of Education and Human Development

- **Sidury Christiansen**, Dept. of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies
- **Devon Romero**, Dept. of Counseling
- **Curtis Brewer**, Dept. of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- **Felicia Castro-Villareal**, Dept. of Educational Psychology
- **Rica Ramirez**, Dept. of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching
- **Sonya Aleman**, Dept. of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- **Zaid Haddad**, Fixed Term Track Representative

### Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design

- **John Alexander**, School of Architecture and Planning
- **Sue Ann Pemberton**, School of Architecture and Planning
- **Gabriela Romero Uribe**, Dept. of Biomedical Engineering and Chemical Engineering
- **Drew Johnson**, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction Management
- **Jeffrey Prevost**, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **August (Gus) Allo**, Fixed-Term Track Representative
- **Kiran Bhaganagar**, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

### College of Liberal and Fine Arts

- **Marcus Hamilton**, Dept. of Anthropology
- **Humberto Saenz**, School of Art
- **Kim Kline**, Dept. of Communication
- **Kerry Sinanan**, Dept. of English
- **Mary Dixson**, Fixed-term Tenure Track Representative
- **Kristen Gardner**, Dept. of History
- **Whitney Chappell**, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures
- **S. Andrew Lloyd**, School of Music
- **Xunwu Chen**, Dept. of Philosophy and Classics
- **Neil Debbage**, Dept. of Political Science and Geography

### College of Sciences

- **James Chambers**, Dept. of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
- **Kirk Schanze**, Dept. of Chemistry
- **John Quarles**, Dept. of Computer Science
- **Brian Laub**, Dept. of Integrative Biology
- **Alexis Godet**, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences
- **Hector Aguilar**, Fixed-term Tenure Track Representative
- **Lorenzo Brancaleon**, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
- **Richard LeBaron**, Dept. of Neuroscience, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- **Dmitry Gokhan**, Dept. of Mathematics

### College for Health, Community and Policy

- **Marie Tillyer**, Dept. of Criminology & Criminal Justice
- **Ying Huang**, Dept. of Demography
- **David Weber**, Fixed-term Tenure Track Representative
- **Tianou Zhang**, Dept. of Kinesiology
- **Mary McNaughton-Cassill**, Dept. of Psychology
- **Branco Ponomariov**, Dept. of Public Administration
- **Zenong Yin**, Dept. of Public Health
- **Candace Christensen**, Dept. of Social Work
- **Ginny Garcia**, Dept. of Sociology

### University College

- **Lauren Riojas-Fitzpatrick**, Fixed-term Tenure Track Representative

### Ex-Officio Members

- **Rene Zenteno**, Chair, Faculty Senate
- **Chris Packham**, Secretary of the General Faculty
- **Corey Sparks**, Chair, Graduate Council
- **Arturo Schultz**, Department Chair Council Representative
- **Valerie Sponse**, ADTS Representative
- **Chad Mahood**, Past Faculty Senate Chair
- **Justin Marmolejo**, Staff Senate Representative