Welcome Back, Senators!

On September 13, 2018, we had our first full faculty senate meeting. During the meeting we heard from the Senate Chair (Dr. Emily Bonner) the Provost (Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy), representatives from the Research Committee (Jaclyn Shaw and Liana Ryan), Vice President for Business Affairs (Kathy Funk-Baxter), Asst. VP for Budget and Financial Planning (Tammy Anthony) Asst. Department Chair and Professor in Practice from the College of Business, Information Systems and Cyber Security (Karen Williams) and Director of Communications for the Vice President for Business Affairs (Melissa May).

Notes from the Provost

The Provost supports the committee’s desire for consistency within the plus/minus grading system. She updated the senate on upcoming forums beginning this week for future VP positions and encouraged everyone to share their feedback about the candidates during and after their interviews. There is a new initiative “Classroom to Career”, which will focus on communicating and improving various opportunities for experiential learning for students. The goal is to increase participation and communication around these opportunities. A task force is being formed in support of this initiative.
The Goal to Reach National Research University Fund and Carnegie/R1 Status

UTSA has a goal of increasing research dollars to reach NRUF and Carnegie/R1 status. Jaclyn Shaw and Liana Ryan presented the metrics needed to achieve these goals and showed UTSA's current status for each metric. Universities who meet NRUF status unlock $8-9 million in annual funding. Carnegie/R1 measures research intensity of universities across the country. 2015 was the last annual ranking (rankings are now performed every 3 years) and UTSA is close to meeting R1 status. Ms. Shaw re-emphasized the scholarly awards program that UTSA has implemented and said that more information will be shared from the Deans soon. More information can be found on the following webpage: http://research.utsa.edu/research-funding/targeted-scholarly-awards-programs-memberships-recognitionsf-for-faculty/

Business Affairs Update

Ms. Funk-Baxter from Business Affairs gave a budget update for FY19 (this year) and also reminded the senate that a parallel budget is running for the new model. She said that budget development currently takes about 5 months, but is estimated to take around 9 months with the new model. Budgets are submitted to the Board of Regents in July and are loaded in August. UTSA's current total budget is $639 million. A full copy of the presentation may retrieved from your Faculty Senator.

Bookstore Feedback

The Chair recently met with a representative from the bookstore with the goal of improving the process for ordering and purchasing books. Faculty can share their bookstore issues and make helpful suggestions at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X9LRCX7