

# UTSA FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates!

1 Oct to 2 Nov: SECC (State Employee Charitable Campaign)

## Faculty Senate Minutes and Report

<http://www.utsa.edu/Senate/minutes.html>

## Visit our Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/UTSAFACULTYSENATE>

## Presidential Initiatives Links

[Campus Master Plan](#)

[Downtown Campus](#)

[Finance and Budget Modeling](#)

[Strategic Communications](#)

[Strategic Enrollment](#)

[Student Success](#)

## Changes on Campus

On October 11, 2018, we had our second full faculty senate meeting. During the meeting we heard from the Senate Chair (Dr. Emily Bonner), the Secretary of the General Faculty (Dr. Chris Packham), the President of UTSA (Dr.



Taylor Eighmy), Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy), representatives of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (Lisa Marie Gomez, Vice President, Education and Workforce Development), and representatives from UTSA Athletics (Dr. Gregg Michel, Lisa Campos, and Colin Howlett).

## Bookstore Feedback

The survey is still open to provide feedback to the bookstore. Faculty can share their bookstore issues and make helpful suggestions at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X9LRCX7>

## Notes from the President and Provost

There is a new award called the President's Distinguished Achievement Award for Innovation and Impact (I<sup>2</sup>). The award is for a faculty-led team (up to five people) and recognizes creative and innovative projects of high impact in any area relevant to UTSA's mission. First-year retention and second-year persistence rates are rising, and we are moving towards our goal for four and six year graduation rates. Changes are underway with the Downtown Campus. With a generous \$15 million gift from Graham Weston for UTSA's proposed School of Data Science and \$13 million in land transfers, UTSA plans to create a National Security Collaboration Center, School of Data Science, and the College of Business. Feedback is welcome at all stages of the process.



## Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Emily Bonner, Faculty Senate Chair

Chris Packham, Secretary of General Faculty

Chad Mahood, Vice Chair and Chair Budget Comm

Crystal Kalinec-Craig, Chair NEP Committee and Secretary

Raydel Tullous, Parliamentarian

Kelly Suter, Chair Academic Freedom Committee

Sakiko Oyama, Chair Curriculum Committee

Glenn Dietrich, Chair HOP Committee

Jamon Halvaksz, Chair Research Committee

Diane Abdo, ADTS Rep

Elaine Sanders, Graduate Council Chair

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.

This newsletter is written in conjunction with the detailed notes from Sarah Soulek, Administrative Analyst from the office of the Provost. The Senate is grateful for her continued support to success of Faculty Senate and UTSA.



## President's Presentation to Faculty Senate with Downtown Plans



## *Updates from UTSA Athletics*

UTSA Athletics presented their mission and values which included achieving excellence, focusing on the student-athlete experience, fostering a culture of excellence, uniting the community, and resource development. Planned facility upgrades include a “student-athlete center of excellence” and a new convocation center. UTSA student-athletes performed over 3,000 hours of community service throughout the academic year and the average graduation rate among student-athletes is 82%. Dr. Michel reminded faculty about HOP 5.09 Class Attendance and Participation, which allows for excused absences for official university functions such as athletics competition and related travel. Dr. Michel said that faculty may contact him with any questions or concerns.

## *San Antonio Chamber of Commerce*

Ms. Gomez described the Chamber’s function and the number of councils and committees, which cover a variety of topics including economic development, military affairs, cybersecurity, public policy, education and workforce development, and an operating council. Ms. Gomez’s council, the Education and Workforce Development Council, “advocates for improving alignment of the cradle-to-career educational pipeline- from early childhood to K-12, to post-secondary education, and into the workforce.” The Chamber is available to provide letters of support, facilitate partnerships, and further hopes to expand its engagement with UTSA faculty. Please reach out to the Chamber of Commerce as a partner in teaching, research, and service.