**CHAIR'S REPORT:** René Zenteno

- Dr. Zenteno participated in the University Leadership Council (ULC) and SB17 Advisory meeting on the related process and topics as referenced in Dr. Heather Shipley's presentation.
- During the final Faculty Senate meeting of the calendar year (November 30), the plan is to present the new Faculty Senate Bylaws for an official vote in January.
- The research committee has been in conversations with Dr. JoAnn Browning, Interim Vice President of Research.
  - She will attend the Faculty Senate meeting on November 30th to give an update on one of the Faculty Senate's main focuses: improving operations to better support research infrastructure.
**Leadership Update: Academic Affairs Update**

Heather Shipley, Ph.D., Interim Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Dr. Shipley provided a recap of SB17 information, including effective date, exempt activities and restrictions. As a reminder, SB17 does not change UTSA’s HSI designation.
- Continuing guidance from UT System restricts training and DEI efforts from any office.
- While UTSA cannot contract external entities for DEI trainings nor require participation, students, faculty, and staff are allowed to attend external training independently.
- SB17 does not have a blanket exclusion on the use of terms like diversity, equity and inclusion. The use of these terms will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Federally and state recognized history days/months are permissible and can continue.
- The approval structure was reviewed, including ELRC, Advisory, PAIR, Campus-wide stakeholder, and review process. The inventory summary totals and review determinations for each category were shared.
- Regular updates are being given to ULC, DCC, FS and SGA. Results will be shared with units, with unit heads with required actions. A review process will continue after January 1, 2024, and an internal audit in 2024 is planned.
- An update on SB18 was also provided. The expanded committee has met biweekly to analyze the Regents' Rules and improve the definition of process and criteria.
- The Campus Experience Task Force is currently in the process of gathering data, and there are no specific recommendations or updates available at this time.
- The recent email about the comprehensive strategic compensation plan and institution-wide merit was discussed. The Office of People Excellence will provide individualized information in the upcoming weeks, similar to last year.
- The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program allows eligible recipients the opportunity to be granted immunity for the remaining balance of their student loan after having made 120 qualifying payments, while working for a qualifying public service employer.

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When will the inclusivity statement on course syllabi will be updated for the spring semester?
- There is an ongoing discussion regarding the inclusivity statement. The SB17 advisory group is being consulted, and the simple syllabus will be revised to incorporate new language.

Is there any clarification on SB17 determinations, particularly regarding grants?
- No decisions will be made until guidance from the UT system is received.

What is the process and timeline for notifications? Also, how will the internal audit differ from this process and is there is a specific office responsible for conducting the audit?
- The notification will occur in the coming weeks. The university is awaiting information from the State regarding the audit's scope and rubric. Once received, the audit process will be mimicked for our audit. The Compliance Office will review all items, following the external audit.
- Any concerns should be emailed to PAIR.

Introduction of Jason King, Associate Vice President of Strategic Risk Management and Chief Legal Officer
Carlos Martinez, Senior Vice President for Institutional Strategic Planning, Compliance Risk Management, and Office Operations
Chief of Staff

- Mr. Martinez introduced Jason King. Learn more about King in the recent UTSA Today story.
- Mr. King highlighted the importance of collaboration and engagement with all facets of campus, particularly the faculty.
- He is excited about working with everyone at UTSA and invites open communication and questions.
Secretary of the General Faculty
Chris Packham, Chair

- Dr. Packham provided an update on the Texas A&M Space Institute, highlighting a $350 million investment during the last legislative session. Plans are to erect a new building at Texas A&M and $150 million is expected to be allocated for space research across Texas each new biennium.

Research Committee
George Perry, Chair

- The Research Committee will meet with Dr. Zenteno, Dr. Packham, and Dr. JoAnn Browning monthly to discuss post-awards and grant processing. Dr. Browning mentioned plans for reorganization to enhance efficiency.
- The committee will focus on the following five topics:
  - Improve post-award grant processing including the processes and handoffs between faculty, departments, colleges, and VPBA/VPRDEKE to support faculty and streamline the process for greater efficiency.
  - Foster a research-oriented philosophy across campus inclusive of all scholarly activities. Graduate education and support through fellowships and grants, should be a central to the research mission.
  - Develop a plan to cover the cost of open-access publications.
  - Increase faculty involvement in space utilization and the development of new buildings.
  - Establish compensation levels and appointment flexibility for postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and other staff members.

Q&A

What is the possibility of meeting with Veronica Salazar and others to discuss policy and process regarding new building decisions, with the aim of assessing needs and ensuring transparency.

- A meeting with Dr. Browning is needed first to identify needs, locations/type, etc.

With existing issues in communication, timeliness and support how will more Ph.D.s be recruited?

- The need to consider the impact on postdocs and graduate students and explore other ways to cover tuition was discussed. Recruitment challenges for doctoral students in Texas were acknowledged. The pressure on departments to secure large grants and the university’s role in funding and supporting students were highlighted. Exploring compensation changes in different areas was suggested.
New Business

- Proposed changes to Faculty Senate bylaws will be presented at the next meeting.

Other Topics

- There was a discussion regarding shared governance in the College of Sciences.
- As a next step, Dr. Zenteno will discuss the concerns regarding shared governance in the College of Sciences with Interim Provost Shipley, with the consent of the Faculty Senate.
- The faculty merit award process was questioned and Dr. Zenteno said it was discussed at the Department Chairs Council on November 8, 2023, with further communication to clarify the process expected soon.