

The University of Texas at Tyler  
Office of the Faculty Senate

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

12:30 – 1:50

Hybrid Meeting

[https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/xAvSkKtyr8VCQXsjAnSa3KuhY0S5CFvV2odDVeDAkv\\_DAtT33L00-U\\_iRjA\\_p4kM.RdrwB1\\_jfbQGIgoM?startTime=1711040848000](https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/xAvSkKtyr8VCQXsjAnSa3KuhY0S5CFvV2odDVeDAkv_DAtT33L00-U_iRjA_p4kM.RdrwB1_jfbQGIgoM?startTime=1711040848000)

Passcode: Z03.?xb&

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
<b>At Large</b>	Yonjoo Cho *	Nelson Fumo *	Staci Zolkoski *
<b>CAS</b>	Joseph Vandehey *	Vacant	Elizabeth (Cory) Sills * Kenneth Bryant *
<b>Soules College of Business</b>	Rochell McWhorter *	Vivek Pandey *	Brent Beal
<b>CEP</b>	Lauren Kirby *	Forrest Kaiser	Ramona Grad *
<b>COE</b>	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas *	Chung Goh	Aaditya Khanal
<b>CNHS</b>	Julie George	Dixie Rose *	Gina Dudley *
<b>COP</b>	Yanyan Wang	Ayman Hamouda*	Santosh Aryal *
<b>Library</b>	Lori Fregoso *	Nicholas Bambach	Michael Skinner *
<b>SHP</b>	Kimberly Elliott *	Jessica Escareno *	Ahmed Abdelal *
<b>SOM</b>	Jessica Bracks	James Menard	Pierre Neuenschwander *

\* means member was in attendance.

**Senate Executive Officers 2023 - 2024**

Amentahru Wahlrab *	Joshua Banta *
President	President-Elect
Harrison Ndetan *	Richard Helfers *
Past President	Parliamentarian
Staci Zolkoski *	Dixie Rose *
Secretary	Treasurer

\* means member was in attendance.

**Zoom Attendance**

Michael Skinner, Jessica Escareno - SHP MHA, Lauren Kirby – CEP, Becky McKay – Libraries, Kim Nimon – HRD, Belinda Deal Nursing, Lynn Harris, Matthew Mekalip, Lauri John – Nursing, Cheryl Parker - School of Nursing, Dawn Sousa-Hearn-Student Accessibility and

Resources (SAR), Mike Kennedy, HPEM, Christy Gipson – Nursing, Gina Nickels-Nelson SON, Rochell McWhorter - HRD, Soules COB, Joseph Vandehey – CAS, Pam Rodriguez - Career Success, Marissa Glosecki – ORSSP, Wendy Duncan Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness, Fletcher Njororai - SHP, Public Health, Pierre Neuenschwander, SOM, Kimberly Elliott SHP, John Yoder, IT, Cory Sills, Nelson Fumo, at large senator, Mary Fischer, Roger Lirely, Julie Delello, Sonja Morale - UT Tyler Online, Gina Dudley, Pam Beall UT Tyler Online, Joshua Neaves - Student Success/Engagement, Lori Fregoso, Jan Adams, Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas – COE, Hussain Rizvi, Ryan Shartau

### **In Person Attendance**

Amir Mirmiran, Oonam Kumar, Colleen Swain, David Barron, Kenneth Bryant Jr., Ahmed Abdelal, Josh Banta, Harisson Ndetan, Richard Hlfers, Dixie Rose, Staci Zolkoski, Yvonne Ralph, Ramona Grad, Amy Hayes, Natalie Menkina Snider, Colin Snider, David Scott, Vivek Pandey, Barbara Hass, Gwen Williams, Ayman Hamouda, Santosh Aryd, Matthew Stith, Yonjoo Cho, Lou Ann Berman, Sarah Norrell, Christine Forisha, Gracy Buentello, Dwain Morris, Stephanie Fenter, Sered Sexton, Kevin Kjosa, Sarah Sass, Grey Bock, Amy Hayes, Kaylin Moore, Jared Squires, Kirk Calhoun, Kouider Mokhtari, Lisa Bush  
Welcome – Senate President

### **12:30 Welcome and Call to Order Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab**

- Welcome to everyone!

### **Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Dr. Staci Zolkoski**

- Minutes have been posted.
- Staci asked for everyone to sign in via the chat box on zoom or the papers on each table.
- Minutes were approved.

### **President Updates - President Calhoun**

- Retirement as president of UT Tyler and selection of Dr. Julie Philly as sole finalist to be the president of UT Tyler.
  - In the 22 years as a president within the UT system, Regents has only gone outside the regular procedures now on three occasions.
  - There are numerous pages on the process of selecting a president when looking at Regents rules.
    - Regents can come to a consensus on choosing an internal candidate if they feel strongly about it.
      - This can be done at their discretion.
      - Must go through an additional process before anything can be finalized.
    - The last time this has been done was with the dean of the School of Business at UT Austin.
  - Sitting presidents have no role in their successor. We are kept in the dark.
  - Severed on more search committees than any other president.

- Personal bias on given a little extra credit to someone within the UT System as opposed to someplace else.
  - Their decision has fallen in line within bias of giving strong consideration to an internal candidate for these leadership positions.
  - Gave first leadership positions and multiple leadership positions after that.
    - Still biased and pleased she has been selected as a finalist.
    - She has participated in decisions of shared governance and seeking input and making a decision and moving on.
    - If you have concerns, talk to nursing or other health profession schools.
      - Impression – she has been used favorably.
  - Confident in the continuation of strategic plan – she has part of the planning process.
    - Growing the campus
    - Improving academics
    - Improving image in the community
    - Continuing to make UT Tyler a more relevant and strong institution within the UT system and community.
- Faculty has done an incredible job. The campus is doing very well. School spirit is being seen with students being upbeat.
- Firm plan moving forward – done all correct accreditations.
  - Graduate medical education programs.
    - New building is going up across the street from the hospital.
      - Utilized by medical school and other health professions.
  - Nursing School – beautiful new addition that will allow them to grow. New programs:
    - CRNA – Critical Care in Nursing
    - New civilian flight nursing program – one of few in the United States.
- Approval for new science building on campus.
  - Wish to finish it completely.
  - Looking for additional funding to allow for move of both biology and chemistry over there.
- Other major construction project that is critically important is additional student housing.
  - Students want to come – exceeding ability to house them adequately.
  - Looking across from Old Oman at a site and the development of site.
    - Architect has been chosen – will be shared publicly.
  - Approval from UT system on the development of student housing.
  - Additional housing where students can be, but it is a bit of a drive from campus – want to have as much student housing as we can within easy walking distance of the campus.
  - Secured some housing on Grande.
    - Doing a master lease – students interface with us as landlord and not some stranger.

- Dr. Mirmiran, several other team members, and I came back from Kilgore – signed agreement with Kilgore College.
  - Dual enrollment process.
    - Enroll in UT Tyler and Kilgore College
      - Take 1 course from UT Tyler while taking courses from Kilgore College.
        - Upon completion of associate’s degree and meeting requirements – students will automatically be enrolled at UT Tyler to continue their education.

**Comments from Amentahru Wahlrab**

- Thanked President Calhoun for explanation of process of Dr. Philly – within email from the Board of Regents there was a link. The link takes you to the system page where it lays out all the things Dr. Calhoun just said – including the actual Regents’ rules.

**Provost Updates – Dr. Amir Mirmiran**

- First of it’s kind – co-enrollment – when students start at the community college will take one course per semester with us.
- Give credit to entire team – particularly enrollment management, David Barron, and his team.
  - This is similar to what has been done with the freshmen and college readiness which has yielded a significant increase in the freshman class over the last several years.
  - This will build a health pipeline for our transfer students.
    - Will probably take a few years.
- There are five other community colleges we are working with to be able to expand this.
  - An advantage – students from day one are able to receive advising and success coaches – we can make sure they are taking courses to support their degree plans.
    - Ultimately, they will be able to finish and complete their associate and baccalaureate degree with minimal cost and time.
      - Win-win partnership – healthy pipeline for us, a great performance-based funding opportunity for community colleges – benefit from number of students that would graduate and then go on to a 4-year college.
        - Students would not come to UT Tyler with an excess number of credits would disqualify them from continuing to receive financial aid.
  - Give credit to academic success and entire advisory team and faculty.
    - We have had a great fall to spring and hoping to continue from spring to fall – reach higher retention for next fall.

- Working with Dr. Swain, academic advisors, and academic success to see how to engage faculty more in terms of being able to help freshmen and transfer students to succeed and be retained.
      - Rate of attrition is the highest at very early on.
      - If we keep students for one semester or one year, the chances of them staying and graduating goes significantly higher.
      - If you have incoming transfer or freshmen – make sure you are doing the early alerts and the midterm grade – we will help them succeed in their first semester – changes of us keeping them will be significantly higher.
- Faculty books – very proud of faculty for writing books and using their own book in the classroom – we have to go through the approval process.
  - Approval from chair, the dean, provost, and president
  - There should not be any problem in terms of approval.
- Summer graduation – wanting to ensure students who graduate in the summer can have a graduation.
  - First time for having a summer graduation – August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Will discuss with deans at the next Dean’s meeting to make a final decision.
  - Would like to have the opportunity for students to view the solar eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Student Success has a nice program established at Patriot Plaza – wanted to see if during peak time (1:00-2:00).
      - Thinking about allowing faculty to suspend classes to bring students to the Patriot Plaza with the classes that Student Success is going to provide everyone to view and enjoy the eclipse.
- Question from audience – will students, who are a part of the community college partnership, be able have UT Tyler IDs, will they be on the email list of activities, will they be able to use the Patriot Center, etc.
  - Students will receive a welcoming email as a UT Tyler Future Patriot and admitted as a provisional admission or provisional transfer.
  - We want to make sure they receive any type of coaching and advising on the academic side and get additional support.
    - Don’t want to make it a requirement or a cost barrier for students to require students to come to campus.
    - We are looking at ways to best support students.
      - Want to be flexible and accommodate – not wanting them to pay additional fees.
  - Information from David Barron – Students will have access to email.
    - We will be communicating with them.
    - Data sharing with partner community colleges – provide transcripts every semester to allow for accurate advising, make sure they are taking the right courses.
      - We will have all information already to allow for a smooth and seamless process.

## **Dr. Kouider Mokhtari – Updates**

### **1. Graduate School and Research Leadership Changes**

- a. On March 8, 2024, UT Tyler named Lisa Bush as Associate Vice President for Research Administration and Kouider Mokhtari as Interim Dean of the Graduate School.
- b. Moving forward, research and graduate school will no longer be integrated. This is a much-needed change considering the complexities and workload involved in leading graduate education and research.
  - i. Lisa will be responsible for providing leadership, strategic direction, and operational oversight of all aspects of research administration.
  - ii. Kouider will be responsible for providing leadership, strategic direction, and operational oversight for all aspects of graduate education.
  - iii. Anna Kurdowska will continue to serve as Associate Vice-President for Research Compliance, and she is responsible for all aspects of research compliance.
- c. During this transition, Kouider will lead the following ongoing projects to completion by the end of the spring semester 2024 and assist Lisa with other research administration projects as needed.
  - i. East Texas Research Conference
  - ii. Internal grants program
  - iii. Faculty development leave
  - iv. STARs funding

### **2. East Texas Research Conference (ETRC 2024)**

- a. The fifth annual East Texas Research Conference is set for Friday, April 12 on the UT Tyler campus. This year's conference is co-hosted by The University of Texas at Tyler and the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce.
- b. The all-day conference, which will be held at UT Tyler's main campus, features guest speakers, oral presentations, and poster sessions.
- c. A faculty panel will judge research posters by graduate students, and the top three winners will receive a scholarship of up to \$1,000!
- d. Research poster winners will be recognized at the Annual Celebration of Research and Scholarship luncheon, which will take place on April 16, 2024.
- e. The conference is free to attend, but registration is required. To register or for more information, visit [uttyler.edu/etrc](http://uttyler.edu/etrc).
- f. Mark your calendar to attend the conference on April 12. Email [research@uttyler.edu](mailto:research@uttyler.edu) if you have questions or visit [uttyler.edu/etrc](http://uttyler.edu/etrc) for more information.

### **3. Internal Grant Program**

- a. Eighteen proposals were submitted by faculty from UT Tyler campuses.
- b. Research Council committee is reviewing proposals.
- c. Funding recommendations will be submitted to Research administration leadership.
- d. Internal grant awardees will be announced by the end of the spring semester.

### **4. Faculty Development Leave Program (FDL)**

- a. FDL provides tenured faculty with paid leave from teaching and service activities to allow them to focus on research, scholarship, and creative endeavors.
- b. FDL RFP [Faculty Development Leave](#) was issued on March 18, 2024.
- c. FDL applications for AY 2024-2025 are due on or before 11:59 p.m. April 15, 2024.
- d. Research Council committee will review proposals during last half of April.
- e. Funding recommendations will be submitted to Provost mid-May, 2024.
- f. FDL awards will be announced by the end of May 2024.

- g. Email [research@uttyler.edu](mailto:research@uttyler.edu) if you have questions about the FDL program.
- 5. Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT®)**
- a. Graduate students who are currently writing theses or dissertations or completing capstone research projects are invited to participate in the 2024 Three Minute Thesis competition as a part of the annual university-wide research month, which takes place on April 9, 2024.
  - b. Students are invited to present their research and scholarly projects using ONE PowerPoint slide in 180 seconds or three minutes, ideally using non-technical language that is easily understood by lay persons who do not have expert knowledge of the research presented.
  - c. The deadline to submit the one-slide ppt presentation is March 26, 2024 by 11:59 p.m.
  - d. A faculty panel will judge the presentations, and the top three winners will receive a scholarship of up to \$1,000!
  - e. The 3MT® competition will be held in person on April 9, 2024, in the Mabry Theatre from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.
  - f. The 3MT® winners will be recognized at the Annual Celebration of Research and Scholarship luncheon, which will take place on April 16, 2024.
  - g. Mark your calendars April 9 to attend and support graduate student research.

Dr. Calhoun – thanks Dr. Mokhtari for his work –

- Made an initial decision to fuse research with graduate school with Dr. Idell. Thought it was a great idea - not all ideas are good ideas.
  - Dr. Mokhtari has stepped up and provided help.
  - Graduate school is growing rapidly – need a lot of attention.
  - We have Lisa – faculty are doing a great job motivating itself – research is growing and is successful – we still need to improve things on the financial management and compliance and regulatory side.
    - We have work to do – not the fault of faculty – it’s an administrative issue.
      - Lisa will be very good at this – we’ve seen that in her work – this will be her primary focus along with Dr. Philly.
      - Not appropriate for me to make any long-term hires right now – Dr. Philly will be able to identify and recruit a Senior Vice President for Research at UT Tyler – not getting rid of – just reorganizing.

**Senate Updates - Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab**

- Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Archie Holmes
  - Putting together a team to create a chairs training or leadership training.
    - Something that has been requested for years.
    - If you have ideas – send them to Dr. Wahlrab, Dr. Banta, or Dr. Ndetan
- Table parking discussions.
- UT System Faculty Advisory Council – Senate of Senates – we meet three times a year.
  - It’s a big deal – we get asked to do things and we ask for things.
  - Dr. Philly was a on FAC in 2016 with Kathy Ross when they were writing a white paper on shared governance.

- We have worked with Dr. Philly for several years – basically being interviewed for the last 3 years.
- She still has a process to go through.
- We are working on and gather information on the implementation of Senate Bill 17, aka the DEI or anti- DEI bill.
  - Asking for senate representation – what are the experiences on campuses? How is this actually playing out?
  - If you have actual experiences – good and bad – send to Tahru, Josh, and Harrison – to bring to attention.
  - SB 18 – related to termination of faculty with tenure – senate has presented several changes – presented to Dr. Calhoun – opened minded to several things – haven’t seen the final-final yet – HOP is still making it.
    - Hearing Panel – representative body – review any case moving forward.
      - Model policy says three – we are recommending being expanded to five.
      - If panel decision is unanimous – then this should stop the process.
      - Termination with good cause be with pay until the hearing has concluded.
- Qualtrics poll for president elect – 3 candidates
- Senate at-large candidate – will begin process the first week of April and then elections the following week.
- Next senate meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday rather than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – in the Alumni House on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Dwain – where are we on the budget process?
  - Distributing budget template to the organization on March 29<sup>th</sup>.
    - Training – Education Week April 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> for anyone involved with budget.
    - Will be working through the budget process.
    - Wrapping up in June.
      - Will have a lot more people on the ground as far as education process.
      - Should go more smooth and quicker.
      - Budgets will be in PeopleSoft – will talk about more in training – was distributed last time but not all in PeopleSoft.

1:23 – meeting adjourned.