

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday May 16, 2024

12:30-1:50 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/M-i55bws1Zv4GIR-n5aePgIeNZPIT_msaPyjktjhx_eIqQ9INmZTt_AN0N3J7qSL.B7oti9PFHPKFqy53?startTime=1718903543000

Passcode: .8yfPm@5

Faculty Senate

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

*means member was in attendance

Senate Executive Officers 2023-2024

Amentahru Walhrab* President	Joshua Banta* President-Elect
Harrison Ndetan Past President	Richard Helfers* Parliamentarian
Dixie Rose* Interim Secretary	Dixie Rose* Treasurer

In Person Attendance: Gwen Williams, Sarah Norrell, Christine Forisha, Mena Souliman, Hasson El-Kushky, Colleen Swain, David Barron, Lou Ann Berman, Stephanie Fenter, Andrew Pettee, Courtney Smith, Holly Rand, Andy Krouse, Isai Ramirez, Gracy Buentello, Dwain Morris, Kevin Kjosa, Greg Bock, Marti Hallbrook, Glenn Barnes

Zoom Attendance: Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark, Christy Gipson, Becky McKay, Wendy Duncan, Michelle Beall, Kevin Gosselin, Debra Blain, Julie Delello, Sonja Morale, Heshium Lawrence, Cara Wreyford, Hannah Buchanan, Kim Nimon, Lorri Allen, Cindy Davis, David Christian, Carla Lacerda, Tammy Cowart, Sarah Sass, Rhiannon Meyer, Katrin Kellner, Paul Modisette, Poonam Kumar, Yonatan Moya, David Scott, Tina Melamed, Janice Miles, Yvonne Ralph, Joshua Neves,

Cheryl Parker, Michelle Beall,

12:31 Welcome and Call to Order, Dr. Amentahru Wahrab

- Monitor chat
- University continues to operate during summer, so Faculty Senate does as well despite most faculty on 9-month contracts
- Senators – closed session is scheduled to meet on July 4; contemplate cancelling with vote at the end of the meeting
- July is closing current year and welcoming new Senators

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, Dr. Dixie Rose

- Minutes approved
- Reminder to sign in to chat if on zoom

President Updates, Dr. Philley

- Break important
- Thank you for welcome
- What do I plan to do this summerSB? Meeting with lots of stakeholders (internal and external); listening to faculty, staff, and students to hear difference perspectives; working with leadership to create a forum for meeting
- Streamline processes is very important
- Does not plan to start over with strategic plan; will look to narrow down and focus plans
- Convocation in August – great kick off; will hear from student, faculty, and staff Senate as well as Dr. Philley
- Heard that more education is needed for chairs, deans, etc.; working with system to get started (will hear in next week); provided in August
- SB 17 – internal audit to show we are in adherence and will also have an external audit
- Will comply with all laws
- Dwain will talk about budget; month of June to mid-July will be going over and taking hard look at what is needed
- Plan a big retirement for Howard Patterson
- UT System would like to do investiture for Dr. Philley on October 1 and focused on what matters – our students
- Quickly discuss org chart changes; Gracy Buentello to lead HR; Susan Rossman helping with development; Courtney Smith for government relationship; Dwain Morris will

focus on finances as CFO; Daniel Deslatte will be over business; Stephanie Fenter will continue to run campus; Katie Starns will take over Daniel Deslatte's responsibilities on the health side

- Welcome to Dr. Philley from Dr. Wahlrab

Associate Provost for Academic Success and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Colleen Swain, "AI and your syllabus"

- Workforce expects our grads to be capable of using AI
- CETL email that discusses required language for AI on syllabi (section required)
- Option to select one of three categories:
 - AI encouraged and appropriate acknowledgement expected
 - AI permitted for specific assignments and appropriate acknowledgement required
 - AI is not permitted in this class at all
- Need to be very clear of expectations for student success
- Language on Academic Affairs page, CETL page, Office of Digital Learning page all have same information available
- Faculty group advising
- Workgroup coming together to implement above
- Training information will be provided soon
- Student pregnancy and parenting laws
 - Process will work just like SAR for accommodations
 - Students must opt-in
 - Will go to parenting liaison, Ashton Maisel
 - Law states pregnant students and postpartum students are allowed excused absence
 - If notified, congratulate and refer to parents@uttyler.edu
 - Will be new email that looks similar to SAR email
- Dr. Wahlrab – encouraged to reach out to Dr. Swain with questions; AI will be very fluid; would like to feel like distrusting students
- Most commonly caught are Grammarly and spell checker – Dr. Swain
- Microsoft presented on AI detection – it does not work; get false positives especially against students whose first language is not English
- Dr. Banta – the students should still be responsible for the thinking; if suspicious, have student explain report
- Dr. Wahlrab – come to together with a consistent response; understand how to use productively, explain to students ahead of time, catch use of it
- Dr. Cheryl Parker – I tell my students that they are responsible for the output.

Senate Updates & Discussion – Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab

- Next meeting on July 18 – final summer Senate meeting
- No August meeting
- Will resume in September
- Piada again in July
- Reiterated reason for summer meeting
- Moving toward the 89th Texas session; will start hearing things; handed to Texas Senate by Lt Governor; childcare; expand healthcare, mental healthcare; many possible positive; looking at Faculty Senates and their role in advising admin; requests to see how SB17 has been handled on campuses (concerned for use as an exclusionary practice); they do not want a litmus test for hiring around DEI; SB 18 also being evaluated (how implemented); mentioned all to just have on radar and not meant to cause freak out; opportunity so show off how awesome we are and not a good idea to predict end of world; working hard to educate the legislature on what higher ed is doing; if you hear things in news and have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to EC who can get more answers for you
- July 4 – cancel; call special session if needed

1:08 Adjournment