

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate
Thursday, January 17th
12:30 - 1:40
Hybrid Meeting

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/w2GoxiNMLmyJrX4FfCu4IIP8urlRv9FUxIAJAZjkmH-cBcZVVjwTmXWvJGYleZ6v.rEhQjpujEyalgYec?startTime=1705601693000>

Passcode: xp2s@@nZ

	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
At Large	Yonjoo Cho *	Vacant	Staci Zolkoski *
CAS	Joseph Vandehey	Vacant	Elizabeth (Cory) Sills * 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 *
CNHS	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 Wahlrab *	Joshua Banta *
President	President-Elect
Harrison Ndetan *	Richard Helfers *
Past President	Parliamentarian
Staci Zolkoski *	Dixie Rose *
Secretary	Treasurer

* means member was in attendance.

In attendance

In Person:

Joseph Vandehey, Christine Forisha, Sarah Norrell, David Barron, Poonam Kumar, Colleen Swain, Yvonne Ralph, Amy Mayes, Andrew Pettee, Yenugapal Gopalakrisna Remani, Vivek

Pandey, Jared Squires, Austin Seybert, Ona Tollirer, Joshua Neaves, Mary Logan, Sarah Sass, Jeff Nobiltt, Cindy Scott, Phillip Ring, Chuck Brown, Kevin, Kjosa, Dwain Morris, Lou Ann Berman, Amir Mirmiran, Amy Hayes, Gina Nickels-Nelson, Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark,

Zoom:

Jessica Bracks, Cory Sills, Lauri John, Ramona Grad, Nicholas Bambach, Kimberly Elliott, Hannah Buchanan, Becky McKay, Glenn A Barnes, Ryan Menard, Gina Dudley, Christy Gipson, Mary Fischer, Cheryl Parker, Rochell McWhorter, Gina Dudley, Lauren Kirby, Rochell McWhorter, Kathy Gohmert, Yonjoo Cho, Forrest Kaiser, Kimberly Elliott, Jill Carter, Christian Alvarado, Rochell McWhorter, Yonjoo Cho, Catherine Ross, Michael H. Kennedy, Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas, Samantha Cockrell, Rhiannon Meyer, Mohammed Ali, Brandy Meadows, Santosh Aryal, Nicholas Bambach, Lynn Harris, Aaditya Khanal

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

- Welcome to everyone for our first meeting of 2024!

Approval of December Meeting Minutes Staci Zolkoski

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

Preside Update - via Dwain Morris

- Dr. Calhoun sends his regrets. He was not able to attend, but Dwain Morris came in his place.
- Kevin Kjosa is our new Chief Information Security Officer. Kevin is previously from UT San Antonio. He's been within the UT system.
 - He is here to maintain our security environment around IT and ready for what comes next as far as cyber events go.
- Project updates –
 - the new nursing building is looking great, is on budget, and on time.
 - It will be ready for this summer.
 - The medical education building – health campus downtown. It is going well and is on budget. It will take a little more time.
 - Big projects coming up on the Board of Regents agenda:
 - 3rd week in February – we are taking the science building, they have been working on for a while, to the Board of Regents for approval of funding and to begin the process of construction.
 - \$103 million project – 3 story building
 - 125,000 sq. ft. – finish the first two floors.
 - Looking for additional funding.
 - We have been fortunate to receive funding from the Board of Regents and from the state of Texas for a combined total of about \$87 million of the \$103 million.

- Longview campus – going to the Board of Regents for approval of an expansion of the Garland Hall.
 - Allocated \$10 million specifically for that campus to build this facility.
 - Adding about 10,000 sq. ft.
 - Nursing lab
 - Nursing simulation facility
- Parking – construction is continuing to move forward.
 - Lot 4 – there previously – give about 90 more spaces.
 - Once the nursing building is completed this summer – those spots being blocked will be back.
 - Looking at scheduling to minimize the impact of primarily Tuesday morning classes.

Provost Updates – Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- 3 updates and 1 announcement
 - Enrollment growth – we are doing very well.
 - Spring 2024 enrollment is 4% higher than it was last year.
 - Our SCH – semester credit hours is higher by over 8% compared to last year.
 - This is great news because it translates to additional tuition, revenue, and formula funding for the university.
 - Important to retention of first-time college students.
 - We are up to 92%.
 - Thank faculty and advisors.
 - Investment in time and effort.
 - Hope to maintain fall to fall.
 - Graduate and undergraduate level enrollments are up.
 - Up 20% at the graduate level for enrollment as compared to last year.
 - At the undergraduate level – every college is up.
 - College of Arts and Sciences with the highest – up 10%.
 - It takes a village for everyone to be successful – thank you.
 - Not just coming back but taking more credits.
 - More engaged and at a higher level – hope to lead to higher graduation.
 - Parking
 - Talking with SGA, faculty senate executive committee, Dean’s council, and Chair’s council. Ad hoc committee met to come up with a better schedule of courses to reduce artificial demand.
 - What are the ways we can better schedule our classes to reduce the artificial demand on parking?
 - It turns out there is not as much disparity between Mon./Wed. and Tues/Thurs.
 - The disparity is based on the time of days.
 - Not as much as was initially thought – hoping now 15-20%.

- We don't have to invest in additional parking lots beyond what we have already committed, and we don't have to change the beautiful campus.
 - Inflation has caused the cost of everything to increase. How can we help reduce cost for students? Think about the perspective of students. Looking at cost of textbooks and see about OER (open education resources).
 - Grant funds for adopting OER available from Library and Academic Affairs. Call will go out soon from Terra Gullings.
 - Library-Provided E-Textbooks Guide: <https://libguides.uttyler.edu/textbooks>
 - Higher Ed is changing – thinking about AI and how it can be integrated.
 - Develop an Ad Hoc committee to learn how to incorporate AI into our courses.
 - How can AI help better skill our students rather than thinking about how students use AI to cheat.
 - Provide seed funding to support the movement of AI to do what we can to actually integrate AI as part of our teaching.
 - Announcement from Academy of Distinguished Teachers – President of ADT said they want to establish a memorial scholarship in honor of Dr. James Newson.
 - He was a ROTA recipient and a member of ADT.
 - Proud of all he did for the students.
 - Students remember him and the passion he had for teaching.
 - This is just an announcement – hope to be able to support the memorial scholarship.
- Question from the floor about how AI is going to be supported – security concerns but then explore how to explore/utilize AI – our hands are tied.
 - Question given to Isai Ramirez – Chief Information Officer –
 - Microsoft is the only company we currently have an agreement with.
 - Co-pilot – recently renamed from Bing Chat Enterprise.
 - Microsoft recently announced they are going to make that same tool co-pilot available to students in February.
 - Microsoft version of chat GPT.
 - What's available but also what is more secure? Right now, it's Microsoft.
 - Make sure you are logged in – Bing.com – when you are logged in and see your picture with UT Tyler credentials. – you are using our contract with Microsoft when you use your credentials.
 - Chat button at the top – this is co-pilot and can be prompted to do things – other than sensitive information.
 - Verify whatever information it provides – it does give wrong answers.
 - Gives citations and links of where it got the information – you can make sure it's real information.

- We are working on providing a disclaimer to students to not put sensitive information into co-pilot.
- Guidance we have is being revised because we are still learning.
- Turning it on for students sometime in February.
 - College students – 18 years and older.
- Find out what AI can do in your discipline so we can learn.

Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness – Dr. Lou Ann Berman

- Help campus annually by administration of academic administrator evaluation surveys.
- All full-time faculty will receive individual email invitations.
- Survey will launch January 29th for a two-week window. We encourage participation.
 - Information for your Department Chair, Dean, Associate Deans, Provost, and the Health Science Center Faculty for the Vice Provost.
 - School of Medicine Medical Faculty have their own separate evaluation period and time – May thru June.
 - Remainder of full-time faculty and the Health Science Center, including biotechnology. Full-time faculty will receive emails for this group.
- Provost has asked Lou Ann to announce a partnership with Faculty Senate and academic administrators to have a work group next fall to review our protocol.
 - Update evaluation surveys.
 - Work together.
 - Expand policy for academic admin evals to be inclusive of the process for School of Medicine and any other changes that we want to incorporate.
 - Lou Ann is happy to facilitate. More to come. Planning will begin at the end of the spring semester.
 - Current protocol for this spring semester’s academic administrative evals will be posted on the Faculty Resources Webpage next week.
 - Contact Lou Ann for further questions.

Assistant VP of Student Success and Director of Student Engagement – Joshua Neaves

- Big jump in engagement efforts from fall semester to fall semester.
 - Student organizations have been transitioned over to book spaces in Patriot’s Engage - all in one spot.
 - Accuracy in what students are doing.
 - Getting more buy-in and use on the academic side.
 - More academic programs and departments are using Patriots Engage.
- Student Organizations – over 100 organizations get full approval.
 - On track to do it again in the spring semester.
- Please use Patriot’s Engage
 - They are happy to support anyone in learning how to use it.
- Activities happening this semester:
 - East Texas Big Event
 - One day to go back into the community to give back.
 - Saturday, February 24th

- QR code – for event page and sign-up
 - Homecoming –
 - Trying to get more departments and programs engaged.
 - True university wide experience.
 - We need volunteers for the activities.
 - Midnight breakfast
 - Hot air balloon
 - Crawfish boil
 - Plan/Implement
 - Week after spring break
 - Want to do a better job of fully engaging the entire university.
- Patriot Pantry – located at the library.
 - Please donate goods.
 - Students are using it.
- Leadership and Service Award Ceremony is taking place in April.
- New student orientation – planning ahead
 - Up to 8 freshman sessions
- Ring ceremony – encourage students with 60 hours and are a Junior – get a UT Tyler ring!
 - Fastest growing ceremony.

Faculty Senate President – Amentahru Wahlrab

- Please reach out with questions/concerns that you believe it rises to the university level please reach out to your faculty senator.
 - Senate is here to support faculty.
 - Please reach out to your senator.
 - Really cool things can come out of things that come out of a senate meeting.
 - ROTA – Email from Beth Bruce
 - February 9th meeting to learn more.
 - Ask Amy Hayes questions if you have any.
 - Spring elections for the class of 2027 are coming up.
- The library has e-textbooks for students. Please reach out to the library for help.
 - Becky McKay can support you.