



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

Faculty Senate

The Forum for Professors at UTA

"An Elected Legislative and Deliberative Faculty Body Whose Primary Purpose is to Represent UT Arlington Faculty"

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 8, 2021

Senate Leadership in Attendance

Jackie Fay, Chair

Kayunta Johnson-Winters, Secretary

Bill Carroll, Vice Chair

Guests

Toni Sol-Provost's Office

Katie Hageman-Provost's Office

Alyssa Spencer-Student Gov.

Alicia Gill-SAC

Sandy Hobart-College of Science

Name - First	Name - Last	College/School	Department
Erin	Murrah-Mandril	COLA	English
Ioannis	Schizas	CoE	EE
Amanda	Jackson	COLA	Theatre Arts
Tom	Rusher	CAPPA	Architecture
Christy	Spivey	COB	Economics
Venkat	Devarajan	Coe	Electrical Engineering
Cynthia	Plonien	CONHI	Graduate
Julienne	Greer	CoLA	Theatre Arts and Dance
Ramez	Elmasri	Engineering	CSE
Sergio	Espinosa	COLA	Music
Aimee	Israel-Pelletier	COLA	MODL
Noelle	Fields	Social work	Social Work
Alan	Cannon	COB	INSY
Michael	Nelson	CONHI	Kinesiology
Jodi	Tommerdahl	College of Education	Curriculum & Instruction
Barbara	Tobolowsky	College of Ed	ELPS
Kathryn	Warren	COLA	English
Joyce	Myers	College of Education	Curriculum and Instruction
Lauren	Brewer	College of Business	Marketing
Jared	Kenworthy	Science	Psychology
Stephen	Mattingly	Engineering	Civil Engineering
Andrew	Milson	Liberal Arts	History

Song	Jiang	CoE	CSE
Amy	Austin	Liberal Arts	Modern Languages
Andrzej	Korzeniowski	Science	Mathematics
Anne	Nordberg	Social Work	Social work
Roxanne	Zascavage	CoLA	Criminology and Criminal Justice
Fletcher	Coleman	CoLA	Art and art history
			Mechanical and Aerospace
Alan	Bowling	College of Engineering	Engineering
Michael	Holmes	CONHI	Undergraduate
Naoko	Witzel	College of Liberal Arts	Linguistics & TESOL
Nilakshi	Veerabathina	CoS	Physics
David	Levine	Engineering	Computer Science
Imre	Demhardt	CoLA	History
(Max)			
Qinhong	Hu	COS	EES
Kaushik	De	COS	Physics
Karabi	Bezboruah	CAPPA	Public Affairs and Planning
Melissa	Walsh	Science	Biology
Darlene	Hunter	School	Social Work
Bin	Srinidhi	College of Business	Accounting
Brent	Sasley	Liberal Arts	Political Science
Taner	Ozdil	CAPPA	Landscape Architecture
Matthew	Fujita	Science	Biology
Alicia	Gill	SAC	SAC Chair
Amy	Speier	COLA	Sociology and Anthropology
Chunke	Su	Liberal Arts	Communication
Stefan	Romanoschi	Engineering	Civil Engineering
Theresa	Jorgensen	Science	Mathematics
Jeffrey	McGee	COB	MANA
CY	Choi	COB	Economics

Call to Order: Jackie Fay (2:30 P.M.)

2:33 P.M. President Lim: Jeff Nyland will convert student chambers into hybrid so that the room can accommodate both online and in person meetings.

UTA is now Texas Teir 1, which is something that we all should be proud of. Both past and present presidents, faculty and staff made this possible. UTA is only the 4th institutions to make this happen.

We will use Envore funding for research and partnerships in order to attract more stellar faculty to UTA.

Fall is off to a good start. As of Sept. 20th, in person and on campus activities and courses will resume. We will follow CDC guidelines and best practices

2:40 P.M. Dr. Aswath: Large amount of COVID testing is occurring. A total of 16,000, with 10K being students as of last week. Heard from a number of faculty who are ready to go back to in person instruction. Can start as early as Sept. 13.

As of Sept. 20th we will have normal in person instruction. We encourage faculty to let their students know when they are going back to in person as soon as possible. Faculty who have need special accommodations, we encourage you to make those requests. Some have been granted, some denied.

We will continue to monitor the situation on campus and in neighborhoods and adjust. We want to give students the best opportunity to succeed.

Faculty Senator: What is the exact criteria for the positivity rate that you are using to determine if we should switch back to in person? Right now the positivity rate is just over 1%? How high does it have to be to go online? Is testing optional? Hybrid and flip-flopping isn't working well for myself and colleagues. Some students want to be online, while others in person. This makes it difficult to plan classes ahead.

Dr. Aswath: Don't have a set number of positivity rate. Look at what happens on the ground. If cases are mild and symptomatic. Consulting with chief health officer and public health officials. We have not looked at a set number of positivity rates, because positivity rates are based upon the number of people being tested as well as who is symptomatic/asymptomatic. Therefore those rates can vary. They are looking at risk and broader factors. Have heard from students and faculty. Students want face to face while faculty want online.

Faculty Senator: What are the safety measures are you putting in place so that we can safely return in person?

President Lim: Barriers between students and instructors, cleaning and rolling out incentives for vaccinations. We are also encouraging mask wearing. Set up contact tracing when someone tests positive. We have converted buildings into single pass. If there is anything you want us to do, let us know.

Kaushik: UT Austin measure vaccination rate on campus. If 60% or higher, continue random testing. 80% vaccination rate, then symptomatic testing.

President Lim: Goal is to keep the campus healthy and safe. CDC guidelines keep changing. UTA has been successful. Many factors to take into account.

Provost Aswath: We need to look at institution risk, local risk and classroom. These factors can be very different. We are looking at it from various aspects.

Comment in chat: Some students don't want to come in person. Should we force them to come in person or deliver in person and online?

Provost Aswath: Students can request accommodations. Up to faculty. No need to mandate what faculty should do. It is faculty prerogative to a certain extent.

Faculty Senator: This is in reference to UTA mandatory COVID testing. What if a colleague is off campus and cannot use UTA campus sites? Difficulty uploading information to site. Worried about sanctions and getting into trouble.

President Lim: Faculty can test off campus, but we are willing to work with them. The key is that we want to test enough people to get ahead of the delta variant. The point is not to punish faculty.

Faculty Senator: What do we tell faculty?

President Lim: Just tell them to test when they come back. The goal is to get ahead of the curve.

Faculty Senator: How are we tracking who comes on and off campus and who gets tested? What happens if people refuse or don't want to get tested?

President Lim: Goal is to keep one another safe and be a part of the testing program. We will work with you. We want this to be as easy as possible. The objective is to be ahead of the curve.

3:05 PM. President Lim exited

Faculty Senator: There seems to be confusion about Curative and their message about testing versus the facts. They commented that Sept. 8 (Today) the last day to get tested, when testing is ongoing.

Provost Aswath: We will post an accurate statement about vaccinations.

3:12 PM Quorum-April 25th minutes were approved.

3:12 P.M. Toni Sol, T& P was launched, 12 people coming up for tenure and promotion. 25 up for full with a total of 37. Working on NTT promotion flows. Will be talking to the deans about this. Will offer sessions for faculty who want to do this.

3:14 Jackie Fay:

Senate Orientation:

We have over 30 new senators.

Dr. Fay has a Faculty Senate Handbook, which will be available very soon.

Important factor for Faculty Senate:

- Senators are conduits of information to their departments/units and communicate back to the senate any issues/concerns.
- You can take your own notes to relay information from senate. The minutes are on a 4 week cycle. It isn't designed to be swift relay of information. It is designed to have a permanent record of what happens in faculty senate.
- Being able to attend meetings is extremely important. If you can't attend meetings on a regular basis, Please consider allowing your unit to elect someone else.
- We have committees that are elected and committees appointed by the chair. Everyone will be on one or more committees. Please look for this. Chair will ask you about your interests and where you would like to serve and try to accommodate.

Bill: We have a senate website and bylaws. Senate is defined by the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP). You can look there to familiarize yourselves with basic rules, which you should be familiar with.

Terms start Sept 1 and end Aug. 31 two years later. Sometimes you may have to be called on over the Summer.

Chair's Report:

COVID Planning- attended summer faculty listening sessions. Attended Fall executive planning committee and Fall academic course planning committee.

Senate leadership asked Jewel Washington how many faculty applied for ADA accommodations. 5 ADA were granted, 8 were denied and two were declined because they didn't have a disability. Chair asked Shelby Boseman about the process for ADA accommodations and how they are determined. The information was attached in the email with the agenda.

Meeting with Dr. Sol, Dr. Aswath and Jewel Washington about ADA. Jewel Washington said that it was back and forth with HR, supervisor and faculty. Sometimes accommodations are other items such as Plexiglas shields or coming to campus a limited amount of times.

Faculty Senator: What can we do to protect those faculty members who have underlying health conditions (not necessarily disabilities and those who are caregivers to young children who have not been or cannot be vaccinated).

Jackie: We are aware that this is an issue. What if you have a health condition that isn't on this list? There's no real answer to this question, except you can have plexiglass. Any faculty can request a plexiglass. There's no mechanism for this question so far.

Kaushik De will chair the new COVID-19 task force to bring together faculty who have expertise in this area.

We passed a resolution on COVID guidelines in the fall. It can be found on our website. This went to the chancellor and UT-System, regents and media outlets. IT hadn't gained much traction.

Over summer, we drafted faculty remote work policy, which is in the HOP now. The committee was: Jackie Fay (chair), Toni Sol, Nita Freed, Faculty Affairs, Senate and HR representatives. Takes into account what the faculty work is like.

Presidential Search: Committee consists of Alan Bowling, Kaushik De, and Jackie Fay (senate has 3 on the committee). Can also nominate people for this.

A banner was created for senate. Removed "Professor" because it isn't representative of everyone.

Working on the senate website. Did a history section. Senate was founded in 1973.

We now have quarterly meetings with Jewel Washington, CHRO We have had two meetings thus far. Three major concerns: 1. Faculty salary compression 2. Ombudsperson 3. Parental leave. Jewel Washington was very supportive of having an Ombudsperson, which will be pursued in the future. Also met with Dr. Samuel about DEI, who will join the meeting later today.

Venkat: Concern on presidential search committee that we would get a good set of people to apply at this time due to the Delta Variant?

Jackie: Regents are cautious and have a strong desire to get great candidates. Will work with Jewel to get ombudsman.

Academy of Distinguished Service Leaders- Amy Austin, Matt Fujita and David Coursey (chair). The committee needs to put together a procedure in which people can be nominated and apply. Will work on this so that the academy can receive nominations this semester.

TCOFS-Mike Nelson is one representative. We need to elect a second one. There are two meetings per year.

Parliamentarian-Need to elect a person. If interested let Jackie know by Friday, Sept. 24.

Will vote on these in the next senate meeting.

COACHE: Bill will stay on as chair.

TCOFS-Mike Nelson- no report.

FAC (all UT-System Faculty Senate)-Bill and Jackie attended two since last meeting.

Passed resolution about COVID at different schools and sent to chancellor.

DEI-Sergio Espinos, launched survey at the end of the last semester. Participation from senate was limited.

Tenure and Academic Freedom-Chair is no longer on the senate. Barbara Tobolowsky worked on language in HOP on issue in which faculty who should go up for tenure who are not allowed. New committee will work on this.

Equity and Ethics-Venkat, no report.

Operating Procedures, no report.

Academic and Student Liaison, no report.

IT, no report.

Budget Liaison, no report.

Special reports-Emeritus nominations passed to Bill and Toni in May (Taner Ozdil).

Dr. Brian Samuel, BP DEI

Office of DEI: 4 in office, Eddie Freeman, Eunice Currie. Have support to fund 3 positions:

Wishlist: Director of Development for Diversity Initiatives.

Charged with recruiting and retaining faculty and staff. This year will do things to help get that going. Met with Faculty Senate Chairs.

1. MAVREAD-Partner with UT-Arlington Libraries, offer faculty and staff to read together. Speakers and activities around the book.
2. Increase possibility of executing search. Concerns about micro-biases.
3. 3. Programs for Heritage Month.
4. DEI Certificate Program, 2 workshops through DEI, then 5 to self-select.

After 7, will be presented with certificate for DEI.
Demonstrate Mastery.

Will do faculty mentoring-CRTLE

Faculty Senator: Series of Areas that you contact. Did you contact faculty and staff associations?

Samuel: Yes, Dr. Carroll, Dr. Fay and Margie Jackymack.

Faculty Senator: When we have faculty searches how can we get help from your office?

Dr. Samuel: Maintaining subscriptions to a number of various venues. Dept doesn't have to pay to post.

Planning lunch and listening sessions. Will be the first Fridays in Oct., Nov. and Dec.

COVID Testing-Kaushik De (Special Report)

Pushing for sharing of data for almost a month. Requiring contact tracing. Resolution said UTA policies should be data driven. Difficult to draw meaningful conclusions. Testing positivity rate-3 blocks of data. Positivity rate went up by a factor of 3 over a few weeks.

Sept 22 Reception will be postponed until the end of the semester.

COACHE Survey Results:

Received on Aug. 9, 2021

Presented to the president and provost.

Also presented to PAC.

Will be posted on the UTA faculty senate website and a message will be sent to faculty that it is posted.

Adjourned at 4:54 P.M.