



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

February 2, 2022

Senate Leadership in Attendance

Jackie Fay, Chair

Kayunta Johnson-Winters, Secretary

Andrew Milson, Parliamentarian

Bill Carroll, Vice Chair

Michael Nelson, TCOFS Representative

Guests

Toni Sol-Provost's Office

Hannah Ezell-Shorthorn

David Albart-Director of the University Center

Name - First	Name -Last	College/School	Department
Alan	Cannon	COB	INSY
Taner	Ozdil	CAPPA	Landscape Architecture
Keith	Burgess-Jackson	COLA	Philosophy and Humanities
Bin	Srinidhi	COB	Accounting
Ramez	Elmasri	COE	CSE
Michael	Nelson	CONHI	Kinesiology
Imre	Demhardt	COLA	History
Jeffrey	McGee	COB	MANA
STEFAN	ROMANOSCHI	COE	Civil Engineering
Vinayak	Kaushal	COE	Civil Engineering
Venkat	Devarajan	COE	Electrical Engineering
Chunke	Su	COLA	Communication
Taner	Ozdil	CAPPA	Landscape Architecture
Kaushik	De	COS	Physics
Julienne	Greer	COLA	Theatre Arts
Alan	Bowling	COE	Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
George	Alexandrakis	COE	Bioengineering
Brent	Sasley	COLA	Political Science
Aimee	Israel-Pelletier	COLA	Modern Languages
Melissa	Walsh	COS	Biology
Nilakshi	Veerabathina	COS	Physics

Stephen	Mattingly	COE	Civil Engineering
Amy	Austin	COLA	Modern Languages
Bill	Carroll	COE	CSE
Amy	Speier	COLA	Sociology and Anthropology
Lauren	Brewer	COB	Marketing
Tom	Rusher	CAPPA	Architecture
John	Diltz	COB	Finance and Real Estate
Noelle	Fields	SSW	Social Work
Michael	Holmes	CONHI	Undergraduate
Kathryn	Warren	COLA	English
Bin	Srinidhi	COB	Accounting
Cynthia	Plonien	CONHI	Grad
Choong-Un	Kim	COE	Materials Science and Engineering
Amanda	Jackson	COLA	Theatre Arts
Song	Jiang	COE	CSE
David	Levine	COE	CSE
Regina	Urban	CONHI	Undergraduate Nursing
Matthew	Fujita	COS	Biology
Andrew	Milson	COLA	History
Theresa	Jorgensen	COS	Mathematics
Amy	Tigner	COLA	ENGLISH
Fletcher	Coleman	COLA	Art and art history
Jodi	Tommerdahl	COEd	Curriculum & Instruction
Sergio	Espinosa	COLA	Music
Naoko	Witzel	CoLA	Linguistics & TESOL
Karabi	Bezboruah	CAPPA	Public Affairs and Planning
Andrzej	Korzeniowski	COS	Mathematics
Joyce	Myers	COEd	Curriculum and Instruction
Barbara	Tobolowsky	COEd	Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Jared	Kenworthy	COS	Psychology
Christy	Spivey	COB	Economics
Anne	Nordberg	SSW	Social Work
CY	Choi	COB	Economics

Call to Order: Jackie Fay (2:31 P.M.)

2:33 P.M. **President Lim:** We have clarity concerning the new president. She (Jennifer Cowley) will start on April 28th, 2022. The chancellor asked Dr. Lim to continue as interim president until April 27th. Dr. Lim will then start his new position as president of New Jersey Institution of Technology (NJIT). Dr. Lim has been given directives to tell people not to contact her directly at this time.

2:40 P.M. **Provost Aswath:** Winter Storm: Campus will close today (Feb. 3rd) at 6 P.M. and will remain closed the following day. We still do not know about Friday. It will depend upon the condition of the roads. All classes will be canceled online and in person. Campus is open for students who live on campus. Individual offices do not need to remain open. The Library is going in to 24/7 virtual mode. However, other campus operations will be suspended without exception. This message will go out end of business today. For face to face on Monday, take all precaution.

When we got back to campus in January, UTA had a 25% positivity rate for COVID. However, that has decreased to 12%. We have to be cautious that this is a very infectious disease.

Provost Aswath as asked faculty to destroy privileged information (even students) that we don't want to get out there. Faculty should not preserve any medical information that students provide.

Faculty Senator: Can we announce that "a student in this class has COVID?"

Provost Aswath: If they report it to the university, the contact work will be done by health sources. We are trying to encourage students to take personal responsibility.

Enrollment for Spring Semester-For coordinating board numbers, we are down 4.7% and down 26% form non coordinating board numbers. Overall we are down Bout 6% compared to last year.

Academic partnerships we are down 20%. The non AO enrollment, we are up 0.8%. We had 1000 more international students come in the Spring. They pay more in revenue. The university is doing OK. The big challenge is primarily in nursing due to the pandemic, which is down 26%.

Dr. Fay joined in the budget meetings. These went well. Faculty senate provided input.

Faculty senator: PCR tests results required by Feb. 4. What if you can't meet this deadline?

Provost Aswath: The date for testing as been extended until Feb. 11.

2:59 PM President Lim and Provost Aswath exited.

3 PM The minutes from November and December were approved.

Toni Sol: UTA will have a speaker (Workplace Bullying) from Morgan State university on April 6, from 12-1:30 PM in the Library. Boxed lunches will be available. The speaker will then have

workshops for chairs and deans on a case study in the courts concerning tenure and promotion.

Nominations for emeritus positions are open. Letters of recommendations have to be real letters and not an email. All parts of the dossiers have to be included.

March 1st there will be a tenure and promotion session. March 11, there will be a nuts and bolts session or chairs and administrators.

Bill Carroll: Can a livestream be done with the speaker?

Toni: I'm not sure. We would need her permission.

3:08 P.M. **David Albart- Director of the University Center-** The current student union fee is \$39. This is amongst the lowest in the state and hasn't changed since 1983.

Background of how to increase the fee. This is a legislative issue. HB2718 was passed on June 14, 2019, but the pandemic happened. Increasing the student union fee to \$150 would generate \$6.9M. We would then be able to do major renovations of current facilities and expansion. We have given the vision for the renovations. The fees don't go into effect until the project is completed. Then phase out over 3 years. Adding 66,000 square feet.

Faculty senator: Was student feedback involved in the process?

David: It was first approved by legislation but not by students. Students will give feedback and be heavily involved. The presentation already involved students.

Faculty senator: Is the fee temporary or permanent?

David: The fee is permanent. Once raised, it stays at that rate.

Taner: Are there discussions about a campus master plan? The College of Architecture students would be interested in this along with ideas.

David: Someone will reach out to you related to this plan.

Venkat agrees with Kaushik that PUF should fund this.

David: Just want to be transparent to the UTA community about this process.

3:29 P.M. Chair's Report:

Jennifer Cowley is UTA's new president. We will do what we can to get a meeting with her as soon as we can.

Planning for spring of 2022

- Just received information from the president and provost.
- Executive Planning Committee-discussed if COVID testing should continue or not. Mandatory testing will not be required, but will still have two testing centers.
- UTA will return to in-person operations as of Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.
- Bill made a request that Faculty have KN 95 masks. Facilities ordered them. We all should have received masks. Check with your department and colleges. If you have not received them, your department can put in an order to receive them. The university ordered 15,000, but we are not sure if they will order more. Jackie Fay will report back concerning the university's plan for masks.
- Senate Website is up and running
- Ombudsperson-The president, provost, CHRO, Deans and Chairs, Shelby Boseman, and Toni Sol along with Jackie Fay had a meeting on December 14th to discuss this position for the university. The meeting went well. However, we must wait until the new president is here.

Bill Carroll: There was an expectation that Deans and Chairs would oppose, but they were excited about this. The costs they proposed seemed expensive. However, everyone was enthusiastic that we will get this completed.

- University T&P: The committee completed their work over break, which was a large amount of work. This committee is to be commended.
- Budget and Shared Gov.-Task forces met with the deans. They gave feedback to PAC and the provost.
- The senate chair attended all of the budget hearings for the academic units. This is the first year that a senate president attended for the non-academic units.

Strategic Funds is a total of \$26M. This includes the Tier 1 money for \$6M. Senate submitted two applications. One for Student funding and another for faculty development.

Advocated for faculty to be involved in the review process. This was continued over break. The budget liaison committee reviewed, which took 8-9 days.

General comments: The faculty senate should have been involved from the very beginning. Faculty needed clear guidelines from the beginning. What part of the university should this have impacted?

Bill Carroll: Some of the observations from the proposals are UTA issues that have been unaddressed for more than 20 years. For example, there was a proposal for renovations for a student group. Some of the issues were out of desperation because there was no other way to get the money.

Faculty Senator: Who will decide which applications will succeed?

Jackie Fay: We concluded that the new president should decide. We will follow up on what happens there. The recommendations were: 1. Some of the applications should be fully funded. 2. Some partially funded and others, not at all.

Coache (Bill Carroll): A committee of 18 people were formed. Two issues- 1. Faculty salaries 2. Graduate student recruiting will report more specifically later. The committee seems energized and enthusiastic.

4:12 P.M. Time Keeper is a new software system. It works to keep track of hours and to report absences. For absences, you go into Time Keeper and get approval from the chair.

FAC- There was a presentation about student workers paid for 20 hours but they work than that. Is this against the rules? There was also a presentation from the Office of Information Security. We are up to date about this due to our presentation from Information Security in the previous months. We are aware of the Microsoft Updates. FAC passed a motion about shared governance in UT-System.

Committees: Operating procedures committee has bylaws changes. Hopefully this committee bring ideas. If you see a committee that your college should be represented on, let Jackie know. If you don't have a committee assignment, let Jackie know.

Committee Reports:

COVID Committee- no report.

Venkat to Kaushik- Are there concerns from faculty about being face to face on Feb. 4th?

Kaushik De: No. Only people excited about meeting face to face. There are a steady amount of people testing positive. The feeling is that we should get back to in person because students are suffering.

Faculty Senator: Older and more vulnerable faculty are concerned and students are not wearing masks.

Bill: Air circulations have been looked at. They have done a lot of improvements to the circulation in the buildings. Not sure about HEPA filters.

Faculty Senator: Was there any consideration to extend online past Feb. 4th?

Kaushik De: Advice is from UT-System and we go according to their regulations.

Jackie Fay: It isn't driven by what students want. Discussions are not 1 view discussions, but very robust.

Venkat: There were students who sent emails that expressed concerns about in person. 2500 per day dying of COVID. Does that not concern anyone?

Kaushik De: We can get stuck here for hours. Although it is bad.

Jackie Fay: All we can do is take advice from the COVID Advisory Committee and use what we hear from faculty and represent that view.

Faculty Senator: We can get COVIC from work and have to use sick time and report to Time Keeper. Yet only get a weeks' work of KN 95 masks. This needs to be communicated.

Jackie: Will communicate the mask issue. We can also ask for screen protectors in classrooms.

There were no additional committee reports.

No old or new business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 P.M.