

Vision Statement by the UT Arlington Faculty Senate

Adopted April 29, 2020

On behalf of the faculty of UT Arlington, the members of the Faculty Senate provide the following communication to acknowledge the uncertainty facing our institution and to outline our vision for the future. We highlight our faculty's commitment to emerge from these difficult times as a stronger and more diverse institution, committed to excellence in teaching, research, service, and community engagement.

With the onset of Covid-19, the faculty, staff and students of UT Arlington have faced challenges that are probably unmatched at any time in our institution's history, challenges that we are collectively meeting with resilience, hard work, and ingenuity. During these difficult times our commitment to educate and serve our community has never been more evident, especially since the pandemic coincided with the departure of the president of UT Arlington. But with all challenges come great opportunities. The faculty of UT Arlington is therefore collectively committed to the recruitment of a new president who will partner with us to take our institution to the next level of excellence. We look forward to working with a president who has a proven track-record of leadership and institutional accomplishment, as well as strong intellectual, collegial, organizational, social, and inspirational skills. We are looking for a leader who has a clear and compelling vision for the future and mission of this university that is shared and endorsed by its constituents; a leader who listens and is able to build consensus; a leader who is encouraging, supportive and inspires others to exceed expectations; a leader who empowers others to effectively manage their domains; a principled leader who understands the ethics of decision-making. The faculty of UT Arlington is also committed to working with our new leadership team in order to broaden and deepen our engagement with external stakeholders--our alumni, community partners, the broader Dallas-Fort Worth community, and the UT System--in order to grow our university endowment to a level consistent with the size and stature of our great institution. With the right leader, UT Arlington will continue to build on its present strengths, innovations, resources, and the talents of those who work here to grow in stature and achieve an even deeper impact on the lives of its students and the local and global community. Already a key factor in the dynamic economy of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, UT Arlington is on track to become one of the best urban research universities in the country. The faculty of UT Arlington look forward with great anticipation to being part of this important moment of change at our institution.

The Present Status of UT Arlington. One of only 131 universities in the nation classified as Research-1, a designation based on the very high research activity of its faculty, staff and students, UT Arlington is also in the final stages of qualifying as a Tier 1 university in the State of Texas. These highly sought-after classifications, and the growth in external funding that accompanies them, mark the increasing levels of prestige that UT Arlington has gained and its bright future as a landmark comprehensive public research university. UT Arlington now consistently graduates more than 200 PhD students each year and has the 6th highest number of members of the National Academy of Inventors in the U.S. Looking forward, UT Arlington has attracted an increasingly high-achieving freshmen class, a testament to the commitment of those who work here, its award-winning teachers, and its reputation as a leader in higher education. UT Arlington has grown to be one of the largest universities in the state and one of the most diverse in the nation and is honored to have been recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Students here have the opportunity to learn from and socialize with others from many different backgrounds and countries, an experience that serves them well as they enter an increasingly diverse workforce.