

Vision Statement by the University of Texas at Arlington Faculty Senate
Adopted April 6 2022

As our institution begins a new chapter in its history under the leadership of a new President, the members of the Faculty Senate on behalf of the faculty of the University of Texas at Arlington provide the following communication to outline our vision for the future. First, we acknowledge the faculty contribution to propelling UT Arlington to an outstanding position within Texas and also nationally. Having grown to become one of the largest universities in the state, UT Arlington is one of only 146 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 also recently qualified as a Texas Tier 1 university, one of only four in the state. 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. Our goal as faculty is to continue this upward trajectory by cementing UT Arlington's reputation as a leader in higher education and a destination campus known locally, nationally, and internationally. We look forward to working with our new President in order to achieve this goal together.

In addition to its research excellence, UT Arlington ranks third among all national universities for the diversity of its students and is honored to have been recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI). 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. The faculty commits to the collective goal of diversifying the faculty body itself in alignment with the student population, while creating an environment that is both equal and equitable to ensure that UT Arlington is nationally known as a leader in inclusive excellence.

In order to cement UT Arlington's reputation as a leader in higher education, the faculty emphasize that strong and consistent support should underpin the drive for quality. Sustained attention to the climate, morale, and job satisfaction for all faculty, regardless of rank or title, will enhance every aspect of UT Arlington's mission. In graduate education, UT Arlington now consistently produces more than 200 PhDs each year. Increasing support for graduate students in PhD and other terminal graduate degree programs will assist these students in achieving their professional goals and will be essential to the growth of funded research and the continuing recruitment and retention of faculty who are leaders in their fields. In particular, the faculty look forward to recruiting more tenure stream members to their ranks to catalyze research and provide students with broad and rich educational experiences. An expanded number of PhD programs that span the disciplines will enhance UT Arlington's standing as a comprehensive research university. Yet, none of this can happen without improvements in infrastructure, which is critical to the mission of conducting research and teaching at a world-class educational institution.

Further, as an urban public research university, UT Arlington plays a vital role in the economic and cultural growth of the city and region. Improving the sense of connection between faculty, staff, students, and the surrounding communities of downtown Arlington will make the campus a yet more integral part of Arlington's vibrant future. In addition, faculty look forward to enhancing relationships with local and national industries and organizations to create more joint research partnerships that transform our region, and beyond, and provide career pathways for every student.

As a result of these efforts, we envision a diverse, engaged, and appropriately resourced faculty leading UT Arlington to higher levels of excellence and achievement.