



# Faculty Senate Bulletin

*photo credit: Andy Heatwole*

## March 2022

*Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us. — Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, [The One Un-American Act](#)*

## This month:

- **Statement on Academic Freedom**
- **Academic Freedom Corner**
- **Part Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award**
- **Committee Preference Survey**
- **Perceptions of Academic Administrators**

- **Course Materials and Copyright**
- **Faculty Senate Election**
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## Statement on Academic Freedom

Historically, tenure and academic freedom have gone hand in hand, with tenure being a primary means of insuring academic freedom. Tenure is integral to the purpose of higher education, providing faculty the protection and freedom to engage in research, and teach or speak on matters related to their expertise in order to help advance our knowledge on important matters, regardless of how controversial these matters might be at any given time to people across the political or ideological spectrum. The restriction or weakening of tenure at Texas universities would greatly diminish our ability to recruit and retain faculty.

Upon the recommendation of its Academic Freedom Committee, the Texas State University Faculty Senate opposes, in the strongest terms, any effort to weaken or eliminate the tenure status of faculty. Furthermore, the Faculty Senate rejects any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter (regardless of tenure status), including matters related to racial and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority as defined in our Faculty Handbook and university policies.

## Academic Freedom Corner

For this academic freedom corner the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) would like to summarize its activities from the past year. The AFC has a web page through the Faculty Senate website, and there is a [link to contact the AFC with questions, comments or concerns regarding academic freedom](#). This past year we received over twenty submissions:

- Online Harassment of faculty members, including being listed on the Professor Watch List website.

- Not being allowed to require basic Covid-related public health measures in the classroom (mandating masks and vaccines, etc.).
- Not being allowed to speak out against a lack of Covid-related public health measures without risk of retaliation.
- Untenured faculty getting fired for airing political opinions at other universities leading to concerns that it can happen at Texas State. For example, an untenured faculty member at the University of Mississippi was fired for criticizing the university's ties to the private prison industry.
- A comment that chairs need to respect the academic freedom of faculty regardless of rank or tenure status.
- A question as to whether summary dismissal in the faculty handbook is in violation of academic norms or a violation of the 5th Amendment. For example, can a faculty member refuse to admit to violations or incompetencies, similar to criminal trials where one cannot be compelled to be a witness against oneself.
- Concern about political pressure on Deans to fire faculty can be realized at Texas State. For example, at UNC an Israeli diplomat pressured the university to remove a faculty member who expressed criticism of Israeli policies toward Palestinians.
- Worries about the Honors College asking faculty to teach outside of their field.
- Bad working conditions for lecturers leading to a lot of people quitting their jobs across the country.
- A faculty member was asked to join the Academic Freedom Alliance.
- Instances of faculty members getting challenged by Deans' offices for a faculty member's stated reason for making a grade change.
- The approved NRUF list of funding sources might be limiting fellowship and other funding opportunities for faculty at Texas State, making them less competitive in their fields.

**AFC Activities** The AFC engaged in a number of activities this past year. Highlights include:

- On September 14, 2021, AFC members and a few other faculty participated in a panel discussion for the Philosophy Dialogue Series entitled, "Academic Freedom and the Pandemic: A Panel Discussion." The event was well-attended and a spirited discussion was had between panel members and audience members that included both faculty and students.
- Another Philosophy Dialogue Series panel on academic freedom occurred on Friday, February 18, 2022.
- The AFC worked on two proposed policy and procedures statements: 1) PPS on Academic Freedom; and 2) PPS on Cyber Harassment

- The AFC is preparing a survey to be distributed to Texas State faculty to gauge faculty perceptions about academic freedom related issues. A link to the survey is planned to be emailed to faculty during the Spring 2022 semester.
- Committee member Vince Luizzi recently published "[Where Academic Freedom Begins](#)" in *University World News*.
- The AFC requested to the Faculty Senate a number of action items, including: 1) that reasons for grade changes provided by faculty be accepted by Chairs and Deans; 2) that the Senate look into the process used to dismiss faculty members that are determined to have failed to report incidents to the Title IX Coordinator; and 3) that the Senate look into instances of grants, "big ideas," and similar awards being taken from faculty and given to others by University Advancement and/or Chairs and Deans.

## Part Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award

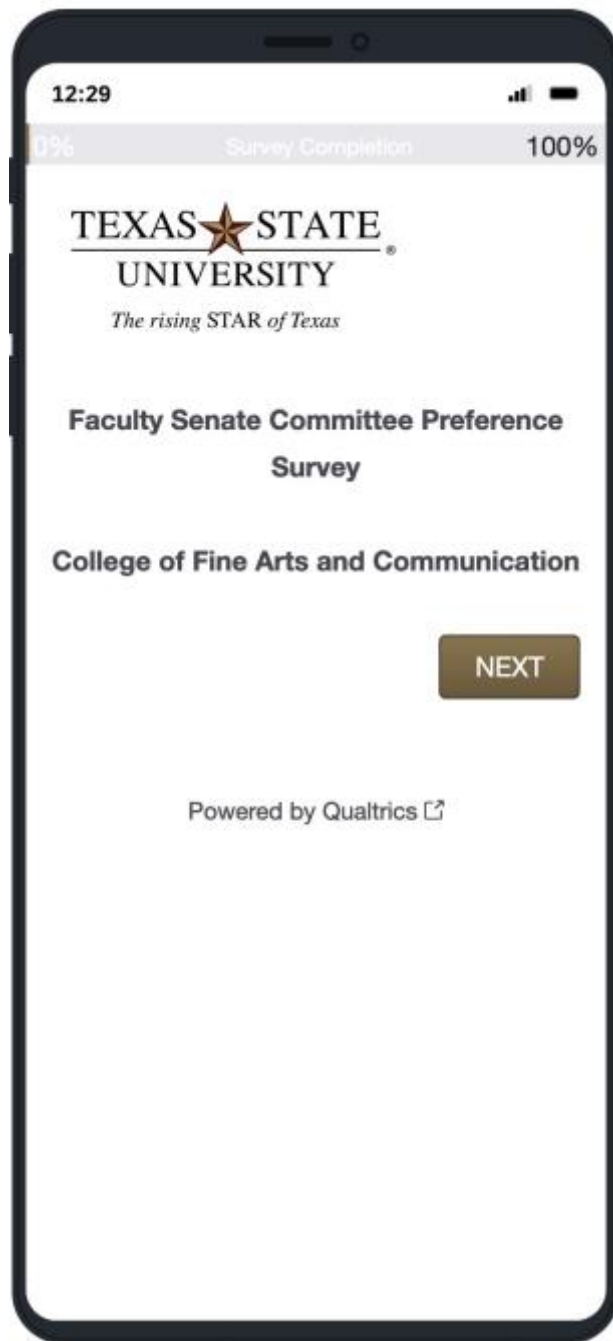
The Faculty Senate, in conjunction with the Nontenure Line Faculty Committee, is pleased to call for applications for the Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. These annual awards have been established to recognize the excellent teaching conducted by our part-time faculty, which contributes greatly to the culture of scholarship and learning at Texas State University. All faculty members teaching 75% or less FTE in the preceding calendar year are eligible for these awards. One award, consisting of a certificate signed by the college dean and a salary stipend of \$1,000, may be given per academic college.

Applicants should submit application materials following the instructions specified in the policy and procedures posted on the [Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award web page](#).

Each college review committee will be composed of the Nontenure Line Faculty Committee (NLFC) members and department NLFC liaisons in the college. The NLFC will submit award recommendations to the Faculty Senate for endorsement. Awards will be presented at college fall convocation meetings.

The deadline to submit applications to [facultysenate@txstate.edu](mailto:facultysenate@txstate.edu) is **Friday, March 25, 2022, by 5:00 pm**.

## Committee Preference Survey



This month, the Faculty Senate distributed a survey to determine faculty members' preferences for committee service. You should have received an email from the Faculty Senate with a Qualtrics link. Please contact us at [facultysenate@txstate.edu](mailto:facultysenate@txstate.edu) if you didn't receive an email, or you wish to re-take the survey.

We estimate that it will take about ten minutes for faculty to review the committees and indicate three ranked preferences. The survey will close Monday, March 7, 2022. The Faculty Senate encourages all

faculty members to participate in shared governance by volunteering for university level committee service.

## Perceptions of Academic Administrators

Each spring, the Faculty Senate conducts perception surveys of the college deans. Watch for this year's assessment in your email soon; it will close early in April. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete, so please do not miss your opportunity to participate. Provide your PERCEPTIONS to all the survey statements that you feel able to address. While the surveys are confidential, filling out the instruments does require you to log in. However, every reasonable effort is made to preserve the anonymity of respondents by recording the NetID of respondents in random order in a file separate from survey responses. Authentication allows us to be sure that only the appropriate people are completing the surveys. A written-comment area is provided for those who wish to add narrative comments. The data will be posted on the Faculty Senate's website in May in an authentication-required area. Written comments will be posted for 90 days beginning in September. The senate appreciates the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research in conducting these surveys.



## Course Materials and Copyright

The materials that faculty create for their courses, including PowerPoint slides, exam reviews, quiz questions and exam questions, are automatically under the faculty member's copyright. This means that if students share the materials publicly on websites such as CourseHero, Quizlet, Chegg, etc., it is a violation of copyright law and may be a violation of the University Honor Code policy.

Faculty are encouraged to search for their materials online. If found, it is usually not difficult to have the material removed. Many sites have easy forms to fill out (e.g., [Course Hero Takedown Notice](#) and [Quizlet Testbank Request](#)). These sites will often have the content removed within only a few days. If a site does not have a "DMCA" form or contact, you can email the general contact address letting them know of the copyright infringement with a request to remove the content.

If students have posted quiz or exam content to Chegg, you may also request information about the poster and students who viewed the material by contacting [honorcode@txstate.edu](mailto:honorcode@txstate.edu) and including the



URLs with your material. The Honor Code Council will open an investigation with Chegg, then send you the report.

To help reduce the illegal sharing of materials, faculty may include statements on their syllabi such as the example statement below, and by discussing it in class with students.

*All educational work that I produce for this course, including spoken lectures, PowerPoint slides, exam reviews, quiz and exam questions, etc. is automatically under my copyright ownership. The sharing of these materials by any student in any form, especially sharing publicly via the internet (such as on Quizlet or CourseHero), is expressly forbidden and a violation of copyright law. You may use the materials that I make available to you and you may record my lectures for your personal use, but you may not make those materials available publicly.*

## Faculty Senate Election

Elections for faculty to serve on the Faculty Senate are underway. Balloting for the nomination round in the colleges of Education, Fine Arts and Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts and Science and Engineering will close March 7. Final candidate biographies will be posted on the senate's [Election Information](#) page for the runoff election which will be held March 21 - 28. New senators will begin their term at the May 4 senate meeting. Vote via the [Elections](#) application.

## Green Cat Challenge Awards 2022



Each year, the [Environment and Sustainability Committee](#) and the [Office of Sustainability](#) recognize individuals and organizations that are actively involved in sustainability efforts on the San Marcos Campus and in the San Marcos community. The [2022 Green Cat Challenge Award Application](#) is now open.

There are four Green Cat Challenge award categories: individual student, student organization, individual faculty or staff, faculty or staff department/organization/unit.

### Selection Criteria

- Individual's/Group's contribution to sustainability on campus
- How individual's/group's efforts are related to the three pillars of sustainability (environment, economics, and social)
- Impact of work on Texas State University or the wider community

### Deadlines

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, March 31**. Winners will be notified by **Friday, April 15**, and the Green Cat Challenge Awards will be awarded at the [Spring Lake Earth Day Festival](#) on **Saturday, April 23**.

### Contacts

[Colleen Myles](#), Chair, Environment and Sustainability Committee, 512.245.1327

[Emma Parsley](#), Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Sustainability, 512.245.1985

## University Lecturers Events



**Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 - 9:00 pm via Zoom webinar**



The Department of Political Science invites you to attend a talk by **Dr. Terri Givens** about her new book, *Radical Empathy: Finding a Path to Bridging Racial Divides*. This event is free and open to the public, although [registration is required](#).

In *Radical Empathy*, renowned political scientist Dr. Givens argues that structural racism has impacted the lives of African Americans in the United States since before the country's founding. Although the country has made some progress toward a more equal society, political developments in the 21st century have shown that deep divides remain. To bridge our divides, Dr. Givens calls for “radical empathy,” which requires moving beyond an understanding of others' lives and pain to an understanding of the origins of our biases, including internalized oppression. Deftly weaving together her own experiences with the political, she offers practical steps to call out racism and bring about social change.

Dr. Givens is a professor of political science at McGill University. A former vice provost and provost, she is a visionary leader focusing on diversity in higher education.

Campus sponsors of this event include the University Lecturers Series, Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, Common Experience, Department of Political Science, Institutional Inclusive Excellence, and President's Council for Women in Higher Education.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Department of Political Science via email at [politicalscience@txstate.edu](mailto:politicalscience@txstate.edu) or (512) 245-2143. Accommodation requests should be made at least 72 hours in advance of the program start time to ensure availability.

**Wednesday, March 9, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm via Zoom** [Register](#)

### **Teaching Applications of Radical Empathy**

Faculty Development presents a special presentation by Dr. Givens, who will discuss how faculty can apply the concepts of ***Radical Empathy*** to their work with students in the classroom. As an added bonus, we will have drawings for copies of her book ***Radical Empathy***. Must be present to win and learn!

### **About Dr. Terri Givens:**

Dr. Givens has more than 30 years of success in higher education, politics, international affairs, and non-profits. She has held leadership positions as Vice Provost at University of Texas at Austin and Provost of Menlo College, as well as professorships at University of Texas at Austin and University of Washington. Dr. Givens was the founding director at the Center for European Studies at the University of Texas and led the university's efforts in Mexico and Latin America as Vice Provost for International Activities.

Co-Sponsored by: Faculty Development, Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, Coalition of Black Faculty and Staff, and Institutional Inclusive Excellence

If you require disability accommodations order to participate, please contact [facultydevelopment@txstate.edu](mailto:facultydevelopment@txstate.edu) or 512.245.2112 at least 72 hours in advance of the event.



1 - Monica Fedeli



2 - Edward Taylor

**Monday, April 11, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, The Philosophy Dialogues Room, Comal 116**

***Learning, Teaching, and Transformation for Today's Complex Educational/Organizational Settings and Learner Needs***

Hosted by Adult, Professional, and Community Education Programs (M.A. and Ph.D.) in the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology in the College of Education. Dr. Monica Fedeli and Dr. Edward Taylor will provide presentations and discussions about international and comparative research-based adult teaching and learning to students, faculty, and staff.

## Guests:

**Dr. Monica Fedeli**, Vice Rector for the Third Mission and Professor of Teaching and Learning Methods and Organizational Development at the University of Padova, Italy

Lecture: *From the Galileo Podium to Active Learning: An Italian Perspective on Instructional Development*

**Dr. Edward Taylor**, Professor Emeritus of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education from Penn State University-Harrisburg

Lecture: *Empathy: The Stepchild of Critical Reflection and Transformative Learning*

## Sponsors:

The University Lecturers Series; the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology; the College of Education; the Department of Curriculum and Instruction; the Department of Health and Human Performance; the Office of Faculty Development; and the Department of Organization, Workforce and Leadership Studies

## 63rd Faculty Senate, 2021 - 2022



Applied Arts: [Michael Supancic](#), Criminal Justice

Business Administration: [Andrew Ojede](#), Finance and Economics

Education: College of Education: [Taylor Acee](#), Curriculum and Instruction; [Stacey Bender](#), Health and Human Performance

Fine Arts & Communication: [Dale Blasingame](#) (Co-Secretary), Journalism and Mass Communication; [Lynn Ledbetter](#) (Chair), Music; [Nicole Wesley](#), Theatre and Dance

Health Professions: [Danette Myers](#), Health Information Management

Liberal Arts: [Rebecca Bell-Metereau](#), English; [Peter Dedek](#), History; [Jennifer Jensen](#) (Vice Chair), Geography; [Roque Mendez](#), Psychology

Science and Engineering: [Rachel Davenport](#), Biology; [Ben Martin](#) (Co-Secretary), Chemistry and Biochemistry; [Stan McClellan](#), Engineering

## Contact Us!

Do you have a question, concern or issue you want the Faculty Senate to address? Want to make a suggestion? [Contact the senate via our website.](#)

More information about these and other topics can be found in the Faculty Senate minutes posted on the [Faculty Senate website](#), or by contacting your Faculty Senator (email links above) or [Senate Liaison](#). The Faculty Senate encourages you to voice your concerns and comments on any faculty and shared governance topics to these representatives or directly to the senate.