

Faculty Senate Bulletin - Summer 2023



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"Her voice hit him like a cool breeze - like that first cold front in Texas when the summer heat finally breaks and you start to believe things might get better" - *Author: Rick Riordan*

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Faculty Senate Accomplishments

The Texas State University 64th Faculty Senate worked diligently as an advocate for faculty from May 2022 – May 2023. Below is a list of accomplishments highlighting the work completed during this period.

The 64th Faculty Senate:

- Reviewed and endorsed awards related to the following peer review processes: Research Enhancement Grants, Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release, University Lecturers Series

Awards, Part-Time Faculty Teaching Awards, and the Piper Professor and Everette Swinney Teaching Awards.

- Reviewed and recommended 77 Faculty Development Leave applications.
- Met as a full senate including Senate Liaisons once in each semester in 2022-2023. The spring meeting liaisons and senators discussed issues brought forth by their constituents within their colleges. A final report listing concerns affecting the whole of the university was shared with the Presidential Academic Advisory Group.
- Reviewed and suggested revisions to 93 Academic Affairs and University policy and procedure statements
- Served as impartial observers in Chair/Director and Dean reviews.
- Reviewed applications and chose Senate Fellow MiHyun Kim for her 2022-2023 project on salary compression, inversion, and its impact on the Texas State University community.
- Formed a Faculty Senate Subcommittee to conduct a comprehensive salary study to analyze salary inequity, salary compression and the effects of inflation on faculty income. The report includes findings from a qualitative survey of faculty conducted by the Faculty Senate in fall 2022. The final report was shared with university administrators and faculty in spring 2023.
- Conducted several surveys in 2022-2023: Administrators Perception survey, Committee Preference survey and Salary Study survey
- Reviewed committee membership for 15 Faculty Senate Committees and for Texas State University committees and councils that hold Faculty Senate appointments. During the summer semester membership rosters were created based on the Committee Preference Survey or recommendations from the Committee on Committees. Reviews and changes to membership were made throughout the year in response to resignations, retirements, or department transfers.
- Reviewed reports from the Faculty Senate Committees including but not limited to: Academic Computing, Academic Freedom, University Curriculum, University Lecturers, University Research Enhancement.
- Election was conducted concluding in four new senators, three of which will be representing their colleges for the first time.

In addition to the items listed, the faculty senate addressed more than 20 concerns brought to the Faculty Senate either through the confidential website contact form, the senate email or directly through a liaison or senator.

The 64th Faculty Senate was comprised of the following members: Lynn Ledbetter, Chair; Jennifer Jensen, Vice-Chair; Dale Blasingame, Co-Secretary; Ben Martin, Co-Secretary; Taylor Acee; Rebecca Bell-Metereau; Stacey Bender; Rachel Davenport; Peter Dedek; Farzan Irani; Roque Mendez; Andrew Ojede; Adetty Pérez de Miles; Michael Supancic; Alex White



Academic Freedom Corner

Recently the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that public universities can punish faculty for a 'lack of collegiality.' The decision says that faculty speech about institutional governance doesn't get First Amendment protection, giving public universities broad power to oust faculty whistleblowers and dissenters. Our committee will work to protect faculty from this type of threat to academic freedom here at Texas State University.

If you have concerns regarding academic freedom, you can contact the [Academic Freedom Committee](#).



2023-2024 Faculty Senate Fellow



Congratulations!

The Faculty Senate has chosen Piyush Shroff as the 2023-2024 Faculty Senate Fellow.

The 2023-2024 Fellow's research project will support the Faculty Senate's efforts to address topics that are of broad interest to faculty. Dr. Shroff's proposal: "Artificial Intelligence in Education" explores both the positive and negative impact of AI on students and faculty.

Piyush Shroff hails from Pune, India where he received his Master's degree in Mathematics from the University of Pune, in 2007. He completed his Doctorate in Mathematics from Texas A&M University in 2012. That same year he began his teaching career at Texas State University. His love of teaching is reflected in his awards and honors having received the Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Mathematics in 2021 and the College Achievement for Excellence in Teaching at Texas State University in 2022. His teaching goal is to change students' perspective on math as many of them find it difficult.

Besides his love of mathematics, he enjoys spending time cooking and catching up on movies, television series and sports. He also enjoys swimming and cricket.

The Faculty Senate welcomes Dr. Shroff.

Fall Application Deadlines



Piper Professor Nominee:

Applications are due by September 22, 2023. The Faculty Requests system for Piper applications will open July 28th.

Faculty Development Leave:

Notify your department chair or school director if you intend to apply.

Applications are due October 2nd via the Faculty Requests application system, which will open on August 18th.

Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release:

Notify your department chair or school director if you intend to apply.

Applications are due October 9th via the Faculty Requests application system, which will open on August 25th.

Faculty Senate Fall Meeting Dates



All meetings are held in JCK 880 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM with a Zoom option (unless otherwise noted on the [agenda](#))

August: 23, 30

September: 06, 13, 20, 27

October: 04, 11, 18, 25

November: 01, 08, 15, 29

December: 06

Texas State University 65th Faculty Senate



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

Business Administration: [William Chittenden](#), Finance and Economics

Education: College of Education: [Stacey Bender](#), Health and Human Performance; [Jo Beth Oestreich](#), (*Secretary*), Curriculum and Instruction

Fine Arts & Communication: [Dale Blasingame](#), Journalism and Mass Communication; [Lynn Ledbetter](#) (*Chair*), Music; [Adetty Perez de Miles](#), Art and Design

Health Professions: [Farzan Irani](#), Communication Disorders

Liberal Arts: [Rebecca Bell-Metereau](#), English; [Peter Dedek](#), History; [Jennifer Jensen](#), Geography; [William Kelemen](#), Psychology

Science and Engineering: [Rachel Davenport](#) (*Vice Chair*), Biology; [David Donnelly](#), Physics; College of Science and Engineering: [Alex White](#), Mathematics

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](#) 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.