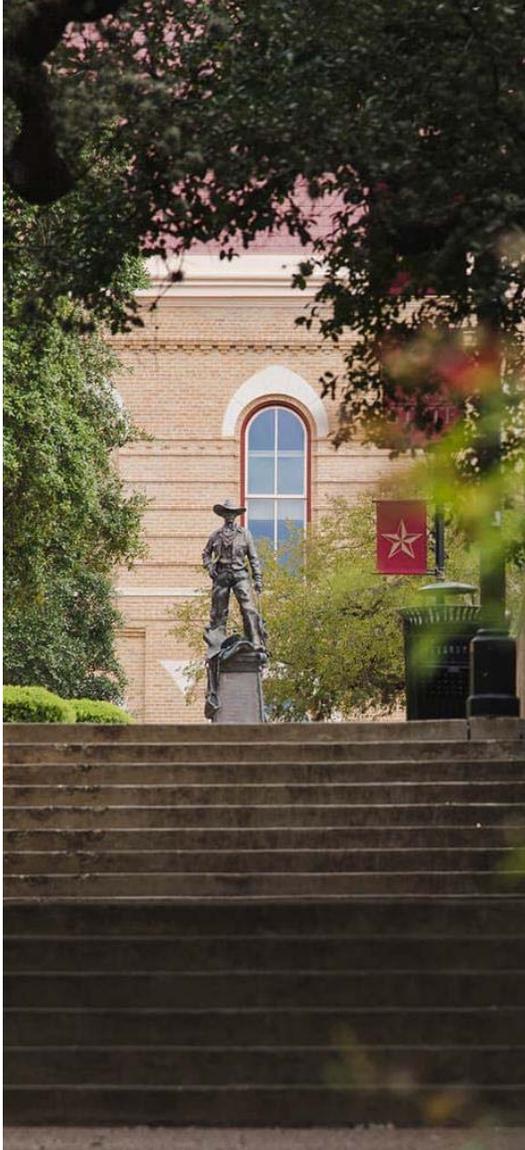


Faculty Senate 2016 - 2017 Selected Accomplishments

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The Faculty Senate held a [Faculty Constitution](#) referendum to broaden the eligibility requirements for Faculty Senators and Senate Liaisons to include full-time Nontenure Line faculty, which was ratified by faculty voters in November 2016.

To aid faculty in being informed voters, the senate provided statements on academic and governance experience from candidates in the final round of Faculty Senate elections.

The senate reviewed and suggested revisions to over 80 university policies, including changes to the faculty contact hours outside of class (office hours) policy that were adopted and now enable faculty to hold contact hours using telephone and electronic means. In response to a Faculty Senate request, it is now possible to electronically search across all university policies.

As academic freedom is fundamental to a university and all faculty have a compelling interest in its preservation, the Faculty Senate constituted an [Academic Freedom Committee](#) to ensure that it prevails as a guiding core value of university culture.

In addition, the senate:

- reviewed and endorsed the following peer review processes: [Academic Computing](#), [Research Enhancement Grants](#), [Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release](#), [University Lecturers Series](#), [Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards](#), and

the [Piper Professor and Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Excellence Teaching Awards](#).

- reviewed and recommended 49 Faculty Development Leave applications for approval.
- extended [Research Enhancement Grant eligibility](#) to clinical faculty and professors of practice to apply as principle investigators.
- co-sponsored, with the Philosophy Dialogue Series, the documentary film [Starving the Beast](#) to raise awareness of the national crisis caused by shrinking state appropriations for higher education.
- joined the [Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics](#), an alliance of faculty senates from NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools. COIA's mission is to provide a national faculty voice on intercollegiate sports issues.
- served as impartial observers in Chair and Director summative reviews and chaired committees conducting Academic Dean summative reviews.

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 via email: FacultySenate@txstate.edu.

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Concerns? va10@txstate.edu