



Faculty Senate Bulletin

November 2020



Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

This month:

- **Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award**
- **Full Faculty Senate Meeting**
- **University Lecturers Series**
- **TCFS/TSUS Meeting**
- **First Gen Week**
- **National Distance Learning Week**
- **62nd Faculty Senate, 2020 - 2021**
- **Contact the Faculty Senate**

Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award

At the October 7 meeting, the senate endorsed the recommendations of the Piper Professor Committee. The committee reviewed applications for the Piper Award and the Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award. The senate is pleased to announce the following faculty members were selected for the Swinney Award:



1 - Ting Liu



2 - David Lemke



3 - Rodney Rohde

- Ting Liu, Professor, Health and Human Performance
- David Lemke, Professor, Biology
- Rodney Rohde, Chair - Professor, Clinical Laboratory Sciences

In addition, the committee recommended Dr. Liu as the university's nominee for the Piper Professor Award. The senate appreciates the support the university provides in recognizing and rewarding our high quality faculty.

Full Faculty Senate Meeting

The Faculty Senate Liaisons met virtually with the Faculty Senate on October 21 and discussed two topics: a proposal to add an external observer on Personnel Committees when they make tenure and promotion decisions, and the impact of COVID on teaching in the spring/summer/fall 2020 and opportunities to make adjustments for Spring 2021 and beyond. Information collected regarding the external observer will be used by the senate to inform the creation of a Personnel Committee policy,

which the senate is in the process of drafting, and the COVID-related information was forwarded to the Continuity of Education Pandemic Workgroup to inform their recommendations for Spring 2021 teaching. A summary report of the information collected by the senate on these two topics is available on the [Liaisons' webpage](#).

University Lecturers Series

The University Lecturers Committee reviews requests from colleges, schools, departments and campus organizations for assistance to bring outstanding guest lecturers or mini-symposia speakers to the university during the long semesters (funding is not available for Summer sessions). Limited Student Services Fee funds are awarded based on the committee's review of proposals and recommendations to the senate.

A call for proposals was issued on November 3 to alert faculty and university organizations to the February 1, 2021 proposal due date for lectures to be offered in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022.

More information is available on the committee's [website](#).

Texas State University System Meeting (TSUS) and Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) Meeting

The Texas State Faculty Senate Chair, Janet Bezner, attended two virtual meetings in October. The first was the TSUS Council of Faculty Senates annual meeting with TSUS system administrators. Faculty Senate chairs of all institutions in the Texas State System were invited to this meeting with Dr. John Hayek, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Health Affairs, Ms. Nelly R. Herrera, J.D., Vice Chancellor & General Counsel, and Mr. Sean Cunningham, J.D., Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations. Dr. Hayek asked about faculty experience with remote/online teaching as well as our institutional plans for returning after Thanksgiving and spring break 2021. There are a wide variety of approaches for both of these situations being employed in system institutions. Discussion also occurred about President Trump's recent executive order and the impact on institutions of higher education and the upcoming legislative session starting in January 2021. At the TCFS meeting, which includes leaders from the faculty senates in all public institutions of higher education in the state, the role of faculty in decision-making about COVID was a focus of discussion and the keynote speaker was the President-Elect of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The next meeting of the TCFS is scheduled virtually for February 2021.

First Gen Week



Texas State University is celebrating our first-generation community with numerous [events](#) November 9-13. Faculty are invited to participate and encouraged to visit the [website](#) to identify themselves as a first-gen graduate, receive an *I am First-Gen* door placard, and be featured on the website. This year we are commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Higher Education Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Texas State's campus in 1965. Honoring the legacy of Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States and Texas State alumnus, the series provides opportunities for students to hear directly from the world's leading voices. In collaboration with campus partners, the week's celebration include a first-gen alumni panel, a graduate school and internship preparation workshop, health and wellness activities, faculty/staff development on supporting first-gen students, and a special first-gen recognition day.

We are inviting you to become involved in this special celebration. If you are interested, contact First-Gen Proud (firstgen@txstate.edu) to get started. At Texas State, we are always First-Gen Proud!

National Distance Learning Week

National Distance Learning Week (NDLW), sponsored by the U.S. Distance Learning Association (USDLA), is a week of webinars and information sessions highlighting the best practices within the digital/distance learning community.

NDLW is November 9-13, 2020. Texas State University is proud to partner with peers from the Texas Distance Learning Association (TxDLA), Our Lady of the Lake University, Temple College, the University of Hawaii-Hilo, and Western Governors University to offer webinars for NDLW. All webinars, Monday through Friday, will be hosted online and will be a maximum of an hour in length.

For more information, visit the [Office of Distance Learning](#) website.

62nd Faculty Senate, 2020 - 2021

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

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

Education: College of Education: [Gwynne Ash](#) (through Fall 2020), and [Taylor Acee](#) (beginning Spring 2021), Curriculum and Instruction; [Stacey Bender](#), Health and Human Performance

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

Health Professions: [Janet Bezner](#) (*Chair*), Physical Therapy

Liberal Arts: [Rebecca Bell-Metereau](#), English (beginning Spring 2021); [Peter Dedek](#), History (through Fall 2020); [Jennifer Jensen](#) (*Secretary*), Geography; [Vince Luizzi](#), Philosophy; [Roque Mendez](#), Psychology

Science and Engineering: [Rachel Davenport](#), Biology; [Ben Martin](#), 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.