



Faculty Senate Bulletin

Photo credit: Chandler Prude

April 2020

You are not working from home; you are at your home during a crisis trying to work. - Anonymous



1 - Photo credit: Twister Marquiss

This month:

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Adjusting to Online Learning

The Faculty Senate has heard nothing but praise for the efforts by faculty to pivot our courses quickly to a remote teaching and learning format. Thank you, faculty, for embracing this change in order to continue to teach our students. We have been encouraged to treat ourselves and our students with grace and understanding as we all adjust to teaching and learning in a new way. The Faculty Senate encourages faculty to continue to connect with students to ensure they are managing remote learning and have access to the resources they need. Student requests for technology resources should be made through your Chair/Dean.



Online Certification for Summer Teaching

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning (ODEL), Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC), and Faculty Development are coordinating to assist faculty who are currently engaged in remote teaching and who will need to re-develop courses for online delivery beginning in Summer I. The [Faculty Development website](#) has links to support faculty that are already available in the form of workshops and one-on-one sessions with instructional designers.

In addition to course development options that are currently available, an enhanced faculty professional development program will launch in a few days to support faculty who will teach online courses during the upcoming summer term. One of the key objectives of this professional development program is to enable and empower Texas State faculty, who have a long-standing tradition of teaching excellence and commitment to student success, to be able to extend the same in the distance learning environment. Professional development in online teaching helps align faculty instructional goals with distance learning teaching techniques to improve overall student engagement with learning activities and interaction with faculty. Exploring best practices in online learning also helps minimize false starts in course re-design—making the most of the few weeks available before the start of the first summer term. Over 900 Texas State faculty have already completed similar professional development offerings, and students in their courses routinely report high satisfaction with online learning.

Those scheduled to teach during Summer I and who are not currently approved under university policy ([AA/PPS No. 02.03.20, Maintenance and Improvement of Quality in Teaching](#)) to teach online courses will receive an email message in mid-April from ODEL about upcoming opportunities to engage in the necessary professional development to teach distance learning courses. One professional development option will feature a self-paced, online program offered within the Canvas learning management system where faculty may customize their certification path to meet their specific instructional needs. On-demand modules in this program will allow faculty to break the program into manageable parts that can be individually completed at greater convenience. Pre-testing for prior experience or recent technical training will shorten the total time required for many faculty.

More information about all approved professional development options for preparing to teach online courses may be found at the [Online Teaching Certification](#) website. Contact the Office of Distance and Extended Learning with questions at distanceed@txstate.edu or 512-245-2322.



Affordable Learning Materials

The Faculty Senate has adopted a [Resolution in Support of Affordable Learning Materials](#) that reaffirms the academic freedom of faculty to choose appropriate instructional materials for their students; and supports and encourages Texas State faculty to consider using high quality, low cost or no cost, accessible instructional material alternatives including open educational resources.

The senate appreciates Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman and Mr. Dana Willett and the Managing Textbook Costs Committee for their efforts to ensure faculty and students have affordable learning material options.



Faculty Senate Election



Elections for faculty to serve on the Faculty Senate have been completed. New and re-elected senator biographies are posted on the senate's [Election Information](#) page.

- McCoy College of Business Administration: **Andrew Ojede**, Finance and Economics
- College of Education: **Gwynne Ash** (through Fall 2020), and **Taylor Acee** (beginning Spring 2021), Curriculum and Instruction; and **Stacey Bender**, Health and Human Performance
- College of Fine Arts and Communication: **Dale Blasingame**, Journalism and Mass Communication
- College of Liberal Arts: **Roque Mendez**, Psychology
- College of Science and Engineering: **Benjamin Martin**, Chemistry and Biochemistry (re-elected)

New and returning senators will begin their term at the May 6 senate meeting, at which time officers will be elected. The senate extends appreciation to all the candidates who participated in the election process.

Faculty Salary Data

The annual salary data has been posted on the [Faculty Senate website](#). In order to access the data, you will be required to log in with your Texas State username and password.

Please note that the posted faculty salary data sets are generated by the salary review and merit process and do **not** include all faculty. Faculty who are **not** included in this process are new hires, faculty with negotiated salaries (including new chairs and those stepping down), faculty to be converted to tenure-track, and any faculty member not appointed in an FTE position as of 9/1/18. Per Course salary data are from Spring 2020.

The salary data for Texas State administrators is also posted, as are salary data sets from our CUPA peer institutions and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Green Cat Challenge Awards



The Faculty Senate's Environment and Sustainability Committee Green Cat Challenge Awards had been planned for April 18, 2020, at the [Spring Lake Earth Day Festival](#) at the Meadows Center. However, this event has been postponed to **October**. The committee will send out information when a decision has been made on a revised application process.

The awards recognize university community members, departments, and organizations for exceptional commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship at Texas State University. We hope to encourage communication and adoption of sustainable practices across the university.

Thank you for your participation in this effort to honor and recognize the importance of the environment and best sustainable practices as an important university goal.

Faculty Senate Fellow

The deadline for applications has been extended to **Friday, April 17**.

The position of Faculty Senate Fellow offers a professional development opportunity for faculty members by providing shared governance and leadership experience at Texas State. Working on a special project with the Faculty Senate and attending meetings with the President and others, the Faculty Senate Fellow will become familiar with the routine and special concerns of the Senate and gain insight into the shared governance process at Texas State University. For the 2020-21 academic year, the Fellow's research project should support the Faculty Senate's commitment to **environmental awareness and sustainable practices**. The Senate is interested in ways to promote formal and informal interdepartmental faculty interaction and collaboration.

Applications are due **Friday, April 17**. For complete application information, see the senate's [website](#).



University Lecturers Series

This event has been postponed, and we hope to schedule it in the summer.



The Department of Psychology and Common Experience present Dr. Temple Grandin: *The World Needs All Kinds of Minds*.

Temple Grandin was nonverbal until nearly four years of age. Through the love and support of her family and teachers, she was able to attend school despite being teased and bullied. Inspired by her science teacher, she embarked on a career in science studying animal husbandry, for which she has received much notoriety. At the age of 18, she invented the “squeeze box” as a way of coping with extreme anxiety. Dr. Grandin’s books about her interior life as an autistic person have increased the world’s understanding of the condition with personal immediacy — and with import, as rates of autism diagnoses rise. She is now one of the most visible and leading advocates for individuals with autism.

For more information contact Danielle McEwen, dl1120@txstate.edu

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2 - David Nolan, Nicole Wesley, Stan McClellan, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Rachel Davenport, Janet Bezner, Lynn Ledbetter, Ben Martin, Vince Luizzi, Michael Supancic, Jesse Gainer, Natalie Ceballos, Jennifer Jensen, Diego Vacaflares, Lyn Litchke

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

Business Administration: [Diego Vacaflares](#), Finance and Economics

Education: [Jesse Gainer](#), Curriculum and Instruction; [Lyn Litchke](#), Health and Human Performance

Fine Arts & Communication: [Lynn Ledbetter](#), Music; [Dave Nolan](#), Journalism and Mass Communication (*Secretary*); [Nicole Wesley](#), Theatre and Dance

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

Liberal Arts: [Rebecca Bell-Metereau](#), English; [Natalie Ceballos](#), Psychology (*Vice Chair*); [Jennifer Jensen](#), Geography; [Vince Luizzi](#), Philosophy

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.