



# Faculty Senate Bulletin

## September 2021

Our higher education system is one of the things that makes America exceptional. There's no place else that has the assets we do when it comes to higher education. People from all over the world aspire to come here and study here. And that is a good thing. - Barack Obama



## This month:

- **Faculty Senate Petition to Administration**
- **Academic Freedom Corner**
- **Faculty Perceptions of Academic Administrators**
- **Fall Application Deadlines**
- **Faculty Senate Fellow 2020-21 Report**
- **Faculty Senate Fellow 2021-22**

## Faculty Senate Petition to Administration



On August 11, a letter was sent to President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois requesting more flexibility with the beginning of classes, enforcing the use of Bobcat Trace and quarantining, and asking for more clarity of messaging related to COVID-19. On August 20, the [Faculty Senate Statement on Minimum Health and Safety Procedures for Return to Campus](#) was circulated to all faculty and university librarians resulting in 514 signatures by August 24. The statement was then sent to President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois, and was the subject of comment and discussion at our meeting with them on September 1 at which Dr. Carranco was an invited guest. There are a few things that came about as a direct or indirect result of the senate's advocacy for faculty, including the incentivization of vaccinations and expedited messaging from Bobcat Trace regarding positive cases in classes.

We pledge to continue to advocate for our faculty as we navigate issues and concerns related to COVID-19 on our two campuses.

## Academic Freedom Corner

**Tuesday, September 14, 2:00 pm, Comal 116 and via Zoom**

The Academic Freedom Committee is pleased to co-sponsor a panel discussion on “Academic Freedom and the Pandemic.” Co-sponsors of this event are the Faculty Senate, the Senate's Academic Freedom Committee, and the Philosophy Dialogue Series. Panelists include:

Vince Luizzi (Faculty Ombudsman), Moderator

Elizabeth Bishop (History)

Andrew Ojede (Faculty Senate)

Nathan Pino (Chair, Academic Freedom Committee)

Steve Wilson (Member, Academic Freedom Committee & Member-at-Large, Texas Faculty Association)

Join by zoom:

<https://txstate.zoom.us/j/92583935056?pwd=VWHzRUlad1JBeIBFQ3lvY2Eya1d5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 925 8393 5056

Passcode: 934401

## 2021 Faculty Perceptions of Academic Administrators



The Faculty Senate has completed the annual Faculty Perceptions of Academic Administrators Survey and the [summary document](#) is available on the senate website. The senate appreciates the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research in this effort. The data sets can be accessed using the links in the summary document. As per an agreement with the provost, the written comments will be made available for 90 days. Rather than this period comprising the summer months, the comments will be posted via the link noted in the summary document between September 1 and November 30.

## Fall Application Deadlines



**New deadline!** [Piper Professor Nominee](#): applications are due **September 24**; apply via the [Faculty Requests](#) application system.

[Faculty Development Leave](#): by September 15, notify your department chair or school director if you intend to apply. Applications are due **October 1**. Apply via the [Faculty Requests](#) application system. We also recommend that you contact the [senator\(s\)](#) from your college prior to initiating the application process in order to receive assistance in developing an effective proposal, as well as for an explanation of the review procedure.

[Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release](#): by September 15, notify your department chair or school director if you intend to apply. Applications are due **October 8** via the [Faculty Requests](#) application system. We also recommend that you contact the [Nontenure Line Faculty Committee Member\(s\)](#) from your college prior to initiating the application process in order to receive assistance in developing an effective proposal, as well as for an explanation of the review procedure.

Research Enhancement Program (REP): applications are due **October 13**. To apply, visit the [Texas State Internal Proposal Online Submission](#) page.

## Faculty Senate Fellow, 2020-21



Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade, Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Agriculture was the 2020-21 Faculty Senate Fellow. Preliminary results of her senate fellow project were presented at the September 8 Faculty Senate meeting.

The purpose of this project was to determine awareness of and attitudes toward current and potential campus sustainability initiatives with the intent of using the information to develop a campus sustainability master plan that included priorities for the campus community. Students, faculty and staff volunteered to participate in a survey and were recruited through the use of a campus-wide email requesting their participation. The Qualtrics survey was developed and included statements relating to sustainability initiatives which were gleaned from documents collected from those institutions deemed as peer or aspirational peer institutions to Texas State University. Based on initiatives at the various peer institutions, statements were categorized into the following relating sustainability categories: buildings and infrastructure, waste diversion/minimization, energy, sustainable transport, water use management, grounds, purchasing, academics and sustainable programs/awards. Respondents responded to survey statements using a Likert-type scale ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” or “extremely important” to “extremely unimportant” with the most negative responses scoring the fewest points and the most positive responses scoring the most points.

The data is still being analyzed and further initiatives and outcomes will be recommended later this semester.

## Faculty Senate Fellow, 2021-22

The senate has chosen Sarah Angulo, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology as the 2021-22 Faculty Senate Fellow.

Sarah's fellowship project will focus on campus-wide facilitation of mentorship and career development opportunities for non-tenure line faculty (NLF), a group that tends to be disproportionately composed of underrepresented minorities and women. This project has three parts. First, a pilot program of NLF mentoring and career development will begin in the Psychology Department in fall 2021. Second, key stakeholders across our university will be surveyed to assess their mentoring and career development needs. Third, equipped with these survey results, as well as knowledge gleaned from the fall pilot program and benchmarking data, Sarah will provide workshops in spring 2022. These workshops will be available to the university community in San Marcos and Round Rock. The goal will be to share knowledge gained and best practices for NLF mentoring and career development.



## 63rd Faculty Senate, 2021 - 2022



At the June 16 meeting, officers for the 63rd Faculty Senate were elected in response to the promotion of Janet Bezner to Chair, Department of Physical Therapy. The senate thanks Janet for her years of dedicated service. In addition, Danette Myers was appointed to complete Janet's term as senator for the College of Health Professions.

Lynn Ledbetter, Chair

Jennifer Jensen, Vice Chair

Dale Blasingame and Ben Martin, Co-Secretaries

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.

*photos: Stephanie Schulz Down and Chandler University Marketing*