



Faculty Senate Bulletin

February 2021

There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it; if only we're brave enough to be it. - Amanda Gorman



This month:



- **Committee Preference Survey**
- **Assessment of Chairs/Directors**
- **Academic Freedom Corner**
- **Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group**
- **Encouraging Academic Honesty**
- **Life Anew: Restorative Justice**
- **Quality Enhancement Program (QEP)**

Committee Preference Survey

This month, the Faculty Senate distributed a survey to determine faculty members' preferences for committee service. You should have received an email from the Faculty Senate with a Qualtrics link. We estimate that it will take about ten minutes for faculty to review the committees and indicate three ranked preferences. The survey will close Monday, March 8, 2021. The Faculty Senate encourages all faculty members to participate in shared governance by volunteering for university level committee service.

Assessment of Chairs/Directors

Academic Affairs Policy and Procedure Statement 01.02.11 calls for the job performance of school directors and department chairs at Texas State University to be evaluated annually. Part of the evaluation process is a survey that invites Texas State faculty members to assess their director or chair on a number of standard performance measures. Institutional Research has recently distributed this survey for faculty to provide their perceptions of their director's or chair's performance during calendar year 2020. Please take the time to participate in this important evaluation process, which will close February 16.



Academic Freedom Corner



Thursday, February 11, 2:00 pm, via [Zoom](#) and F2F, Philosophy Dialogue Room (Comal 116)

The Academic Freedom Committee, Faculty Senate, and Philosophy Dialogue present a panel discussion for Academic Freedom Day

Topic: *Where Academic Freedom Ends*

Moderator: Vince Luizzi (Chair, Academic Freedom Committee)

Panelists: Shannon Duffy (History, Faculty Senate Fellow-2019-20), Catherine Hawkins (Social Work), Ivan Marquez (Philosophy), Amanda Soto (Music, Member, Academic Freedom Committee)

[Join the discussion](#)

Or log in to your [Texas State Zoom](#) account

Meeting ID: 971 6702 4179

Passcode: 485169

The Academic Freedom Committee invites faculty to submit any concerns to : [Contact the Academic Freedom Committee.](#)

Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group

The Faculty Senate is represented by Senator Blasingame on the [COVID-19 work group](#) charged with preparing for vaccinations on campus. As stated in Dr. Emilio Carranco's recent email to faculty, staff and students, Texas State has a plan in place for mass vaccinations if the university receives vaccine from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Until that happens, Dr. Carranco has recommended that members of the Texas State community who are eligible for vaccine get vaccinated through a hub or other provider. [Click here](#) to read Dr. Carranco's message.



Encouraging Academic Honesty



Remote teaching brings new complexities to fostering academic integrity that faculty may not encounter in the face-to-face classroom. Senator Davenport shares [two videos](#) on how to reduce academic dishonesty that may be helpful. They were published on IdeaBook and will be incorporated into online training through the Office of Distance and Extended Learning.

Life Anew: Restorative Justice

Life Anew, a consulting service contracted by the university, will conduct restorative justice training this spring 2021 with students, staff, and faculty. This initiative, sponsored by Institutional Inclusive Excellence, provides services to define and implement restorative justice practices within institutions. The program builds skills to foster and restore dialog and advance inclusive practices in a university community.

Texas State's QEP: Bobcat IDEA - Research for Everyone



The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which is part of the SACSCOC-mandated accreditation and reaffirmation process, is designed to enhance the quality of education at its member institutions. For Texas State's current reaffirmation cycle, the QEP's theme concerns undergraduate research. More specifically, the QEP seeks to offer a pathway for undergraduates from any academic discipline to participate in mentored research and creative expression. To help make this possible, the QEP has set three goals: (1) assisting undergraduates in gaining awareness of research and ethical research practices, (2) helping students to synthesize research, and (3) enabling students to produce a research or creative project. The Innovation, Discovery, Exploration, and Analysis (IDEA) Center, which will be part of University College and will be located in Alkek Library, will be responsible for measuring and evaluating the outcomes of the QEP's goals and for creating and offering a sequence of student experiences including an undergraduate research-oriented informational forum, workshops, tutorials, coursework, and culminating in a research/creative expression showcase. The QEP-related informational forum, workshops, and tutorials will begin in spring 2022. More information is available on [the QEP's website](#).

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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](#), 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; [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.