



Faculty Senate Bulletin

December 2020



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The senate wishes all a safe and happy holiday season and semester break. We recognize the unprecedented challenges that faculty, staff, administration, and students experienced this year. Our hope for each member of our community is that you take a break from work/school, recharge, and return in January with a renewed commitment to our collective mission and goals.

This month:

- **Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award**
- **Academic Freedom Corner**
- **Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group**
- **Faculty Development Leave and Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release Recommendations**
- **Encouraging Academic Honesty**
- **Naming Task Force**
- **TXST Monarch Center**
- **TRIO McNair Program**



Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award



As a means to further the University's efforts to recognize outstanding faculty and to acknowledge the many and important contributions of the nontenure line faculty, this policy establishes an awards program for recognizing part-time faculty excellence in teaching and outlines a process for selecting and making these awards. This award is intended to recognize instructors who have not historically been eligible for university teaching awards. One award may be given per academic college annually. Each award will consist of a certificate signed by the college dean and a monetary award of \$1,000. All faculty members teaching 75% or less FTE in both long semesters of the preceding calendar year are eligible for

these awards, exclusive of those faculty members who have received this award in the preceding three years. For policy and application procedures, visit the senate website.

Academic Freedom Corner

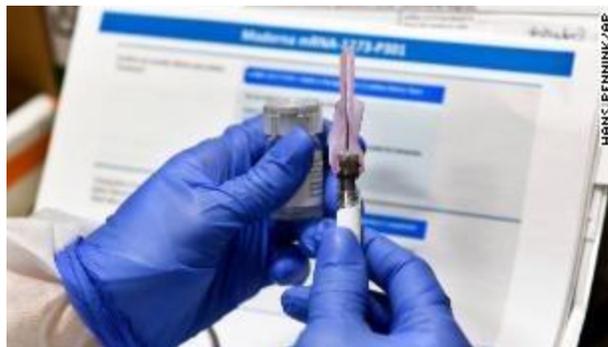


This section is a new feature of the Bulletin that highlights the activities of the [Academic Freedom Committee](#), chaired by Senator Luizzi.

- The Academic Freedom Committee is compiling concerns that faculty have submitted along with its responses. The results will be available soon on the senate's website. The Committee invites faculty to submit additional concerns to include in this summary: [Contact the Academic Freedom Committee](#).
- The Faculty Grievance Policy ([AA PPS 04.02.32](#)) now includes violations of academic freedom as grievable. Further, the standard for evaluation of most grievances is relaxed to one requiring that the grievance be substantiated.
- In collaboration with the senate, the Academic Freedom Committee is drafting a PPS on Academic Freedom.

Mass Vaccination Planning Work Group

The Faculty Senate is represented by Senator Blasingame on the [COVID-19 work group](#) charged with developing a plan for vaccination. Two vaccines are ready to go to the FDA for approval. Dr. Carranco anticipates the FDA will review those vaccines on December 10. As stressed by Dr. Carranco in last month's town hall update, the Texas Department of State Health Services will make the priority decisions for who gets the vaccine. Dr. Carranco believes there is a good chance Texas State University and other universities will be part of the second phase of vaccinations, which could happen in February or March. You may view a recording of the November 23 [Virtual Town Hall](#) for an in-depth discussion about the vaccine.



Faculty Development Leave and Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release Recommendations

The senate recently recommended for approval to the Provost 55 Faculty Development Leave (FDL) applications and 11 applications for Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release (NLFWR) for the 2021-22 academic year. The FDL program is authorized by the Texas Legislature and funded by the Texas State administration, and the NLFWR program was created and is funded by Texas State. The programs have been established to improve the education of students and provide time for faculty to accomplish work not possible during the course of a semester in which faculty are teaching, conducting scholarly/creative activities, and performing service. Thank you to the faculty who submitted applications to these programs this year and we look forward to an announcement from the Provost's office in December.

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 these videos providing tips and best practices for encouraging academic integrity. Online proctoring, ways to identify dishonesty, and what to do if dishonesty is detected are also covered.

[“Their Cheating Hearts: Tips for Maintaining Academic Integrity While Teaching Remotely”](#) [74 min]

Dr. Cristian Lieneck, Chair of University Honor Code Council

[“Academic Dishonesty in the Online Learning Environment”](#) [39 min]

Dr. Rachel Davenport, Vice Chair of University Honor Code Council

[View the Presentation slides](#)

Naming Task Force



In the spirit of inclusiveness and celebration, and recognizing the significant contributions to Texas State University of distinguished individuals from the Hispanic/Latina/o/x and Black communities, a Naming Task Force has been established by President Trauth and co-chaired by Dr. Scott Bowman, Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology and Special Assistant to the Provost for Inclusion and Diversity, and Dr. Gloria Martinez, Professor in the Department of Sociology, Director of the Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, and Director of the Latina/o/x Studies Minor. Senator Mendez represents the Faculty Senate on this task force.

The purpose of the Naming Task Force is to establish an inclusive process through which our university community can engage in the renaming of two residence halls--Angelina and San Gabriel located on the San Marcos Campus--and the naming of two unnamed streets on the Round Rock Campus after distinguished members of the Texas State family who are no longer employed or enrolled at Texas State, and who are from the Black and Hispanic/Latina/o/x communities. [Here you will find information to submit your selection for nomination.](#) Please provide as much information as possible, as it will assist in the formal nomination process. If you have any questions regarding the nomination committee or process, please contact Scott Bowman at scott.bowman@txstate.edu or Gloria Martinez at gm21@txstate.edu.

Thank you for participating in this process and for being open to finding new ways to serve our students, faculty, and staff.

The deadline to submit nominations is December 31, 2020.

TXST Monarch Center



Senator Martin is serving on the Council for Inclusive Excellence and shares that this service is available:

[TXST Monarch Center for Immigrant Students](#) may be able to assist undocumented students impacted by COVID-19 who were unable to access CARES act funds or Stimulus benefits. Students needing this service should be referred to call the following number: (512) 408-2743, Monarch Center Teams number.

TRIO McNair Program

The U.S. Department of Education supports disadvantaged students with [eight TRIO programs](#).

Texas State continues to apply for funding to establish a TRIO McNair Program at Texas State. The McNair Program prepares minority undergraduate students for doctoral studies and depends on faculty participation for activities like mentoring and [joint research](#).

The Faculty Senate supports the initiative to establish a McNair Program at Texas State. Faculty who are interested in serving as a mentors, or have been a mentee in this program, should contact Toni Moreno (tm27@txstate.edu), who is compiling this information to strengthen future applications for funding. Ray Cordero is Senior Director of Texas State's TRIO Programs.

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.