



# Faculty Senate Bulletin

March 2021

*Find purpose. The means will follow. – Mahatma Gandhi*



## This month:



- Tolling of the Tenure Clock
- Committee Preference Survey
- Perceptions of Academic Administrators
- Academic Freedom Corner
- Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award
- Faculty Senate Election
- Green Cat Challenge Award
- Institutional Inclusive Excellence – Student Initiatives Presents
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## Tolling of the Tenure Clock



The Texas State University System Board of Regents recently approved a modification to its Rules and Regulations that allows component institutions to adopt a policy permitting tolling of the tenure clock for one additional year due to extraordinary circumstances such as a global pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization or other widespread state or federal natural disaster. Texas State recommended this change to TSUS and will be modifying its [tenure and promotion policy](#) to include one additional year. There is currently a two-year limitation on the total time that may be excluded from countable service.

## Committee Preference Survey



Remember that 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.

## Perceptions of Academic Administrators

Each spring, the Faculty Senate conducts perception surveys of the college deans. Watch for this year's assessment in your email soon; it will close early in April. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete, so please do not miss your opportunity to participate. Provide your PERCEPTIONS to all the survey statements that you feel able to address. While the surveys are confidential, filling out the instruments does require you to log in. However, every reasonable effort is made to preserve the anonymity of respondents by recording the NetID of respondents in random order in a file separate from survey responses. Authentication allows us to be sure that only the appropriate people are completing the surveys. A written-comment area is provided for those who wish to add narrative comments. The data will be posted on the Faculty Senate's website in May in an authentication-required area. Written comments will be posted for 90 days beginning in September. The senate appreciates the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research in conducting these surveys.

## Academic Freedom Corner



The Academic Freedom Committee is drafting an AA/PPS on Academic Freedom. Members of the committee are developing sections of this outline of the policy. Please direct input and advice for their development to any member of the committee.

### **Academic Freedom AA/PPS No. 00.0.00 DRAFT Outline**

#### 01. What Academic Freedom Is

01.01 The professional standard of academic freedom is defined by the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*

#### 01.02 Relevant Policies

#### 02. Distinguished from First Amendment Freedom

#### 02.02 Academic Freedom vs. Free Speech: What's the Difference?

#### 03.00 Academic Freedom Violations Are Grievable / Process

03.01 AA/PPS 04.04.32, Faculty Grievances, includes violations of academic freedom among the conditions of work that can be grieved. It identifies informal and formal avenues for addressing these grievances.

#### 04. Violations of Academic Freedom

#### 04.01 How Academic Freedom Disputes Typically Arise

#### 04.02 Violations by Faculty / Abuses of Academic Freedom

#### 04.03 Violations by University Administrators Directed at Faculty

#### 04.04 Violations by Government Directed at University

#### 05. Academic Freedom in Teaching

#### 06. Where to Turn for Help

#### 07. Protective Measures

#### 08. FAQs

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

## [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](#). The deadline to submit

applications for the 2020 calendar year to the Faculty Senate is Monday, March 22. Awardees will be notified by their dean in April.

## Faculty Senate Election



Elections for faculty to serve on the Faculty Senate are underway. Balloting for the nomination round in the colleges of Applied Arts, Fine Arts and Communication, Liberal Arts and Science and Engineering will close March 9. Final candidate biographies will be posted on the senate's [Election Information](#) page for the runoff election which will be held March 22 - 29. New senators will begin their term at the May 5 senate meeting. Vote via the [Elections](#) application.

## Green Cat Challenge Awards



The Faculty Senate's Environment and Sustainability Committee announces the Green Cat Challenge Awards to 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.

Awards will go to an individual student or student organization, and an individual staff/faculty member or office. On April 20, 2021 recipients will be presented with an earth-friendly certificate and a gift to honor their commitment to environmental and sustainable practices at the university.

To apply, complete the [Green Cat Challenge Application Form](#) online.

For more information about the application process, please email [faculty senate@txstate.edu](mailto:faculty senate@txstate.edu) or Rebecca Bell-Metereau, [rb12@txstate.edu](mailto:rb12@txstate.edu), or by text at 512.665.2157.





brainstorming meetings to provide input about resources and support that would help and/or encourage their participation as McNair mentors.

This month, meetings will be on March 10 and March 24. For more information and a link to the Zoom meetings, contact Dana Fitzpatrick, [daf88@txstate.edu](mailto:daf88@txstate.edu).

## 62nd Faculty Senate, 2020 - 2021



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.