

Report

Faculty Senate President

Cynthia Paccacerqua - February 13th 2024

UT System Faculty Advisory Council

Meeting January 25-26, 2024

- Four Committees:
 - Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality (Paccacerqua)
 - Last semester: Statement on the difference between “unprofessionalism” “non-collegial” and disagreement in the service of faculty and faculty shared governance.
 - This past meeting:
 - Working on recommendations for items to be addressed in “Training for Chairs.” Feedback from the FS is very welcome as I represent you on the committee.
 - The role of micro-credentialing and other student skilling initiatives systemwide

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- Four Committees:
 - Governance (Gabler)
 - Research:
 - Travel costs
 - Opening access to research resources in our libraries across UT System
 - Public Outreach
 - Health Affairs

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- General Council
 - Voted a request that UT FAC representatives sit on UT System working groups developing different initiatives. We expect this request be granted. E.g. of groups,
 - HSI
 - Faculty Burnout
 - Civic Education
 - Micro-credentialing

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- General Council
 - Voted a request that UT System's Philosophy of Shared Faculty governance be affirmed and shared with UT System University leaders.
 - Also did a lot of work to identify what FAC needs to do to improve efficiency, accountability, and with this its advisory role at system level. As many of you know, I have been consistently asking for change in all of these areas, so a happy development.
 - Dr. Kelvin Bentley, Program Manager-Texas Credentials for the Future gave a presentation and announced Micro-credential Professional Development Opportunities. He promised us a copy of his presentation with links to introductory resources. We will share this as soon as we get a copy. I also expect the FS will need to develop a strategy for faculty shared governance on this curricular development at UTRGV.

UTRGV Level

Conversations

- Resumed biweekly meetings with Provost Zayas and Dr. Saavedra
- I had a separate meeting with Dr. Saavedra to discuss faculty suggested changes that will hopefully improve our work experience. This based on past and present feedback. As I mentioned, please don't hesitate to send ideas my way or via your FSEC representative.
- We had a difficult time filling last-minute vacancies in our university T&P committee. I think we are almost done! I want to convey my sincerest thanks to those faculty who stepped up to serve - please convey this to your department faculty as well.
- FS Committee on Educational Policy had a great first meeting and we will be hearing from them soon.

UTRGV Level

Conversations

- Students graduating soon with a degree in Human Dimensions of Organization are working with me to develop a set of recommendations for our Faculty Senate on how to reach out to different communities regarding the significance of faculty's work to them.