

2016 New Faculty Symposium
9:30 a.m. – Resources to Support Faculty

Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

One of the important ways faculty work together with the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the Dean of Students is through your role in the Student Conduct and discipline process. As faculty, you have a responsibility to your students to present expectations clearly in the syllabus and to follow university policy regarding both academic and non-academic violations of the Institutional Rules.

Our staff also work with students in distress. As you will regularly see students in class, you may be the first person to identify a student in distress. Our teams in Student Emergency Services, Legal Services for Students, University Health Services, Counseling and Mental Health Center and Title IX Training and Investigations can all help and serve as resources during your career here at UT Austin.

You are not alone. The Division of Student Affairs includes Housing and Food Service, Recreational Sports, Texas Parents, University Unions, New Student Services, University Health Services and the Counseling and Mental Health Center, along with the Office of the Dean of Students. The Office of the Dean of Students includes the Leadership and Ethics Institute, Legislative Student Organizations, Legal Services for Students, The Dean of Students Research Institute, Student Activities, Student Veteran Services, Sorority and Fraternity Life, Student Emergency Services, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and Title IX Training and Investigations. Our staff are dedicated professionals focused on the growth and success of all students on the Forty Acres. We can help your students succeed. Partner with us for projects, research and more.

Janet Dukerich, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Our goal is to enable faculty to become famous! We want the best scholars, teachers, and contributors to academia and society. And the vast majority of our faculty are successful, as demonstrated through their promotions.

President Fenves has emphasized innovation and one way that can be achieved is through interdisciplinary work. We encourage faculty to seek these opportunities through their research and their teaching. We especially encourage faculty to seek mentors both within and outside of their colleges to aid in this process.

Our campus is committed to gender equity and diversity. Through faculty committees and working with deans and department chairs, we strive to foster an inclusive and welcoming climate on the Forty Acres.

Gary Susswein, Chief Communications Officer

At UT Austin, we strive to help our faculty and programs earn statewide, national and global recognition and to be seen as thought leaders in their disciplines. These efforts can enhance the professors' and university's reputations and, in turn, help with recruiting, fundraising and outreach,

Faculty are supported by a network of communications professionals to assist with media relations support, op-ed placement, and social media and website consultation. Some are located in your colleges and schools — they should be your first point of contact for communications and outreach — and others work centrally in the Office of University Communications.

Our communicators can amplify your work through our news and social media channels, train you in speaking with the media, help place you as a topic expert in news stories and edit and pitch your Op-Ed pieces. Being able to connect with public audiences, through these channels is an important way to share the value of your research and scholarship. UT collaborates with two different national programs for Op-Eds and column writing (The Conversation and the Op-Ed Project) and has one of its own to help faculty in this area, called Texas Perspectives.

Hillary Hart, Director of the Faculty Innovation Center (FIC)

The Faculty Innovation Center (FIC) is a central hub for information and resources on evidenced-based practices in teaching and learning, available to the whole campus.

Currently, the FIC is working with interested departments to redesign their curricula to include more experiential learning and research opportunities for students. We also develop and run instructor training programs, events, and communities.

We are here to partner with you to design courses, resources, and teaching methods. I invite you to visit our physical space, where faculty can come together to learn, innovate and inspire each other.

Dan Jaffe, Vice President for Research

Interdisciplinary research and tenure: You've been hired by a department or school. They have a culture and a set of expectations. You may see your work and interests, however, as bridging across several disciplines. How do you earn the recognition for the true value of your contribution? How do you get the resources you need to reach your goals? There are no easy answers to these questions but the VPR, as unofficial "steward of the interdisciplinary", is the right person to talk to.

Getting started on something big: Increasingly, federal support for research goes to large teams of investigators, often at multiple institutions, rather than to individuals. Success in this arena requires communication, organization and social skills as well as scholarly ability. Diversity of viewpoints can be a strength for teams for many competitions, so new faculty in the arts and humanities should be looking for ways to get involved in and contribute to these large initiatives. (also with Asst. VPR, Dr. Jennifer Lyon Gardner)

Innovation and commercialization: The other way to transfer knowledge. "Publication is the way we communicate with our peers. Outreach and performance is the way we communicate with the public." That's the way most of us think about our scholarly communication. There is another way, however, for us to get the results of our research out into the world where they can serve society and promote the value of a research university. That is through patenting and licensing the unique ideas we produce. Innovation occurs in all fields. We will discuss with you how to "publish" through licensing and how to have your contributions recognized as part of your research portfolio. (also with Assoc. VPR and Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization, Dan Sharp, JD)

Chris Brownson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of the Counseling and Mental Health Center

In a recent survey, UT students reported that stress (31%), anxiety (21%), and depression (13%) negatively impacted their academic performance. Over a third of withdrawals from UT are due to reasons related to health/mental health. Supporting students' physical and emotional health can have a significant impact on their academic success.

Although there are many resources on campus available for supporting students' health and wellness, there are things you can do to help too. Mentioning the resources that are available either verbally or on your syllabus indicates to your students that you think wellness and help-seeking are important, and this helps reduce stigma. Asking your new students how they are adjusting to campus life or your more seasoned students how they are doing with other important academic and life transitions indicates that you care about them, and helps establish a culture of caring on our campus. And if you suspect that one of your students is struggling, please take the extra step to approach them, check in with them, and refer them to the resources available on our campus that could be helpful.

If you recognize a substance issue, depression, anxiety, suicidality or any other mental health issue in your own life or the life of your students, colleagues, or family, there are resources available to help. University Health Services (healthyhorns.utexas.edu) and the Counseling and Mental Health Center (cmhc.utexas.edu) have robust resources available to help support students' health and mental health issues. Student Emergency Services helps students and their families during difficult or emergency situations. Assistance includes outreach, advocacy, intervention, support, and referrals to relevant campus and community resources. You can contact them at 512-471-5017. The Center for Students in Recovery (recovery.utexas.edu) is a great resource for students who are looking to be abstinent from alcohol and drugs. The Employee Assistance Program (hr.utexas.edu/eap) can help you with any personal concerns or mental health issues that you are having. And, if you have any concerns about a student, faculty, or staff member, or need advice about how to approach someone you are concerned about, you can call the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (operations.utexas.edu/units/csas/bcal.php) at 512-232-5050. Lastly, if you or a family member need health or mental health services, your BCBS insurance (bcbstx.com/ut) is an excellent resource too.