

Employee Advisory Council

The University of Texas System

2017-2018 Officers

Paige Buechley,
UT System Administration
Chair

Jeannie Farahnak,
UT Austin
Vice-Chair

Shannon Rios,
UT San Antonio
Secretary

Michael Aldape
UT Rio Grande Valley
Historian

Jim Smiley,
UTHSCH
Past Chair

Executive Sponsor:
Susan Franzen,
Asst. Vice-Chancellor

Administrative Support:
Brenda Pearson

UTS EAC Website:

www.utsystem.edu/sites/employee-advisorycouncil



One System, One Voice

Meeting Summary for March 27-28, 2018 at UT Arlington

Meeting Events

- President Vistasp Karbhari showcased UT Arlington (UTA) and shared his strategic vision for the campus. The UTA Staff Advisory Council president shared information about their events and initiatives. We were informed about the UTA Women's Faculty and Staff network, Best for Vets, the program that support veterans and "A Community that Cares" initiative that provides mental health services for students at UTA. We also toured the College Park Center athletics facility.

Accomplishments

- **ROEA Committee:** Thirty staff members will receive awards and will be notified by a letter from the Chairman Tucker and the Chancellor. EAC members should reach out to the president or committee that reviewed nomination to discuss the best way to notify staff that were nominated but not selected. It is preferred that the notice to all nominees come from the president. Once recipients have been notified, the committee will contact them to request information including a photo and short biography. The committee will be sending a formal invitation with an RSVP card that includes a guest. Although they can bring a guest to the event, we cannot pay for guest travel expenses.
- **Benefits, Retirement and Compensation Committee:** The committee is researching the status of tuition assistance programs across UT System and may come forward with a proposal to help fund tuition reimbursement for staff.
- **Wellness and Morale Committee:** The committee has sent a survey to find out what campuses have policies on flex time and how staff are utilizing this benefit. After researching the benefits of flex time, they may develop guiding principles for campuses. They have requested information on whether campus use staff engagement surveys and in what capacity. The committee also will work to help publicize the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and the services offered.
- **Communications Committee:** The committee created a social media presence on Twitter and Facebook and will use twitter to tweet about the ROEA award recipients after formally announced. The group will also create a more user-friendly email list using Office 365 and streamline the website. The committee will replace the newsletter with information on the website.

Updates from UT System

- **EAC Update:** Susan Franzen provided a list of initiatives previously proposed by the EAC and encouraged the group think outside the established procedure.

On the Horizon

- Regents Outstanding Employee Award recipients will receive notice of the award in early April. Recipients will also be announced at the May Board of Regents Meeting. The award ceremony will take place on May 14, 2018 in Austin.
- Next meeting: June 21-22, 2018 at UT Tyler