

# Advisory Council

## The University of Texas System

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### 2016-2017 Officers

James Smiley,  
UT HSC Houston  
Chair

Edward Gonzales,  
UT Arlington  
Vice-Chair

Shannon Rios,  
UT San Antonio  
Secretary

Karla Iscapa,  
UT El Paso  
Historian

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Executive Sponsor:  
Dan Stewart,  
Assoc. Vice-Chancellor  
Administrative Support:  
Sarah Pekar

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UTS EAC Website:  
[www.utsystem.edu/site/s/employee-advisorycouncil](http://www.utsystem.edu/site/s/employee-advisorycouncil)

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# Session Summary for January 12-13

Prepared by the EAC Communications Committee: *One System, One Voice*

## Meeting Actions

- **Recognition Committee:** The Board of Regents approved the EAC's proposal for the *Regents' Outstanding Employee Award*. The committee is now developing a proposal for Regents' Outstanding Employee Award for Dr. David Daniel, Deputy Chancellor, that will flesh out the working and operational details of the award. The committee is working hard to maintain the momentum of this project.
- **Benefits, Compensation & Salaries Committee:** Developing a retirement FAQ and decision tree for employees, and a video about the retirement process. The committee will reach out to staff at UT system Administration that are working on salary and compensation issues to seek help in developing these resources.
- **Employee Satisfaction Committee:** Working on a recommendation for UTS to conduct a system-wide survey to gauge employee satisfaction, and use the results to improve employee satisfaction across institutions.
- **Communications Committee:** Proposed quarterly EAC newsletter to be distributed to all staff; considering a year-end report that would highlight staff council successes; created email lists to improve inter-council communication; brainstorming ideas to promote UT System Founder's Day across the member institutions.

## Updates from UT System

- **The Texas Legislature:** The legislature is in session from January 10 to May 29. The last day for new bills is March 17. Some bills of interest are SB56 related to information security plans, SB79 related to open record requests, and SB115 internet broadcasts and archives of open public meetings. The revenue estimates for the next biennium is lower than previously expected; the legislature may consider a different budgeting model for state agencies.
- **Resources for Benefits Questions:** Faye Godwin, representing the Office of Employee Benefits, provided an update on benefits and wellness programs. If you have a question about benefits, retirement or wellness, you can contact the UT System Office of Employee Benefits at 512-499-4616.
- **TRS.TV:** Teacher Retirement System website now features educational videos! Google search "TRS.TV."
- **Faculty Advisory Committee:** Catherine Ross, FAC Chair, gave an overview of the Faculty Advisory Committee and expressed interest in partnering with EAC on issues that affect the quality of life for all UT employees, Staff and Faculty.

## On the Horizon

- **Happy Trails/Howdy, Partner:** Dan Stewart announced his retirement, and we warmly wish him the best of luck. Our new executive sponsor will be Susan Franzen, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness.
- **June EAC Meeting:** The next meeting is June 22-23, 2017 in Austin. This will be the last in-person meeting of the 2016/2017 EAC.