



Services for Students with Disabilities 2020-2021 Faculty Advisory Committee

Name of Committee: SSD Faculty Advisory Committee

Purpose: The SSD Faculty Advisory Committee provides a way for SSD to receive direct input from UT instructors in order to: 1) understand questions and concerns from instructors about providing accommodations and 2) engage instructors in improving the accommodation process at UT, 3) provide professional development and best practices for creating accessible learning environments and accommodating students with disabilities.

Description of Advisory Committee: The committee will be facilitated by SSD Staff. The SSD staff facilitators and the committee members will set the agenda, with input from other SSD staff members. Examples of potential agenda items could include discussion about how instructors and students engage in the process of implementing accommodations, challenges/opportunities in providing approved accommodations to students, coordinating testing accommodations, communication between SSD and instructors, SSD programs and services, and/or publicity and stigma reduction. Meetings will occur on the 3rd Monday of the month at 9:00 am for 1 hour during the 2020-2021 academic year. Depending on future university operations, meetings may occur via Zoom. However, if meetings occur in person, members may have the option to participate remotely.

Committee Composition: Committee members will consist of instructors who represent a wide range of colleges and schools and types of appointments in order to provide a diverse range of experiences and perspectives. Membership will include tenured faculty, adjuncts, lecturers and Teaching Assistants/Assistant Instructors. Representatives from Faculty Council and the Faculty Innovation Center will hold appointed positions on the committee.

Membership Responsibilities: The duration of the advisory committee term is one academic year. Members will serve from the beginning of the fall semester through the end of the following spring semester. Expectations for members include 1) commitment to making a positive contribution to the awareness and experience of UT students with disabilities, 2) willingness to provide input and feedback in a constructive and collaborative manner and 3) availability to attend monthly committee meetings.

Getting Involved: Instructors who are interested in applying to be part of the 2020-2021 SSD Faculty Advisory Committee should submit a brief statement of interest. The statement of interest should include years of experience teaching at a university level and at UT, any experience accommodating students with disabilities or personal connections with the disability community and/or any experiences with engaging diversity within UT campus. Statements of interest, as well as questions related to the committee, can be sent to SSD Assistant Director Emily Shryock (emily.s@austin.utexas.edu).