



Texas
Association
of
College Teachers

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*THE
Association for
Texas University
Professionals*

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Professors Elected to Statewide College Educators Board

Austin, TX– The members of the Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT) have elected new officers for 2011-2012. These officers will be the leading minds behind an organization that has advocated for the rights of college teachers in Texas since its inception more than sixty years ago.

In June, Dr. Peter Hugill of Texas A&M University - College Station succeeded Dr. Gary Coulton of Texas A&M University - San Antonio as President. Under Dr. Coulton's leadership, the association saw a surge in advocacy at the Capitol, and established the online Legislative Tracker to keep members better informed of the issues at stake.

President Hugill is focused on what lies ahead for higher education, following budget cuts during the recent Legislative Session. "This year, it was brutal," says Hugill. "There are many college teachers who are out of work, and times are extremely tough. Our goal this year is to be a helping hand to new professors, and a pillar of support to our long-established members who rely on us for advice and career protection."

Dr. Frank Fair of Sam Houston State University was elected as the association's Vice President of Financial Affairs. Vice President of Membership is Dr. Mark Gaus, also of Sam Houston State University. Members at Large this year are Dr. Allen Martin of the University of Texas at Tyler, Dr. Debra Price of Sam Houston State University, and Dr. Elizabeth Lewandowski of Midwestern State University. Vice President of Legislative Affairs is Dr. Cindy Simpson, of Sam Houston State University.

"It's not all doom and gloom. We saw a handful of big successes during this Legislative Session," said TACT Executive Director Chuck Hempstead. "Our volunteer board is integral to our success at the Capitol, and their support helped to improve legislation that would have made life very different for college teachers across the state. I'm pleased with what we were able to accomplish this year, and I look with optimism toward the future of our association and its contributions to the quality of life of faculty."

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About The Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT)

Since 1948, TACT has been at the forefront of the fight for teacher salaries and retirement benefits, academic freedom in the classroom, and tenure protection. Credit for the success of the association goes to the thousands of academic leaders who spent their time, talents, energy and emotion to guide TACT through its six decades of service to the profession.