



Texas Higher Education Summit

Hosted by Texas Faculty Association and AAUP/AFT
Saturday, September 14, 2024 / 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



LOCATION: Eleganté Hotel - 2355 I-10 South - Beaumont, TX 77705

Join us! The Texas Higher Education Summit will help faculty understand their rights, navigate the new higher ed landscape, and advocate at the next Texas Legislature. Topics include shared governance, academic freedom, faculty rights, free speech, legislative advocacy, faculty senates, and more.

Speakers from all over the state and beyond are gathering to present this unique opportunity for faculty. Among the speakers:

- **Dr. David Albert** is the Texas AAUP-AFT Vice President for Central Texas and the Austin Community College AFT Local President. He is also a Professor of Government at ACC.
- **Joshua T. Bleisch**, an attorney with the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), will discuss Academic Freedom in the Courts.
- **Dr. Brian L. Evans** is the Texas AAUP-AFT President. He is also the Engineering Foundation Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, and served as the UT Austin Faculty Senate President 2019-20. He is also a member of TFA.
- **Frank Hill**, a higher ed employment attorney currently representing about 20 Texas faculty, will answer legal questions from attendees.
- **Dr. Sandra Jordan**, Chief of Staff, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Committee on Colleges which accredits public and private colleges and universities in Texas and beyond, will participate on the academic freedom and shared governance panels.
- **Dr. Teresa Klein** is the Texas AAUP-AFT Vice President and the Del Mar College AAUP Chapter President. She is also a tenured Professor of Psychology and former Faculty Senate President at Del Mar College. She is also a TFA member.
- **Dr. Donny Leo** has many years of experience actively advocating for academic freedom, shared governance, tenure, and faculty rights at community colleges and universities. She is a member of TFA.
- **Professor David Rabban**, the Dahr Jamail, Randall Hage Jamail, and Robert Lee Jamail Regents Chair in Law, Distinguished Teaching Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, will talk about his new book Academic Freedom: From Professional Norm to First Amendment Right. Prof. Rabban also served as Counsel, General Counsel, and Academic Freedom Committee Chair of the National AAUP.
- **Tony Villanueva** is the Texas AAUP-AFT Vice President for South Texas. He is also a tenured Professor of Psychology at Palo Alto College in San Antonio where he served as Faculty Senate President 2019-2021. He is the convener of a new AAUP-AFT chapter for Alamo Colleges, which includes Palo Alto College and four other community colleges, and he is a TFA member.

All faculty are welcome, and lunch will be provided.
There is no fee to attend this in-person conference, but registration is required to allow us to plan seating, lunch, and materials.

TO REGISTER: <https://tsta.wufoo.com/forms/2024-texas-higher-education-summit/>

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
- 9:30 a.m. Shared Governance panel: Brian Evans, Donny Leo, Tony Villanueva, and Sandra Jordan
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Academic Freedom panel: Teresa Klein, Donny Leo, and Sandra Jordan
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch / Professor David Rabban to speak about his new book
- 1:30 p.m. Faculty Rights questions for Frank Hill
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. Discuss Academic Freedom in the Courts: Joshua Bleisch, FIRE attorney
- 4:45 p.m. Discuss Texas Legislative Session: Beaman Floyd, David Albert, and Brian Evans
- 5:45 p.m. Wrap up

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Eleganté Hotel with the special Summit rate of \$89 per night. Please make your reservations by September 2, 2024, to receive the special nightly rate. Call 409-842-3600.

Questions? Please contact Pat Heintzelman at tfa.president@texasfacultyassociation.org or call 409-454-3701