

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday February 16, 2023

12:35-1:45 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/IZzKRxqUjZTNCIJJtb5UAJDYzT1_ABxcYvVSQZS1SlmDkt5zr3xqsAlwrJ5fffbY.d

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Passcode: 9+K!jbu

Attendees:

Senators: (* indicates present)

At Large	Staci Zolkoski*	Yonjoo Cho*	Michael Morris*
CAS	Matthew Stith	Joseph Vandehey*	Sarah Roberts
Soules COB	Barbara Ross Woolridge*	Rochell McWhorter*	Vivek Pandey*
CEP	Christopher Thomas*	Lauren Kirby*	Forrest Kaiser*
COE	Premanda Indic	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas	Chung Goh
SON	Colleen Marzilli*	Julie George*	Dixie Rose*
COP	Santosh Aryal*	Justin (Cole) Wilder	Ayman Hamouda*
Library	Vandy Dubre*	Lori Fregoso*	Michael Skinner*
SHP		Kimberly Elliott*	Jessica Escareno and Anjali Parti
SOM		Buka Samten and Jessica Bracks*	James Menard
	Amentahru Wahlrab- President Elect*	Rick Helpers-Past President*	Harrison Ndetan- President*

Zoom: Lorri Allen, Cynthia Ball, Pam Beall, Hannah Buchanan, Vanessa Cassanova, Devon Churchill, Rosemary Cooper, Tammy Cowert, Wendy Duncan, Mary Fischer, Kathy Gohmert, Beverly Golden, Ramona Grad, Yasmine Gunipar, Rachel Harrington, Lynn Harris, Mitzi Harris, Donald Henry, Christopher Holmquist, Brista Hurst Kent, Lisa Jett, Lauri John, Mike Kennedy, Morgan Kopycinski, Jaema Krier, Anna Kurdowska, H Lawrence, Roger Lirely, Kim Livingston-Cobb, Mary Logan, Peggy Mahfood, Amanda Midgett, Sonja Morale, Gina Nickels-Nelson, Dalia Nessim, Cheryl Parker, Nicole Phifer, Megan Pazos, Andrew Pettee, Julie Philley, Yvonne Ralph, Joey Saxon, David Scott, Elizabeth Sills, Kathleen Snella, Kim Stapp, Joel Staves, Cindy Strawn, Ona Tolliver, Michael Vick, Lou Ann Viergever, Kevin White, J Wyman

In Person: Joshua Banta, Glenn Barnes, Lou Ann Berman, Gracy Buentello, Rana Dhuwaraha, Scott Dillingham, Stephanie Fenter, Shashi Kant, P. Kumar, Kouider Mokhtari, Dwain Morris, Jeff Noblitt, Sarah Norrell, Angela Nunez, Cindy Scott, Mena Souliman, Paul Streufert, Erin West, Amanda Whitt, Cara Wreyford

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AGENDA

12:35 Welcome and Call to Order/Invocation – Dr. Harrison Ndetan, Faculty Senate President

12:37 Approval of January minutes – Dr. Julie George, Faculty Senate Secretary

12:38 President Update – Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- In process of presenting Presidential Scholarships to area students (\$40K 4-year scholarship)
- Working on updating website: surveys are coming and faculty one was sent already; working with consultant on full website redesign
- Legislature Updates:
 - Have been before the Senate Finances committee and will be with the House Appropriations committee soon to discuss the upcoming budget; then the dual committee from both houses will meet and determine final budget to send back to the House and Senate for approval before going to the Governor
 - Resources are better coming out of COVID
 - Asking for a major investment in higher education
 - Social issues (i.e. critical race theory, diversity, equity, inclusion) are being discussed in legislative sessions; will update on new bills as needed
- Question: What about tuition increase? -We'll wait and see what the budget ends up looking like; if we get the funding, tuition won't increase, but if not we may need to go to the Board of Regents in their August meeting to discuss
- Question: Is there a plan for the 4th floor of the Soules COB? -nothing currently; right now the building focus on campus is the SON building and the new science building, and plans for it are moving along

12:54 EVP Health Affairs Update: Dr. Julie Philley

- SOM ground breaking was in January with an expected completion date in 2025
- Have reviewed over 2000 applications for the first medical school cohort of 40 students; 30+ offers have been made but will know the full cohort after March 1
- Currently have 150 residents but working to open more fellowships for med students
- UT Health hospital and clinics were able to meet budget, which is a difficult thing to do right now
- New deans for COP and SHP starting in March
- Final rendition for SON building is going before the Board of Regents next week
- New nursing programs are in the works
- Question: Do we have the space for med students since the building won't be complete until 2025? -Yes, they will be housed at the North campus for now and renovations are being done to accommodate.

12:59 Research/Scholarship and Graduate School Update: Drs. Steve Idell and Kouider Mokhtari

- Research must be impactful, goal is not just to get more funding

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- Need mentors to guide new faculty in their research and each college/department should have dedicated conversations about how to achieve this
- UG research experiences are low but we are looking at ways to improve that
- RCR-responsible research training should be done by all faculty and any students who will be assisting
- Internal grant applications due 2/23
- Faculty development leave application email sent out today and due in March

1:07 2023 Academic Administrators Evaluation Protocol: Dr. Lou Ann Berman

- Clarification of Administration Evaluation:
 - Evaluation of Interim Appointees: evaluate after at least 1 full semester of service and currently serving in role at time of eval
 - Department Chair evaluation reports for chairs with fewer than 5 full-time faculty: only aggregate scores will be provided to the individual (comments to the Dean, Provost, and HR) to ensure protection of anonymity
- Survey dates: 3/30-4/13
- Contact Lou Ann for specific protocol questions

1:12 End of Course Evaluations-Pilot Study: Drs. Josh Banta and Chris Thomas

- Integrated to single set of questions for both campuses
- Task force included faculty, staff, and students
- Goal: concise, unbiased survey
- New survey developed with 4 questions
- Fall pilot:
 - Legacy questions and new questions were combined
 - New questions were not used for evaluation purposes; data only
 - Extended survey window through finals week
- Analysis:
 - Both legacy and new questions were determined to be internally consistent and could measure overall teaching effectiveness
 - Extending the end date found no overall meaningful difference in scores; compared those who completed before finals and those done in finals week
 - New questions had slightly lower scores than the legacy items, but the effect was small
 - No bias indicated and no major change or differences found between legacy and new questions
 - Propose to keep legacy questions to be able to compare to past evaluations

1:44 Email Migration Update: Rama Dhuwaraha

- Migration to be done 3/11 for faculty, staff, and students
- Chose the Saturday spring break begins because of interruption to certain access (office 365)
- Migration should take ~48 hours
- Multiple emails with instructions on expectations are coming

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1:51 Veteran Affairs Update: Coby Dillard

- UTT is designated a military friendly school again for the 23-24 school year, but this time with a silver designation
- Puts UTT in the top 25% of R2 schools; celebration to come

1:53 Senate Updates: Dr. Harrison Ndetan

- Shared governance survey sent out: thanks for participating
- FAC meeting in Austin:
- Chancellor Milliken talked about public view of higher education. How can we change that?
- Budget conversations
- Discussed tenure ideas re: promotion
- Academic Affairs: priorities include ACUE course to improve teaching
- Student Advisory Council priorities include microcredentials and student success
- Discussed faculty mental health initiative
- Resolution on free speech:
 - <https://www.utsystem.edu/free-speech>

2:01 Adjourn