**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, July 19, 2018**

**Braithewaite 10250**

**Call to order: 12:01 PM**

**Adjourned: 1:36 PM**

**Members Present:** Mary Fischer, Lance Williams, Gus Gordon, Kim Nimon, Kerri Camp, Sarah Sass, Colin Snider, Michael Veronin, Wycliffe Njororai, Gloria Duke, Sarah Norrell, Gary Miller, Cathy Ross, Mena Souliman (Zoom)

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** Nan McClurg, Meg Morgan, Kim Harvey-Livingston, Natalia Menkina Snider, Jessica Sibbing, Martin Slann, Rick Helfers, Amir Mirmiran, Javier Kypuros, Rachel Head, Danita Alfred, Jeni Chilton, Mark Miller, Kathleen Helgesen, Merrie Wright, Belinda Deal, Cindy Strawn, Kathy Gohmert, Sally Bouis, Rosemary Cooper, Hannah Thompson, Dan Onderik, Michael Cichowicz, Alma Ravenell, Brent Bill, Ali Azghani, Muthukrishnan Satyamoorthy, Jeff Emge, Gracy Buentello, Kim Laird, Tai Wang, Sooah Park, Daoming Chen, Rahmat Talukder, Jimi Francis, Colleen Swain, Mohammed Ali

**Zoom Participants:** Kerrie Anne Clark, Ashley Bill, Barbara Haas, Julie Delello, Amanda Beard, Margo Duncan, Christopher Hall, Lauralee Meyer, Lorri Allen, Pam Hudgins, Katherine Strout

**Invited Speakers:** Dr. Michael Tidwell; Dr. Amir Mirmiran; Dr. Rosemary Cooper; Nandini McClurg; Dr. Colleen Swain; Dr. Gus Gordon; Dr. Gloria Duke

**12:01 – Call to Order – Kouider Mokhtari**

Faculty Senate President Dr. Kouider Mokhtari called the meeting to order.

**12:03 – Minutes Approval – Colin Snider**

Faculty Senate unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the June 2018 meeting. Additionally, Facutly Senate Secretary Colin Snider spoke briefly about the progress of the UT-Tyler History project currently underway with support from the office of the President and of the Provost.

**12:05 – Provost Update**

Provost Mirimran began by expressing his gratitude toward Dr. Mokhtari and to the Faculty Senate for all it has done in the past year under Dr. Mokhtari’s leadership

Searches

The Office of International Programs Executive Director position has posted. Candidate screenings and interviews will occur in the Fall 2018 semester under the leadership of search committee chair Dean Wang of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The search committee for a new Dean for the Soules College of Business will also soon meet to launch a search in the Fall 2018, under the leadership of committee chairperson VP Lucas Roebuck. Finally, the search for a new Executive Director of the Library will begin soon under the leadership of Dr. William Geiger in order to be able to replace current director Jeanne Standley, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Proposals

A handful of departments have submitted proposals to write open-source textbooks for survey courses across the coming academic year. There will be an additional round next year so that those interested can apply with potential support from coordinating board in creating textbooks for students.

Faculty-led travel

OIP, the Vice-Provost, and Student Affairs are working on consolidating more meaningful overseas and faculty-led travel for students and ensuring correlation between the travel component and the study component. Based on these efforts, there will be a new set of policies forthcoming, building on three elements: academic considerations; the cost of travel-study, both in terms of instruction and of travel for students and for faculty; and the ensurance of safety via the presence and responsibility of the instructor of record.

Student Success

The Provost and the President, working with faculty, chairs, and deans, acknowledge the need to define what student success means for UT-Tyler. There will be a forthcoming meeting between faculty and the Provost and President to converse over how to integrate the strategic plan into everyday routine as faculty members.

*Question: What is the metric for evaluating student success?*

Typically, it’s retention and graduation, but in some ways we are redefining it by adding “career”.

**12:21 – Career Success Conference – Dr. Rosemary Cooper**

Dr. Cooper provided details on the upcoming Career Success Conference planned for September 6. The conference’s goal is to lay the groundwork for what career success looks like, moving beyond transactional definitions of success to transferable skills for success. Around 200 speakers will be coming to UT-Tyler from a variety of industries and areas, and the conference will utilize the entire campus. The theme is “From the Classroom to the Boardroom,” and speakers and panels will explore what success looks like in different fields. Faculty have been invited to volunteer to moderate and introduce speakers, help students engage speakers and each other; those who volunteer will receive training in August. There will be an email forthcoming with a live website for the conference, with a registration link. Currently, the conference is open to current students only; once they have a chance to register, the opportunity will open for non-volunteer faculty and staff to participate. The schedule will include a networking breakfast and one 75 minute session in the morning, followed by another networking lunch and two more 75-minute afternoon sessions. Student convocation will also occur that day, and student attendance will be measured through QR codes on badges for those registered. In the evening, there will be a networking reception for graduate students.

*Question: Are we not canceling classes?*

No – rather, students are being redirected to attend the conference panels during class time in order to ensure student participation and presence.

*Question: Faculty in sciences are concerned that they are losing a week of labs?*

Lab spaces are not being used, so it’s up to faculty to determine so that those courses dependent on that one weekly meeting will not be hindered.

*Question: One of the big things for international students is work authorizations, so will there be an attorney who can help them?*

Not currently, but there’s room for it.

*Question: We’ve seen name of companies involved; will that be on the website?*

Yes.

*Question: Are the keywords describing the panels defined by major?*

No, but majors are identified alongside keywords.

**12:32 – OIP – Nandini McClurg**

Ms. McClurg provided an overview of the resources and services the Office of Internatioanl Programs offers within four general functions: International Student, Scholar, and Faculty Services; the Intensive English Language Institute; Study Abroad; and Passport Services. Under these four general areas, OIP includes services such as immigration advising and task processing; coordinating student services for foreign nationals; provding mandatory reporting for Homeland Security & the Department of State; offering workshops on program development and F1 Work Authorizations; and aiding faculty and students on study abroad programs, be it student semester abroad programs, faculty-led programs, risk management for travel abroad, advising, or other services.

*Question: Is it still complicated to plan trips for students?*

It had been, but forms for study abroad proposals have been tidied up. With DocuSign, it is now a far more streamlined process. Proposals are due 60 days before travel, and if a proposal meets the requirements in three areas, it will likely be approved.

*Question: In the past, the language required male and female representative be present. Is that still case, and is that a mandate?*

System recommends it, but it’s not mandatory.

*Question: If we do require male/female representative required, what resources are available?*

This depends on a case-by-case basis, and OIP can sit down with individual faculty to further discuss what is required compared to what is recommended.

**12:42 - Student Success – Dr. Colleen Swain**

After several weeks of listening tour, the Provost’s office is beginning to implement some ways to focus on student success. If faculty are successful, students are successful. Her office understand’s the need to listen to both’s voices, and a survey will be forthcoming regarding undergraduate and online education. There will also be listening sessions for students to speak regarding what’s going well and where they need to get better

**12:46 – Faculty Senate Budget Report – Dr. Gus Gordon**

Faculty Senate Treasurer Gus Gordon provided an update on the Senate budget at end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

**12:51 – President’s Remarks**

* Faculty Senate voted on new names for the Reserve & Eagles Landing: Victory Village (The Reserve) and Liberty Landing (Eagles Landing).
* Offers have been made for both the open CFO and COO positions, and his office is just awaiting signatures. He hopes to have an announcement by the end of the day.
* UT-Tyler’s move to Division II has been approved. Recruiting for DII students will begin this year for 2019-2020; in academic year 2018-2019, UT-Tyler will play its Division III colleagues one last time.

*Question: Will students recruited for next year be eligible for scholarships the following year?*

Yes. For assigning scholarships, the university’s focus will initially fall on our biggest sports—basketball, baseball/softball, and soccer—while being mindful of Title IX athletic scholarship requirements.

*Question: What is the status on new street names and green spaces on campus?*

We have new names in place, but still have to get through 911 and city to finalize them.

*Question: Do we know what the budget for athletic scholarships will be?*

Roughly around $1.2 million, and that will then go up a bit over time

*Question: What does being Division II bring to the university?*

Being DII will allow us to recruit and provide scholarships to students whose first responsibility to the classroom, not the coach. The university will be providing a scholarship for athletes, but resources are going into studying in their field. Aside from branding, athletics is a student success mechanism, because it engages hundreds of students who would probably not be engaged otherwise. Thus, the move to DII is a question of how we engage students. The scholarship is minimal compared to viability of student finishing college on time and getting a career.

*Question: What’s the status on the new nursing building?*

A formal request has been made. The regents will make decisions. Budgets will be tight over next 1-2 years, but there’s hope some resources will be freed up.

*Question: Are we working towards an enrollment model that will help us better understand our budgets and strategically plan new lines or maintain old lines?*

Yes, via an enrollment/financial model. With new CFO in office, zero-based budgeting will occur next year, as will a two-year budget that will allow projections. We hope to have 1000 freshmen this year, 1200 next year; housing is about full with a few weeks still to go before everyone is enrolled, and we are extending our out-of-state markets beyond Houston, while presidential scholarships target East Texas residents. Together, these efforts will hopefully allow for clearer long-term planning.

*Question: Regarding DII, will money for scholarships come from UT-System or tuition and fees?*

We already had a tuition/fee increase, but it is strongly encouraged that athletic scholarships come from sources other than student tuition. Rather, these funds need to come from auxiliaries and other locations on campus. The university will spend the buffer year of 2018-2019 finding where those resources will come from, drawing on examples from other DII institutions in the UT System.

**1:26 – Faculty Senate Updates**

IDR Report (Interdisciplinary Research) – Dr. Gloria Duke

The IDR taskforce spent 2017-2018 identifying processes and resources to spur interdisciplinary research on campus. It adopted a UT-Tyler def. of interdisciplinary research, and outlined a number of possible steps to take going forward, such as a searchable database for anyone – here or elsewhere – to see others’ matching profiles and to get more involvement with IDR and hold workshops. Going forward, it recommends that the Research Council take on interdisciplinary research as one of its charges and that it act upon the recommendations of the taskforce.

End of Year Report – Dr. Kouider Mokhtari

Senate President Kouider Mokhtari summarized the Faculty Senate’s accomplishments for a very busy and very productive year, including, but not limited to: involvement via shared governance in committees, the FAC, monthly meetings with the president andprovost and the Deans’ Council; the creation and work on task forces; major events the Senate sponsored, including campus visits of speakers and the year-end Faculty-Staff Banquet; its success in acquiring an increased senate budget, working on proposals for faculty development and faculty induction; and its on-campus role in facilitating grievances and mediation.

Transition

Dr. Mokhtari ended his term as Senate President, and President-Elect Dr. Wycliffe Njororai became the next Faculty Senate President for 2018-2019. He spoke briefly on our need to continue to work together as the university focuses on student success in the coming year.

**1:36 – Adjourn**

Senate unanimously approved adjourning.