**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, March 22, 2018**

**Alumni House**

**Call to order: 12:17 PM**

**Adjourned: 1:28 PM**

**Members Present:** Gloria Duke, Robert Stevens, Mena Souliman, Kerri Camp, Frank Dykes, Amanda Hall, Scott Spier, Shawn Jones, Joe Glavy, Wycliffe Njororai, John Lamb, Lance Williams, Fredericka Brown, Colin Snider, Gus Gordon, Cathy Ross, Mary Fischer, Kleanthe Caruso, Kim Nimon, Gary Miller

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** Jeri Chilton, Amy Clem, Charles Barké, Colleen Swain, Brandy Meadows, Sheldon Davis, Paul Roberts, Marcus Stadelmann, Martin Slann, Rick Helfers, Michael Gangone, Althea Arnold, Javier Kypuros, Leonard Brown, Tom Roberts, Mark Miller, Steve Rainwater, Vickie Jowell, Belinda Deal, KT Helgesen, Gracy Buentello, Howard Patterson, Reuben Cowan, James Bonnette, Nakeia Burrell, Vicki Betts, Rahmat Taluker, Sooah Park, Michael Donley, David Scott, May Abdelaziz, Kerrie Anne Clark, Amir Mirmiran, Ross Sherman

**Zoom Meeting Participants:**

**Invited Speakers:** President Michael Tidwell, Provost Amir Mirmiran, Michael Donley, Howard Patterson, Michael McGinnis, Bill O’Donnell

**12:17 – Call to Order – K. Mokhtari**

Senate President Dr. Kouider Mokhtari welcomed all who were present.

**12:19 – Approval of Minutes and Senate Matters – C. Snider**

Senate Secretary Colin Snider presented the minutes from 2/15/18. Senate unanimously approved minutes, with Kleanthe Caruso motioning and Mary Fischer seconding.

**12:20 – President Updates – Dr. Michael Tidwell**

Rather than providing particular updates, President Tidwell spent his time entertaining questions from the faculty.

*Question: regarding Strategic Plan, now that it’s in place, how will we execute it?*

The university will offer training for all department chairs and deans as semester comes to end. It will also train faculty and staff on how to implement each college’s/school’s initiative. The university will be changing budgeting processes for more efficiency. Additionally, UT-Tyler has recently signed an MOU with Texas College.

*Question: what will the MOU with Texas College involve?*

Since Texas College has no graduate programs, UT-Tyler is working with them to help their top talent study in graduate programs at UT-Tyler, espsecially Engineering, Nursing, and Business. Pharmacy is not yet a part of that plan, but can be added down the road.

*Question: how is fundraising on the Arts & Sciences building going?*

This is part of new plans for growth and development on campus. In addition to the looming renovation of the Arts & Sciences building, the university now also has drawings for a new plaza on campus and for a new college of nursing. Those two items are in development, while the drawings and plans for A&S are already approved.

As for funding that renovation, the adjustment in tuition and the reallocation of some budgetary issues will free up resources to finish building after heavy-duty work on things like HVAC are done

*Question: on tuition approval, did that include fees as well?*

Most fees yes, saving those that are required to be voted upon by students themselves. Differential fees for Business, Nursing, & Engineering will go into effect beginning in Fall 2018.

*Comment: faculty express thanks for the homecoming events*.

*Question: so many on faculty have a much different distribution of teaching, research, and service than other schools. Can the president speak on how, as we work on workload policy, it will fit within the strategic plan?*

Provost Mirmiran has some specific ideas on this, but in nutshell, the university is asking that we capture what we are already doing in student success and ensure we can quantify student success.

*Question: are biology and chemistry included on new fees for lab fees that were taken away a few years ago?*

No, because the hard sciences not part of this proposal. Instructional fees became the new method to make up for money in the hard sciences, and if those departments are continuing to fall short, we need to reallocate and explore issues.

*Question: is the money being allocated for Palestine Innovation Academy going to affect college funds at all?*

No; while operated by UT-Tyler, PIA is funded entirely separately by the state. UT-Tyler can’t use PIA funds for campus, and President Tidwell will not use UT-Tyler funds for the IAs in Palestine, Longview, or Tyler.

After few years of temporary buildings, we are at a point where it would take $10 million for permanent buildings for IAs. Currently, the rainy-day fund for IAs will have about $700k at end of academic year, and at the start of the next academic year, they’ll have about $1 million in rainy-day funds for all 3 campuses – Tyler, Palestine, and Longview. That money will be invested in Palestine as that building has been condemned by fire marshall. Regarding long-term facilities plans for the IAs, it is not clear yet, as all three have needs that will need to be addressed.

**12:44 – Provost Updates – Dr. Amir Mirmiran**

*Student success and faculty development work*

UT-Tyler received a grant from UT system a year ago for the digital success toolkits in 35 courses, mostly in core courses. That development and implementation of those toolkits is progressing. The university is also providing faculty development for the entire campus, with workgroup from FS, CETL, and the Academy of Distinguished Teachers to work on faculty development programs going forward as defined by/connected with student success.

*Faculty 180*

Faculty 180 will now be the mechanism for tenure and promotion. There will be a forthcoming committee to explore if Faculty 180 is the best it can be and/or if there is a better program out there to use for online tenure and promotion processes.

*International Travel and Study Abroad*

Two areas the university wants to leverage its resources are for international enrollment and global perspectives on campus, both to assist students from around the world while also benefiting our students here. With limited funds, faculty and staff have a fiduciary responsibility to spend wisely and leverage it well. The Provost’s office is working on creating policies vetted by the schools, faculty, deans, and chairs with regards to international travel, with efforts and raise awareness of UT-Tyler on the international stage. For study abroad courses, they should implement some guidelines for minimum enrollment and pedagogical connection between the travel piece and academic course, guidelines which are lacking. Currently, it seems that there is sometimes a disconnect between the course itself and the travel piece, and the Provost’s office would like to work with faculty and colleges to address this issue.

**12:52 – Legal Issues Impacting UT-Tyler – Michael Donley**

Michael Donley gave a presentation on legal issues impacting the university. His talk focused on the various areas in which his office works, including: Litigation; contracts (processing and legal review); Texas Public Information Act (TPIA)-Processing and legal review

* Ethics (Bribery, Gifts, misuse of public position)
* Investigator (of last resort) – as approved by President
* Negotiator (of Strategically Important Contracts) – typically applies to contracts of $1 million, approved by President
* Legal Advisor (Employment Law, Title IX, Commercial Law, UT System OGC, AG, Student Judicial, Policy Revision)

Mr. Donley then went into details in each of these areas. A full recording of the presentation is available on the Senate website.

**1:09 – Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Report – Dr. Howard Patterson & Dr. Michael McGinnis**

The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee has taken a few actions recently, passing motions on the transition to Division II and working to make sure that transition meets the goals of the Strategic Plan. There is overlap between the Strategic Plan and elements of Division II Qualities, including learning, service, passion, balance, sportsmanship, and resourcefulness as elements of DII. Next week, a consultant will be on campus to meet with groups and individuals to prepare for the NCAA visit on April 17 or 18 to assess university’s readiness to transition to Division II. We will likely see drop in number of student athletes since we can’t offer scholarships until Fall 2019, along with transitions among staff

*Question: has there been coordination with music department?*

Not with them specifically, no.

**1:16 – Parking Rates for 2018-2019 – Bill O’Donnell**

In an attempt to realign budgets to make full utilization of our resources for their intended purposes, Business Affairs is looking at parking costs. Parking fits because it’s meant to be an auxiliary that gets no funding from campus; it must be operated from fees it charges for people to park. Currently, UT-Tyler’s parking rates are far lower than anywhere else, and the university needs to take steps to increase rates to align with cost we have and the need for new lots. Simply put, parking has to fund more parking lots, as money for additional lots cannot come from campus funds.

Currently, parking rates are $72 for 9 months. The new proposal is a two-stage increase. For 2018-2019 is to raise student rates rom $72 to $80 for academic year, with summer rates for students staying the same ($20 for Summer I, $10 for Summer II); Faculty/Staff permits will go up to $100 for entire year; and reserved spaces for faculty will go up to $200. For 2019-2020 student permits will go up to $90 for the academic year, and faculty/staff permits will go up to $120 via payroll deduction ($10 per month). The payroll reduction will make parking pro-rated for faculty-staff.

**1:25 – Faculty Senate Update – Dr. Kouider Mokhtari**

The Faculty & Staff Awards Banquet will be held April 27, 6:30-8:30, at the Cascades, with semi-formal attire. Work on the banquet has begun, with two committees for nominations of awards (John Placyk for faculty awards; Staff are working on their own awards. Dr. Mokhtari asked faculty and staff to respond to an evite that will be coming from VP for Marketing, so we can get precise numbers. Faculty Senate estimates 400-500 attending, but would like to be accurately prepared.

**1:27 – Open Forum**

Bill O’Donnell introduces Nakia Burrell, a new hire in the Budget Office.

**1:28 – Adjourn**

Colin Snider moves to adjourn, Gloria Duke seconds; unanimously approved.