

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, July 18, 2019
Alumni House
Call to order: 12:30
Adjourned: 2:05

Senate Members Present: Mary Fisher, Kathleen Helgesen, Randy Leblanc, Gary Miller, Kouider Mokhtari, Wycliffe Njororai, Sarah Norrell, Sarah Sass, Colin Snider, Mena Souliman, Scott Spier

Senate Members via Zoom: Gina Doecker, Venugopal Gopalakrishna-Remani,

Faculty & Staff in Attendance: Ali Azghani, B Beatty, William Geiger, Lorri Allen, Kerri Anne Ambort-Clark, James Bonnette, Gracy Buentello, Kerri Cam, Daoming Chen, Bonnie Davis, Belinda Deal, Rebecca Fernandez, Jimi Francis, Amy Hayes, Deena King, Cynthia Martinez, Nan McClurg, Natalia Menkina Snider, Cheryl Parker, Manuel Reyes, Muthukrishanan Sathyamoorthy, Katie Stone, Paul Streufert, Lynette Sutter, Colleen Swain, Tai Yong Wang, Sonja Warren

Faculty and Staff Zoom Participants (who provided full names in Zoom): Charles Barke, Emily Battle, Julie Delello, Denise Duncan, Margo Duncan, Guy Fawkes, Michael Gangone, Richard King, Sonja Morale

Invited Guest Speakers in Attendance: President Tidwell, Provost Mirmiran

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Lynette Sutter

12:30 Call to Order

Wycliffe Njororai

12:32 Approval of May Meeting Minutes
Mary Fisher motioned to approve, Colin Snider seconded.

Sarah Sass

12:33 Update from the President

Michael Tidwell

- Plaza: The plan is for the Patriot Plaza to be done in time for the Welcome Back event for faculty and staff on August 21st. We plan to have commencement on the plaza in December. The hope is that approximately 8-10,000 people can fit into one ceremony instead of four. We also have a plan B for rain. We may aim for a Thursday commencement with a Friday backup date, or a Friday commencement with a Saturday backup date.

Q: Parking – we should have plenty

Q: How long would ceremony last? It is expected to last 2 hours.

- Enrollment is looking good. Retention numbers are 3-5% stronger this year than last year.
- We will have welcome back event on August 21st (Weds) The event will be for families. Can bring kids. Carnival type atmosphere. Lawn of alumni house and plaza will be ready.

- Pres Tidwell will be here on 23rd for any department or college meetings.
- We are developing an interdisciplinary PhD program in leadership. This program will touch every college that wants to touch it. Assumption is that it is a business program but anyone from any college that has expertise in this area will have an opportunity to teach and oversee dissertations. It will not be an educational leadership, business, or governmental leadership PhD, but will be general like leadership studies. Faculty group will be bringing ideas to faculty senate.
- Engineering is launching a new chemical engineering program. This is good for our area with all of the oil and natural gas resources. Dean Kyuporus got over 75 letters of support from the community, demonstrating need. There will be a major announcement about this program soon.
- We are planning to have raises; have been budgeted for 2% merit; with caveat of strong enrollment.
- We are in the process of conducting another salary survey, and are doing these every 2 years. We are contracting with a firm who is doing a deeper dive into analytics and numbers. The goal is to get salaries at least up to the mean.

- Q: who is the comparison group? R3 or master's? A: Program-to-program comparisons will be the way to go, because not all areas have doctoral programs.

- 12:54 Updates from the Provost's Office Amir Mirmiran
- We have concluded two dean searches – Dr. Beatty is here as the new Soules COB Dean who joins us from Florida. Dr. Hickey was selected for the CEP.
- Dr. Neil Grey is heading the search for the Associate Provost for Research and Scholarship.
 - Dr. Mirmiran thanks the search committee members for these searches and wishes members to know that input was taken into account. The final outcome in the different searches ultimately depends of availability of candidates, etc.
- Dr. Geiger is leaving the committee that involves faculty and student government association in working on the academic calendar for 2020. Another group is working on a task force for instructional support fees and whether to increase them, have them stay the same, or reallocate.
- This is the end of the academic year – two things will come online- academic unit report dashboards are on the web – chairs and deans have it but everyone can see performance in terms of graduation rates, enrollment, retention (transfer, freshman, etc), return on investment, fundraising and grant/research activity. Dr. Mirmiran will ask Beth Bruce to send a link.

Office of the Faculty Senate- University of Texas at Tyler

- New programs: The new EdD School improvement proposal is with the coordinating board. We expect a site visit in September, and if everything goes well, the program will launch in Fall of 2020. This would be 6th doctorate program on campus. The 7th would be the new PhD in Leadership.
- Nursing has agreed to create an accelerated nursing program which will increase the number of times in the year that they can admit nursing students. This is expected to increase enrollment by 50%, to meet the needs in the area.
- The East Texas Research Conference will be held next year in April or May- this is a year-long effort. We want not only faculty at the area universities, but also individuals from our 100 communities initiative to come up with “grand challenge” ideas: These are ideas regarding the needs of East Texas and the hope is that our faculty would be contribute to solutions for these challenges.

01:05 OIP and International Engagement Cynthia Martinez
Cynthia is our new director of OIP and she started April 1st. She provided an overview of OIP and what this office does. Please see [2018-2019 Documents](#) for a link to the full slides for her presentation.

01:34 Faculty Senate Treasurer’s Report Kathleen Helgesen
Dr. Helgesen reviewed faculty senate monthly expenditures and balances. We haven’t spent as much as we expected to spend and we stayed within our constraints.

01:37 Remarks by In-coming Faculty Senate President Colin Snider
The role of faculty senate and faculty senate president is to advocate for faculty. The job is not to agree or disagree with policies or issues but to advocate for faculty. We currently have a strong sense of dialogue between the Faculty Senate Executive and the President and Provost, and we hope to continue this. If you have any issues you would like to see raised within faculty senate, please contact Dr. Snider.

01:39 Recognizing Outgoing Senators & Faculty Senate’s outgoing President Report Wycliffe Njororai
The Provost and Faculty Senate President presented outgoing senators with recognition. Dr. Njororai additionally presented outgoing comments. Please see [2018-2019 Documents](#) for a link to the full slides for her presentation.

02:05 Adjourn