

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Thursday, May 16, 2019  
BRB 1055  
Call to order: 12:30  
Adjourned: 1:55

**Senate Members Present:** Christine Forisha, Frank Dykes, Gary Miller, John Lamb, Kathleen Helgesen, Sarah Norrell, Sooah Park, Scott Spier, Wycliffe Njororai

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** Yong Tai Wang, Kim Laird, Kerri Anne Ambort-Clark, William Geiger, Amy Hayes, Jeremy McBain, Amir Mirmiran, Cheryl Parker, Sonja Warren, Lynette Sutter, Colleen Swain, Rebecca Fernandez

**Faculty, Staff, and Senator Zoom Participants (who provided full names in Zoom):** Mohammad Biswas, Greg Brandenburg, Ona Tolliver, Michael Veronin

**Invited Guest Speakers in Attendance:** President Tidwell, Provost Mirmiran

12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	Lynette Sutter
12:30	<b>Call to Order</b>	Wycliffe Njororai Simiyu
12:32	<b>Motion to add an item to the agenda</b>	John Lamb
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diversity and Inclusion Initiative discussion added to the end of the agenda</li><li>• Added to agenda: Movement- John Lamb, Second, Frank Dykes</li></ul>	
12:34	<b>Approval of March Meeting Minutes</b>	Wycliffe Njororai Simiyu
12:34	<b>Update from the President</b>	Michael Tidwell

President's updates:

- New classroom technology staff: coming on board soon (1 additional employee). Plans for another person in the next fiscal year.
- Admissions Standards Adjustment Discussion: All Texas public institutions are required to take the top 10% of students (based on class rank) from each Texas high school. UT-System Rules allow for up to 25% for automatic acceptance (depending on whether the president of each school wants to implement the rule). Currently, UT-Tyler only auto-admits the 10%, which puts us as third-most stringent in the UT system (behind UT-Austin and Dallas). The next step we use in admissions is SAT scores, which means we are missing a lot of local students (our average SAT is 1000, average SAT of Tyler students is 850). That means, a local Tyler student who is in the top 15% of their class, but has a 950 SAT score, probably won't get in here so they will go to another school (SFA, A&M commerce, community

colleges). This is reducing the # of local, first semester freshmen that we get here. The proposal is to adjust admissions standards, either adjust down SAT, or adjust down class rank, or both.

- Housing study: Housing is currently about at capacity (about 2,000 beds on campus). By 2020, we will probably be over capacity. Hope is to expand housing options by 2021 (by about 400-500 beds) to accommodate the growth in the student body, especially students from outside of the region. Student feedback, wants/needs will be a part of the housing study.

Questions answered by the president:

- Plaza construction update: The front entrance of the UC will be closed temporarily starting Monday 5/20 due to construction. Expected completion date is the end of Summer II/beginning of Fall 2019 Semester.
- Nursing building update- negotiating funding, Tuition Revenue Bonds are a possible mechanism to fund the facility, working on this with the legislature. There remains a request for building funds before the UT System as well.
- Faculty hiring process update: From now on, 100% of searches (faculty and all other types) will go through HR. Current system has the job applicant routed to the department and its search committee. Proposal is to have all new hires go to the UT-Share system on the university website, which will have HR be the repository of all the information and documents. This will make it easier for university to keep track of the hiring process in general, as well as our compliance with federal laws in our hiring practices (equity and diversity in hiring, Title IX, discrimination, etc.).

12:56

### Updates from the Provost's Office

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Search Updates: Dean of CEP search is ongoing. 6<sup>th</sup> and final candidate will be wrapping up on-campus visits next week, hope is that search will be concluded in the next month. A new search for Associate Provost for Research and Scholarship will begin in early June (they wanted to wait to start the search until after the East Texas Research Conference).
- East Texas Research Conference: over 490 attendees from universities and community partners all over the region. Provost suggests that they might want to move the conference up to late March or early April so that more students will be able to attend. Would like to also include a component in the conference that solicits request for ideas, needs, from the community and then have solutions presented at the conference. **Question**: Is there a way to include music and arts more than they were this year? Answer: The intent has always been to include all types of scholarship. Provost clarified the conference is geared towards relevance to East Texas, not necessarily specific disciplines.
- Student Success Showcase: The presentations were successful. Thank you to Dr. Sass for organizing it. They hope to expand it next year.
- Academic Schedule Committee: Dr. Geiger will be chairing a committee to revisit the academic schedule. There are issues related to classroom utilization, inconsistent and off-schedule class meeting times. Committee will begin to meet over the summer and will include students as well.

1:07 **University Committee Reports: Faculty Senate Representatives:**

For full committee reports, see the attached report. Wycliffe explained that the committees will be constituted before the start of the 2019-2020 school year (announced at the July 18 meeting).

- *QEP* Frank Dykes
  - SACS accreditation taking place in 2021. Chosen topic is “Solving Real-World, Complex Problems.” The concept is how to apply knowledge to real-world problems, as this translate for each specific discipline. Literature review for concept paper is being written this summer. Next year, they will work on marketing and budget for the QEP.
- *Art and Performance Complex* Sooah Park
  - Working on committee structure and budget. Dr. Geiger clarified some of the mission and scope of the committee (to offer guidance to programming at the Cowan Center). Dr. Geiger also asked whether this needs to be a university committee, or if the director of the Cowan Center should be in charge of convening the committee.
- *HOP* Mary Fischer
  - The Provost is the chair of the HOP committee. Edits and updates are ongoing to get ready for the 2021 SACS visits. Please alert a faculty senator if you find any problems/anomalies in the HOP so that it can get updated. Dr. Geiger- any feedback on the HOP from faculty would be very useful.
- *Student Union Advisory Committee* ?
  - Did not meet during 2018-2019.
- *Undergraduate Council* Christine Forisha
  - Has been meeting regularly each month and considered and approved many courses and programs (changes and new committees).
- *Graduate Council* Mary Fischer
  - Meets monthly, minutes are posted on the grad council website.
- *Student Success* John Placyk/Wycliffe
  - Chaired by Dr. Colleen Swain. Committee meets every month to look at data and discuss proposal related to student success. Student Engagement committee is a spin-off of this committee. See the full attached report for issues related to student retention and success. Library wants to be represented on this committee as well.
- *Student Life* Nary Subramanian
  - Created a new charge for the committee: they re-named it the “Student Engagement Committee” to create new life experiences for the students. Recommendation that there should be representation from satellite campuses. Also- library wants representation on the committee.
- *Research Council* Kouider
  - The research council is working on reviewing the proposals for internal funding. Funded proposals will be able to start September 1.
- *Facilities and Space Allocation* Kouider
  - Convenes when there is a need to negotiate space requests. Currently reviewing space requests for CNHS and Communication Disorders. Contact Dr. Mokhtari or Dr. Mirmiran with any questions about space allocation.
- *Institutional Audit* Gus Gordon
  - Meets quarterly. Nothing new to report.
- *Budget Committee* Gus Gordon

- This is a new faculty committee, with the purpose of increasing transparency in the budgeting process (started by VP Dr. Laird). VP Laird sets monthly meetings, planning to meet next in June.
- *Faculty Affairs Committee* Colin Snider
  - Faculty Awards Ceremony was April 30. They have been working with the Provost's office to make changes to the White Teaching Fellowship (will no longer be tied to the Piper statewide teaching award). Please fill out the feedback survey sent out by Bonnie Davis to give input about the awards day.
- *Emeritus Committee* Colin Snider
  - Now makes decisions at the end of the calendar year instead of the academic year. Associate professors are now able to be considered for emeritus status.
- *Parking Citations Appeals* Gina Doepker
  - Summary of appeals received and granted, and money generated.
- *Student Media Council* Frank Yu
  - Nothing new to report.

1:48                    **Diversity and Inclusion Resolution**                    John Lamb

- Dr. Lamb (Faculty Advisory Council Representative) presented a draft of a resolution about diversity and inclusion put together by an ad hoc committee.
- The resolution (see attached) has several purposes:
  - To put forth a Faculty Senate definition of the terms “diversity” and “inclusion.” The purpose of the proposed definitions is to build upon and formalize the disparate statements already in existence here at UT-Tyler (HR statement on not discriminating in hiring processes, FLC for Global Awareness and Diversity) and to incorporate examples from other aspirant peer universities. Currently, there is not an official UT-Tyler definition of these terms and/or how they should apply in the university setting.
  - It resolves that the Senate will create an ad hoc committee to review current university policies and practices related to diversity and inclusion, and look into establishing a Division of Diversity and Inclusion, possibly in Academic Affairs.
- Discussion: Dr. Geiger pointed out that UTT has an EEO statement that lays out groups that cannot be discriminated against, and the proposed list builds on that. He also asked why it the division should be limited to academic affairs. Dr. Geiger also asked that senate checks that there isn't an existing committee as a part of the existing list that doesn't deal with this already (or does HR already deal with these issues). Idea was also posed by Gracy Buentello to add Title IX Coordinator as an involved party in the resolution. Dr. Gary Miller suggested adding a member of athletics to the ad hoc committee as well.
- **Motion (F. Dykes, G. Miller) to adopt resolution with an amendment to include other interested parties in the ad hoc committee. Resolution was voted on and adopted (pending the inclusion of votes from absent senators via email)**

2:07                    **Faculty senate Treasurer's Report**                    Kathleen Helgesen

- Dr. Helgesen showed the report of the total income, expenses, and total cash.

- Majority of spending was for meetings and FAC travel, and for Dr. Susan Franzen visit and presentation.

2:10

**Announcements including:**

- No Senate meeting in June.
- Next Senate Meeting is July 18, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. Will include an acknowledgement of outgoing senate members and incoming members. Committee constitutions will be completed by then as well.

2:12

Adjourn

**Wycliffe Njororai Simiyu**