**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, January 17, 2019**

**UC Ballroom**

**Call to order: 12:30 PM**

**Adjourned: 1:55 PM**

**Senate Members Present:** Amanda Hall; Catherine Ross; Colin Snider; Frank Dykes; Gary Miller; Gina Doepker; Gus Gordon; Joseph Glavy; John Placyk; Kouider Mokhtari; Mary Fischer; Mena Souliman; Michael Veronin; Randy Leblanc; Sarah Norrell; Scott Spier; Venu Gopalakrishna-Remani; Wycliffe Njororai; Frank Yu [Zoom]

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** Ali Azghani; Anwesha Maitra; Bonnie Davis; Braelynn Seely; Cathy Miller; Colleen Swain; Cory Sills; Gracy Buentello; Jacob McLeod; Mimi Francis; Julie Delello; Kara Marrs; Kathy Gohmert; Lynette Sutter; Lynn Summers; May Abdelaziz; Muthukrishnan Sathyamoorthy; Natalia Menkina Snider; Rebecca Fernandez; Rick Helfers; Sally Bouis; Sindhu Komirelli; Sonja Warren; Srini Kambhampati; Todd Haines; Yong Tai Wang; Kerri Kamp; Cheon-woo Han; James Bonnett; Ayman Hamouda; Farah Deba; Amir Mirmiran; Bill Geiger; Amy Hayes; Lauren Kirby; Wes Hickey

**Zoom Participants:** Lou Ann Berman; Cheryl Parker; Roger Lirely; Alecia Wolf; KT Helgesen; Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark; Greg Brandenburg; Lauralee Meyer; Lauren Hendley; Jennifer Klein; Cindy Strawn; Veronica Viesca; Christine Forisha; Danielle Bailey; Tammy Cowart; Patty Bell; Margo Duncan; Kyle Gullings

**Invited Guest Speakers in Attendance: Dr. Amir Mirmiran; Dr. Srini Kambhampati; Bonnie Davis; Rebecca Fernandez; Sarah Norrell**

**12:00 – Lunch Lynette Sutter**

**12:30 – Call to Order Dr. Wycliffe Njororai Simiyu**

**12:33 – Approval of July Meeting Minutes Dr. Colin Snider**

Dr. Frank Dykes moves to approve minutes; Dr. Cathy Ross seconds. Senate unanimously approves minutes.

**12:35 – Update on the Division of Academic Affairs – Dr. Amir Mirmiran**

* Concerning retention and student success, 95% of the university’s Presidential Fellows returned to the university in Spring 2019, and 90% of first-time/full-time freshmen returned for the Spring 2019 semester. Additionally, 94% of all undergraduate students are currently in good academic standing.
* The Carnegie classification has put UT Tyler at doctoral/R3, elevating the university from masters/large institution for first time ever. Building on the professional practice doctorate program in Pharmacy this year will help us maintain that status, and the addition of a doctorate in psychology next year will also contribute. The Board of Regents will also consider granting UT-Tyler an Education Doctoral program in February.
* Ms. Cynthia Martinez has accepted the offer to serve as Director of Office of International Programs, and will join UT-Tyler on April 1. The search for the Library Executive Director is ongoing, and the university hopes to conclude that search soon. The Soules College of Business search for a dean is also ongoing, and the first wave of interviews concluded. The search committee will continue to look at candidates to bring to campus.
* The new, more flexible faculty workload policy was approved by system and will go into effect in Fall 2019. With approval, it is now the duty of each department/school to have an implementation plan that faculty help design. Plans need to be submitted to the Provost by February 28 for review and approval by the Provost’s and President’s offices.

*Question: With regards to R3, what are implications for faculty and staff?*

For faculty pursuing research opportunities, this should facilitate ability to get funding. The elevation also gives recognition to university, so for those interested in community engagement also gain institutional credibility as experts in their field

**12:52 – Updates from Office of Research and Scholarship – Dr. Srini Kambhampati**

* The ORS expects a busy spring semester, with the keystone being the East Texas Research Conference (May 9-10 on campus). Currently, a committee is working to put program together. Colleges will reimburse faculty to register, and the website with more information is available. Additionally, undergrad and graduate students are encouraged to participate. There will be a poster session on 9th, with a banquet at end of day, and on the 10th, a full program will occur.
* There is a new policy for faculty development leave for those who want to go elsewhere to research. The deadline for development leave in 2019-2020 is January 31. This program will also be available going forward. It does take several months to make arrangements if you are going to separate campus. Eligibility and criteria are on website
* The internal grants deadline is March 18. ORS is trying to expand program, building on last year when it gave out $230,000 for 26 proposals. This year, nearly $300,000 are earmarked in six categories (new hires; bridge grant for mid-career or underfunded areas; interdisciplinary grants; undergraduate grants; east Texas issues; staff grant).
* April has been designated Research Month. A series of events research-related will occur, including Grad School 180 on April 4; the Great Plains Honors Conference, being held at UT-Tyler on April 5-6; and the annual Lyceum Research symposium on April 19. A workshop may also be held that month, and the month will end with a celebration of scholarship, with lunch and recognition of faculty research and scholarship.
* The university is also beginning a Scholar in Residence program to bring a prominent faculty in your field to campus to spend a semester or longer on campus and interact with people on campus. ORS encourages nominations.
* The university is also proposing a new faculty rank of University Distinguished Professor for faculty who have held the position of full professor for 7 years or longer, with a sustained record of teaching, research, and service. The office is currently establishing criteria that will be shared soon.

*Question: for faculty development leave in January, is that for full next year?*

Yes.

*Question: for the staff grant, is that for research?*

Yes, with the expectation they would team up with faculty.

**1:04 – Faculty and Staff Collaboration – Bonnie Davis & Dr. Wycliffe Njororai**

* The OCAI culture survey from Fall 2018 shows a strong desire across campus for connectivity; facilitating staff/faculty relations can be a part of that. USAC and Senate have been collaborating to work on improving relations, as both faculty and staff share in vision to facilitate safe and excellent learning climate for students.
* Bonnie Davis then provided an overview of USAC’s organization, structure, and purpose.

**1:13 – Library services and the student/faculty support – Rebecca Fernandez and Sarah Norrell**

Library senate representatives shared information on the library’s services for students and for faculty. They encouraged faculty to contact librarians to see what the library can offer faculty in research and in instruction. Also, they brought to faculty’s attention the library’s efforts to host events outside the library on campus, such as “librarians on the loose,” to reach out to students.

*Question: do our students have the same access to databases as faculty do?*

Yes – they enjoy the exact same access, even for distance and off-campus students, and if there are issues accessing resources off-campus, you can contact the library and they’ll get it resolved.

**1:35 – Senate Representation on College Administrative Councils – Reports from Colleges**

Senate representatives discussed how shared governance has extended into their individual colleges. COP has monthly departmental meetings where senators report to their faculty. CEP has a senate representative on weekly leadership meetings, and the senator also reports once a month and takes information back to faculty or senate. CNHS has new senate member who is serving as an appointee for the college administrative council. CAS is working on building a new workgroup with the dean that will bring together faculty and student representatives to work on issues within the college. SCOB had senators meet with the leadership team for the first time this week in a productive meeting. COE has not yet had a leadership meeting this semester, but three senator representatives (one from each department) will report to departments, then to chairs, and this will occur at the next leadership meeting; however, there is currently no Senate representation on the COE leadership committee.

**1:40 – Announcements**

* The Mentorship workshop featuring Vice Chancellor Tony Cucolo will be on February 7-8. He will meet with faculty senate, faculty, administration, and students. At the college level, it is requested that senators help identify faculty who can be invited to a leadership workshop with VC Cucolo.
* The OCAI organizational culture survey in Fall 2018 was completed. Of the 1082 faculty and staff at UT-Tyler, 430 (40%) responded, including 53% of faculty and 33% of staff. Senate has data analysis by college division, by rank, and by years of employment. Susan Franzen will come to UT Tyler in March to discuss how we can build on results and transform institutional culture. Faculty Senate offers a special thanks to Tonya Gaddis and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for setting up and implementing survey smoothly.

**1:52 – Adjourn**