2020-2021 AY
Faculty Senate

Rick Helfers, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate President
Student Success

- Discussed implementation of admission deadlines for Spring semesters to assist incoming students
- Streamlining advising process for incoming freshmen
- Extension of graduation deadline for the Spring
- Midterm progress reports are important as delays result in lost time for intervention, and
- Early identification of students with limited chances of success in their chosen majors.
Arts and Performance Complex Advisory Committee

- Reviewed the budget
- Cowan Center and its management is efficiently run
- Committee consists primarily of non-music faculty and unaware of the complexity of the Cowan Center’s operations
- Committee recommends reviewing the necessity of this remaining a university committee as the committee doesn’t really have an effect and the Cowan Center is professionally operated.
Emeritus Committee

- Recommended four faculty members for the honor of receiving Emeritus status:
- Drs. Duke, Ellinger, Ford, and Pieper
Many changes pertained to aligning graduate programs with various accrediting and/or licensure/certification requirements.

An ad hoc graduate admissions appeal committee was created to be called upon as needed.

Grad Council developed overarching thesis/dissertation guidelines for the university.

There was significant ongoing conversation on the funding of graduate study, particularly creating task forces to explore increased GRA funding.

Policies and procedures for graduate program coordinators were developed.

A new mission/vision/goals statement was developed.

Additionally, a lot of work surrounding aligning policies and procedures between the academic campus and the HSC.
HOP

- Fall was a little slow as focus was on the upcoming merger with the Health Science Center
- Spring merged HOP committee
- Promotion and Titles
- Merged Faculty Senate
- Much work ongoing integrating the academic and HSC polices together
Undergraduate Council

- Discussed Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Pass/Fail options
- Voted in December 2020 on 2021-22 academic calendar
- Worked on a proposal for a combined university curriculum committee (including undergraduate and graduate members)
- Voted on a change in course catalog regarding graduation ceremonies (and clarifying that summer graduates can participate in Spring ceremonies with college Dean permission)
- Voted to Change the President’s Honor Roll policy to include all undergraduate degrees and not just the first bachelor’s degree
- Voted to change catalog language regarding the acceptance of transfer courses from regionally or nationally accredited institutions of higher education to comply with U.S. Department of Education requirements
- Voted to amend the Grade Appeal policy to a common one for undergraduate and graduate students
- Voted to change catalog language regarding the requirements for the Dean’s list to include students earning an additional bachelor's degree
- Reviewed the Syllabus Module that will be in Canvas for the Fall semester
Student Appeals

- Changed name from Student Financial Appeals to Student Appeals due to committee hearing appeals beyond financial appeals.
- Met twice a month during the Fall and Spring semesters
- Met once a month during the Summer
Student Engagement

- An increased awareness of what each college was doing to successfully engage students as a result of the pandemic. Challenges as it relates to teaching in different environments.
- A decrease in student organization participation both academic & social groups.
- Recommendations:
  - Increase awareness within the colleges on the use of Patriots Engage. Event Check-In
  - Assessment of Learning Outcomes
  - Paths
Research Council

- Met at least once every month
- Addressed questions of the role of research and scholarship
- Input provided regarding the University’s Distinguished Professor rank
- Advised on internal grant awards
Institutional Audit and Faculty Affairs

- Institutional Audit: Faculty Senate representation is ceasing due to membership on the Executive Cabinet
- Faculty Affairs: Merger and COVID delayed this process. Awards will be given at convocation. Next year integrated award ceremony as one institution.
Parking Citation Appeals

- Five meetings this year
- Reviewed 56 citations, granted 37 and denied 19
- Online Zoom process was efficient and effective
Advisory Boards

- **Patriot Military Advisory Board**
  - Created in the Fall 2020 to better coordinate advocacy efforts for military affiliated students and better inform the policies and procedures of the MVSC
  - Very active in assisting the MVSC get UT Tyler be recognized as a Military Friendly School for 2021-2022

- **Student Media Advisory Board**
  - Senior Mass Communication major Zoe McGhee, Editor-in-Chief of the Patriot Talon
  - Solid student-led presence on campus
Highlights of other Accomplishments

- Involved in numerous other committees and groups such as
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Executive Cabinet
  - IRT
  - Search committees for VP for Development, QEP Director, Instructional Design
  - Reimagining transfer student orientation
  - SACSCOC visit
  - Ad hoc committees on Family Leave and Free Speech
Continued partnership with USAC
Involved in the discussion of merging graduate admissions with undergraduate admissions
Intervened on behalf of a faculty member complaint
Input on administrative matters such as Pass/Fail option, extending tenure for those hired this year, spring break-no spring break, campus conditions during winter storm