**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

**Alumni House**

**Call to order: 12:18 PM**

**Adjourned: 1:35 PM**

**Members Present:** Colin Snider, Gus Gordon, Mary Fischer, Mena Souliman, Kleanthe Caruso, Lance Williams, Shawn Jones, Michael Veronin, Joe Glavy, Robert Stevens, Kerri Camp, Kouider Mokhtari, Scott Spier, Sarah Norrell, Gloria Duke, Amanda Hall, Kim Nimon, Gary Miller, Sarah Sass

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** Lane Brunner, David Pearson, Althea Arnold, Sooah Park, Amir Mirmiran, Vicki Betts, KT Helgeson, Colleen Swain, Cheryl Parker, Melinda Herman, Rahmet Talukder, Maggie Koehn, Ashley Bill, Gracy Buentello, Kimberly Harvey-Livingston, Jeanne Standley, Jessi Reel, Chase Ragland, Charles Barké, Nan McClurg, Ali Azghani

**Zoom Meeting Participants:**

**Invited Speakers:** Dr. Amir Mirmiran, Ashley Bill, Katy Buerger, Kim Harvey-Livingston

**12:18 – Call to Order – K. Mokhtari**

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

**12:19 - Approval of Minutes**

Kleanthe Caruso moves to approve the March 2018 minutes. Mary Fischer seconds. Unanimously approved.

**12:20 – Provost Update**

*Searches*

The search for College of Arts and Sciences dean is ongoing, with two candidates having visited, and a third visiting next week. For the Director of Research & Scholarship, three candidates have been identified, and they will be coming to campus in next few weeks. The search for Assistant Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education is being led by Dr. Ross Sherman. The Committee has identified candidates, and within next two weeks, 3-4 candidates will be invited to campus. This position will oversee undergraduate and pre-college programs. Finally, Roger Lirely will serve as the interim dean of the Soules College of Business for 2018-2019, and a search committee of faculty, students, staff, and community members will soon begin the search soon to appoint a new Dean as early as Spring 2019 and no later than Fall 2019.

*Student Success*

UT-Tyler is looking into how to use grants we’ve received from UT System, be it PATSS or digital success toolkit, to improve our student success initiative. One potential impact-area is in the arena of open educational resources and textbooks. Departments will work on collectively writing textbooks that would be free and to be used for 2-3 years minimum. Writing these books would be year-long project for departments.

*Digital Success Toolkit*

Finally, the Provost discussed the ongoing progress of the Digital Success Toolkit, including the opportunity for UT-Tyler faculty to write open-source textbooks that would be available to students for free. These books can also be made available to other institutions, allowing UT-Tyler’s reputation to spread.

*Question: Would UT-Tyler own its own platform for open educational textbooks, or would*

*we use preexisting platform and upload our materials on it?*

They would encourage faculty to use the platform they are comfortable with, but for this textbook project, its created internally, not just based on available platforms elsewhere

*Question: Would faculty receive support?*

Absolutely, through stipends, and it should be at least 2-person authors, but will ideally include full departments; support to departments for teaching will also occur

*Question: Why can’t we have other institutions rent the textbooks developed by our faculty?*

Without the cost, it encourages more universities to adopt this as a textbook and were not competing with publishers, and there’s the chance to establish relations with other UT schools that might do similar projects

**12:38 – Student Success, Ashley Bill**

Ashley Bill covered initiatives that the Academic Success department works on across three units (Academic Support, University Advising Center and Data Analytics), addressing what each of those three units offers for students, including supplemental instruction, advising, and other programs designed to aid student success.

*Question: What are we hearing from students who have withdrawn/dropped out?*

It has been hard to get them to respond, and only half were on academic probation.

*Question: What percentage of our students are here for one year then plan to transfer to Austin?*

Depends on year; this year, 21%, but data for enrollment/graduation only apply to non-CAPS students

*Quesiton: Is PASS for all levels, or only undergrad, and if its for all levels, is there any online?*

PASS focuses mostly on freshman and lower-level courses; only accounting has graduate level support.

*Question: What is in place for international students? And for all students, if they’re bilingual, is there support for ESL students, and is that support open to undergrad and grad?*

It is up to each college, and typically our international students are transfers (no more than 5 international freshmen per year), so its not as much of an issue. As for writing, writing center in CAS is of use; for bilingual, they do have to pass TOEFL, so we don’t have the infrastructure

*Question: Is there a relationship between student success and financial need?*

The lower student’s family contribution is, the less likely they are to graduate. We have not been able to find out work rate of our students in terms of outside employment, hours per week working, etc.

**1:03 – Dual Credit – Katy Buerger**

In the last 3 years, dual credit at UT-Tyler has gone from 2 to 25 high school partnerships; from 230 students to 739; and course offerings and department offerings have expanded. Currently, the office works with 11 departments at UT-Tyler. In the upcoming year, UT-Tyler will partner with T.K. Gorman High School to provide coursess to the diocese (from Dallas to Texarkana). The office is also in discussions with All Saints and Palestine, and is increasing offerings with Grace Community. UT-Tyler’s dual-credit local presence is increasing, but with a focus on quality of partnerships rather than quantity. For dual-credit, the university will be going to one flat tuition rate, which simplifies billing process for students and allows us to provide more benefits to schools (such as academic campus visits, more advising, take courses at UT-Tyler, etc.). There are small monetary awards for dual credit students who attend UT-Tyler as incoming freshmen. Finally, the office stresses the importance of working with department chairs and faculty in the process of creating and leading dual-credit courses.

*Question: Which ISDs are our partners?*

Waxahachee Global HS, Palestine HS, Innovation Academy; dual-credit engineering courses are a long list of public schools throughout the state.

**1:16 – Student Resilience – Kim Harvey-Livingston, Associate Dean of Students**

Ms. Harvey-Livingston covered some of the major issues that students deal with from a health-based perspective. Regarding UT-Tyler’s student population, anxiety, academic problems, and depression are the top three reasons students turn to counseling at UT-Tyler. Students typically enjoy classes, but also feel isolated/alone and unable to concentrate. She then covered traits of disengaged student and offered pointers on early intervention for faculty/staff, including a recent pilot program with student athletes via Resiliency Groups. Additionally, the UT system is funding online self-help modules for students, and UT-Tyler is using this program.

**1:25 – Faculty Senate Updates**

A recent phishing attack compromised many student emails. As a result, Senate voted to reiterate its support for a years-old policy that prohibited students from having their university emails forwarded to personal email accounts, as this prohibition is a key way to protect students’ online security and prevent phishing attacks like the recent one.

**1:35 – Adjourn**

Robert Stevens moves, Colin Snider seconds. Unanimously approved.