**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, June 21, 2018**

**Braithewaite 1030**

**Call to order: 12:3 PM**

**Adjourned: 1:44 PM**

**Members Present:** Mary Fischer, Gus Gordon, Kouider Mokhtari, Colin Snider, Kim Nimon, Sarah Norrell, Colin Snider, Michael Veronin, Shawn Jones, John Lamb, Frank Dykes, Robert Stevens, Gary Miller, Wycliffe Njororai, Sarah Sass

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** Amir Mirmiran, Javier Kypuros, Yong Tai Wang, Mark Miller, Althea Arnold, Julie Delello, Sooah Park, Srini Khambampati, Barbara Haas, Alma Ravenell, Ross Sherman, Wes Hickey, Gracy Buentello, Colleen Swain, Tammy Jernigan, Greg Bock, Vicki Betts, Natalia Menkina Snider, Toby Wilkerson

**Invited Speakers:** Dr. Amir Mirmiran; Dr. Michael Tidwell; Dr. Gus Gordon; Ms. Tammy Jernigan

**12:33 – Call to Order – K. Mokhtari**

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

**12:34 - Approval of Minutes**

Frank Dykes moves to approve the April 2018 minutes. Mary Fischer seconds. Unanimously approved.

**12:35 – Provost Update**

*Searches*

Dr. Neil Gray has been hired as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Additionally, the search for Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education has concluded, with Dr. Colleen Swain, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Psychology, accepting the position and beginning on June 1. Finally, the search for the Office of Research and Scholarship should conclude in the coming days.

*Open-education textbooks*

The University’s vision of allowing departments to write open-education textbooks for their introductory-level courses has generated much interest among faculty. Given the wide number of textbooks out there, an open-education textbook composed by faculty will benefit students cost-wise while also helping UT-Tyler through its association with the textbook program. The textbooks, published as PDFs, will not be merely a compendium of materials online, but rather will be formal textbooks that students could download. Participation in the program would also provide an opportunity for faculty to address issues they find in classroom and improve learning. To participate in the program, at least two faculty members must participate with commitment from their department chair.

*Faculty Workload*

With the end of the semester, the workload committee has had a temporary pause in its activity, but it anticipates having one more meeting before composing a draft in writing to be shared at end of the month or early June. The committee’s document will be opened to comment from faculty by early August, when there will again be an open forum to allow faculty to offer input before the final proposal is completed and sent to system.

**12:42 – President Updates**

*Strategic Plan*

The Strategic Plan has been officially approved and re-reviewed. President Tidwell had discussion with regents about 2 weeks ago, and they were enthusiastic about the vision of student success via retention, graduation, and career development. Dr. Tidwell spoke about the changes the strategic plan may bring about on campus, and he plans on sitting down four times with deans and chairs to discuss departmental initiatives for student engagement, research, and community engagement and to game-plan the implementation of the plan in in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019.

*Master Plan*

With the new strategic plan, the university has begun drafting a new Master Plan for the campus. The grand vision that was presented to the regents includes about $1 billion of usage/changes. Additionally, the university is turning its focus on efficiency to address current inefficient use of space. The Master Plan includes more housing in the immediate future, with the university’s recent purchase of The Reserve apartment complex. President Tidwell also presented a plan that would provide a pathway for students to walk from The Reserve to Eagle’s Landing and thus have access to campus in a way that would not require them to walk along University Blvd.

*Question: Will the pathway have lighting?*

Yes, it will, so as to ensure student safety after daylight.

*Question: Will it be a road or a footpath?*

It will be a footpath, about 10 feet wide, that will allow walking and bike traffic.

*Question: Where is the money for the path coming from?*

The funding comes from LEER Funds, from system for safety projects, and from a money left over from other finished projects. What this will cost is not yet certain, but there should be money available, because its a safety plan.

*Question: Is there room for this Long-term within the new Master Plan?*

Yes; new buildings will not make this ineffective

*Question: Are we going to have a major research center?*

The 1976 Master Plan ended up almost completely coming to fruition. The expectation is that new one will also be nearly fully created. The Master Plan from a few years ago included a research center, but of the 100 acres the university purchased to build one, only 50% is developable, though theother 50% could be lakes, paths, etc. Thus, the plan is to have a major research center, but how it will be developed nad where remains unclear. The university will also conduct discussion with corporate foundations to explore funding opportunities.

*Faculty and Staff Awards Banquet*

The first annual Faculty and Staff at the end of the semester was a great success, with very positive feedback and a well-organized event. There were a couple of items to be alert to going forward, particularly regarding Parking, and the university will be mindful of this going forward.

*Alignments*

The structure of the university has undergone some recent realignments. Because of the University’s rapid growth, the Vice President of Business Affairs has been split into two administrative roles: one Vice President position that will focus on finances and budgeting, and one that will focus on operations and strategic initiatives.

*Enrollment for 2018-2019*

Enrollment is projected to be up 10% compared to last year. If that number holds, the university will have 12,000 students on campus in Fall 2018. Additionally, confirmations of attendance from freshmen are up 35% compared to last year.

*Zero-based space allocation*

The president is launching a thorough review of space and its use on campus. President Tidwell said the university does not have a space problem; it has a space allocation problem

**12:59 – Faculty Senate Budget Report, Dr. Gus Gordon**

Dr. Gordon, Faculty Senate Treasurer, reported on the status of the Senate’s budget. The regular budget was $3000, with the President’s Office paying for lunches for this year’s meetings president($4500), and the Provost’s Office added $4500 for Debora Stein’s visit and for Tony Cucolo and Susan Franzen to visit from Austin. As of May 2018, the Senate has roughly $2000 left in budget for all items.

**1:34 – UT-Tyler’s On-Campus Health Clinic, Ms. Tammy Jernigan, Clinic Manager**

The Health Clinic on campus (on Patriot Drive) has the goal of increasing and improving communications with the campus community. The Campus Health Clinic provides a number of services beyond taking care of students (which is paid for via fees), including offering two full-time practitioners and same-day sick appointments. There are great benefits in using the Clinic for Faculty, thanks to their benefits program through the UT system, and the clinic offers a wide array of services, including mammograms, x-ray work, labwork, an allergy/immunology specialist, and a licensed professional counselor.

**1:39 – Faculty Senate Updates, Dr. Kouider Mokhtari**

Faculty Senate President Kouider Mokhtari acknowledged and thanked outgoing administrative assistant Nicole Garvey, whose tireless work has been of great help in conducting Faculty Senate affairs, as well as working with the CETL.

Dr. Randy Leblanc, from the Department of Political Science, was the winner of the election for At-Large Senator position, and will serve in that position for the three-year period of 2018-2021

A senate-conducted climate survey will be forthcoming in the coming months.

Faculty are encouraged to solicit their senators for issues to raise at Senate, as the Senate monthly meeting’s agenda compiled based on feedback given to/by Senators on pressing issues for the campus community;

**1:44 – Adjourn**

Faculty Senate unanimously votes to adjourn.