

Committee Reports, 2019-2020

Arts & Performing Complex Committee [Soo-ah Park]

Arts and Performing Complex Committee, we met three times this year. Compare to the past two years of NO meetings, this is a huge improvement. New committee members were elected including student committee members. We elected a president and a secretary in the second meeting. During the second meeting, Dr. Kim Laird explained to us the budget expenses of 2018-2019 to the committee.

Budget Committee [Nary Subramanian]

The Budget Committee met the first Thursday of almost all months this year. Unfortunately I could not attend these meeting due to my classes being scheduled at that time. However, Mary Fischer was on the committee and she informed the Faculty Senate last December regarding some of the issues discussed by the committee including the proposed 2.6% across the board tuition fee increase for the 2021-22 academic year. Her meeting notes for December are attached for the Senate record.

Facilities & Space Allocation Committee

This year, the Facilities & Space Allocation Committee interacted electronically over the requests from Vice President Jerry Stuff over issues regarding room re-assignments. A Zoom meeting called for March 20, 2020 was canceled due to Covid-19 flare-up. Moving into the coming year, and as space becomes a crucial factor in social and physical distancing, the Committee may be called upon to meet more and to decide on effective space utilization around campus.

Faculty Affairs Committee [Colin Snider]

The Faculty Affairs Committee met periodically this year, both in person and via email. In the Fall semester, the committee conducted its role in soliciting nominations for the UT-System Academy of Distinguished Teachers and recommending to the Provost a name to forward for consideration by UT System. As with many committees, the spring semester saw the Faculty Affairs Committee's activities profoundly affected by COVID, first as initial plans for the faculty and staff awards banquet had to be scrapped, and then by the transformation in the timeline for the nominations for and awarding of the White Teaching Fellowships, the President's Scholarly Achievement Award, and Presidential Service Award. Despite these unexpected disruptions, the committee was successfully able to complete its work in these areas.

Faculty Emeritus Committee [Rick Helfers]

The committee met in Oct and discussed the merits of 6 candidates for Emeritus. The committee reviewed all documentation--this included recommendation letters and other correspondence that may have questioned a candidate's suitability for the honor. The committee ensured all candidates were fully vetted. After anonymous voting, the committee recommended 5 candidates be considered for Emeritus status to Dr. Tidwell.

Graduate Council [Venugopal Gopalakrishna-Remani]

In addition to the "functional" role of approving curricular changes, Graduate Council Curriculum Committee met regularly and reviewed and recommended proposals for changes to

degree programs (for example ramifications of four plus one programs like iMac programs where they will be considered as undergraduate students till they complete undergraduate courses and then will be officially inducted into graduate program), certificates, and courses. Voted and discussed on suspension or inactivation or addition of degree programs, tracks, certificates, and courses. The committee also redefined roles of positions faculty graduate advisor by forming task force to collect information from each department to finalize the role.

HOP Committee [Colin Snider]

This year, the HOP committee was very active as it worked on substantial changes to the HOP as it prepared for its initially-planned year of record for SACS in 2020-2021. These meetings discussed, debated, modified, and approved changes to all six sections of the HOP, working throughout the year and addressing matters ranging from committee constitution to hiring practices, from faculty senate bylaws to speech policies on campus, and much more. The result has been the first major work on the HOP in nearly 7 years, resulting in a far more streamlined, efficient, and updated HOP adequate to the needs and duties of UT-Tyler in 2020.

Institutional Audit Committee

The Institutional Audit Committee is a new committee created in the course of Academic Year 2019-2020. However, the Faculty Senate President was involved in conversations about its constitution and its role going forward, and Faculty Senate expects to be involved with this committee going forward as it begins its work in Academic Year 2020-2021.

Research Council [Amentahru Wahrab]

This committee met four or five times in the fall and once virtually in the spring. It has been a very active committee. In the fall the committee worked to improve the language for the calls for internal grants and for faculty development leave. It outlined a white paper addressing the research climate at UT Tyler. Along these lines, the URC also met with several people from UT system to discuss possible ways to improve research conditions. Finally, the URC also participated in the discussions to hire an outside firm to help faculty win research grants from federal and private bodies. Throughout the year, the URC has met with Dr. Kouider Mokhtari in his role as interim vice provost for research. Subsections of the committee advised on and scored proposals for faculty development leave and the full committee will soon score faculty research grants.

Student Financial Appeals Committee [Mena Souliman]

The student financial appeals committee met regularly and reviewed considerable amount of students financial appeals. Students typically submit appeals on the 1st and 15th of each month. For the cases submitted on the 1st of each month, we had a committee meeting within two weeks to discuss the cases and make final decisions during the meeting. The same would happen for cases submitted by the 15th of each month. Members can discuss these cases among their teams and send a summary of their case reviews to the committee chair no later than 24 hours prior to the bimonthly meeting. This gives the chair time to assemble all summaries and send to the entire committee members. When everyone meet, the teams present their cases and a final vote from the entire committee take place.

Student Life Advisory Committee [Amanda Hall]

The committee met a few times during the 2019-2020 academic year. The 2019-2020 charges were reviewed, discussed, and acted on. The committee reviewed current student engagement initiatives related to student retention and success across campus. They recommended strategies to promote student sense of belonging, career preparation and development of marketable skills. They also identified a few additional individuals to add to the committee, including a library representative and two student representatives.

Parking Citations Committee [Gina Doepker]

The purpose of the Traffic and Parking Citation Appeals Committee is to review appeals submitted by individuals who have received a university traffic or parking citation. The University Parking Appeals Committee is composed of six members consisting of three UT Tyler faculty/staff members and three UT Tyler student members. The Chief Student Affairs Officer is also appointed to the committee as an Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member as well. The appeals committee may uphold the citation, reduce the citation to a lesser included offense, reduce the citation to a warning, or invalidate the citation. The decisions of the Appeals board are final and no additional appeals for the citation are accepted.

The committee met five times during the months of October, November, January, February, and April. Due to COVID-19 the March 2020 meeting was canceled and the April 2020 meeting was held through email exchange. In total, the committee's business can be summarized as follows:

- Total Appeals Reviewed To Date = 265 Totaling \$11,395
- Total Appeals Granted To Date = 156 Totaling \$6,695
- Total Appeals Denied To Date = 110 Totaling \$4,700

Additionally, in a Parking Citation Appeals Update, there is now a new online appeals process that makes the appeal submission, appeal review, and appeal grant/deny process much easier and more efficient. Overall, the communication and participation of student alternates was infrequent or non-existent. Going forward, it is recommended that the committee should be finalized by August of new academic year, and that student participants should be selected who are willing to actively serve/participate in the committee in some way.

Student Success Committee [Colin Snider]

The Student Success Committee, made up of members from Academic Affairs, Student Success, and the associate deans of the five colleges serving undergraduate populations at UT-Tyler, met regularly throughout the year in person and then virtually once COVID-19 led to the virtual shutdown of campus. Throughout the year, the committee discussed new software and technologies that allows colleges to better track their students' progress, identify areas of struggle in order to help students before they fall too far behind, improve faculty access in advising, and increase retention and enrollment rates. While many of these changes occur quietly, the colleges' involvement through their associate deans ensures that each college has the tools to address student success in the ways that best fit their individual college and departmental needs and remain in dialogue on a near-monthly basis with one another for updates, strategies, and other discussions to ensure student success across campus.

Undergraduate Council [Amy Hayes]

The Undergraduate Council met each month during the academic year 2019-2020. The committee was lead by Ms. Laura Owens, who worked closely with Dr. Collen Swain and Dr.

Bill Geiger as well as the rest of the undergraduate committee to review, provide feedback on, and approve new undergraduate programs, courses, and majors, as well as changes to existing majors and courses. The meetings were well attended, with consistent representation from members from each of the colleges. Some of the highlights of the committee work this year were reviewing and approving a new Bachelor of Social Work Degree in the College of Arts and Sciences, approving a slate of new courses with the development of the re-vamped communications program and bachelor of science in nursing program. Additionally, the committee worked to migrate three years of the council's work to one drive to better prepare members for the monthly meetings.