**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

**Friday, March 24, 2017**

**127 Administration Bldg.**

**Call to order: 2:03 p.m.**

**Adjourned: 4:03 p.m.**

**Members Present:** L. Williams, M. Gangone, H. Hawley, M. Fischer, K. Mokhtari, C. Ross, G. Gordon, J. Cater, G. Miller, K. Nimon, M. Veronion, K. Carvro, R. Stevens, F. Brown (zoom)

**Guests:** H. Collier, S. Dillingham, R. Sherman, N. Garvey, O. Tolliver, D. Srinivasan (SGA President), A. Bill, K. Gullings, B. O’Donnell, S. Marzili, L. Berman, C. Swain, D. Duncan, K. Krenek (Patriot Talon)

**Zoom Meeting Participants:** B. Dean, B. MacKenzie, K. Archer, T. Gaddis, T. Irwin, C. Strawn, D. Milan, L. Murray, R. Barke, C. Rutledge, J. Delello, R. Cooper, L. Meyer, S. Gossett, A. Wilson

**Invited Speakers:** President Tidwell, SGA President Srinivasan, Lou Ann Berman, Holley Collier, Scott Dillingham, Ashley Bill, Ona Tolliver

**Call to Order: 2:03 PM**

**2:03 – Welcome - President Tidwell**

*General university update:* The University is actively engaged in the strategic planning process by having casual conversations/town halls about a multitude of issues. The President encourages everyone to come and be part of the process. There are several meetings in the next couple of weeks. The next step is to create small working groups to help guide specific areas. The groups will put together a 1-2 page (roughly) document about their designated issue. Faculty, administrators, students, staff and in certain cases, alumni, will compose the working groups. It has not yet been decided how the work groups will be established.

*Comment from Dr. Cathy Ross:* Faculty turnout to the town hall discussions has been low. Please encourage faculty to attend these sessions as they are important.

*Reply from Dr. Tidwell*: The bulk of the sessions tend to be staff, upwards of 85% of participants are staff. These conversations are how he learns about the campus. Thus, staff are having a very large voice. There will not be separate faculty meetings. He is trying to make this a very public process.

*State budgets*: The legislature is working on developing a budget. It is known as to how the state will appropriate funds from the upcoming year. Some constituents propose to hold funding constant, some propose to reduce funding, and some propose to move the funding around.

**2:13 - FAC Updates – C. Ross**

*AVC Cucolo Visit:* Associate Vice Chancellor for Leadership Development and Veterans Affairs, Tony Cucolo, is traveling to each UT campus to discuss the importance of shared governance. It is proposed that in May he will visit UT Tyler along with two members of the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC). Two of the main questions he will be asking are: (1) How is shared governance working on campus? (2) Do you feel heard? He and Chancellor McRaven are strong believers that the faculty senate is the voice of the faculty.

*Faculty Workload Taskforce:* FAC is involved with the faculty workload task force. The task force is working to ensure that service is included in a bigger way in the faculty workload model. Currently, service does not play a significant contribution to the workload of the faculty. UT Tyler is involved with the task force is drafting policies about faculty workload descriptions.

*Dual Credit:* Dual credit is being studied at the UT System level. A committee is analyzing its effectiveness and working to develop a policy for implementing dual credit across the UT System.

*Faculty Burnout:* Health affairs committee is launching a seminar on faculty burnout. There is relatively high percentage of faculty burnout particularly within the UT health institutions.

*Faculty Senate President Term:* We may want to think about the term of the Faculty Senate President. Campuses with two-year terms tend to have more stability. The current term is one year.

**2:21 - Day Care Initiative - SGA President D. Srinivasan**

*On-Campus Day Care:* There are many talks about Day Care on campus and there was a Qualtrics survey sent to faculty, staff and students. There was a lot of positive feedback. The results of the short survey were presented. There were many undergraduate and graduate students who would use this service in addition to faculty and staff. The committee will continue to look into this. If a Day Care proceeds then the plan would be to start with children of ages 3 to 5 years old.

*Quick update on SGA activities*: SGA has endorsed having a food pantry on campus. They have also endorsed having an inter-faith room.

**2:27 - Core Assessment - L. Berman**

Gave a Power Point presentation on current core curriculum at UT Tyler. There is a UT Tyler Core Curriculum Assessment Committee and the group has been evaluating student survey results. The committee has worked on revising some of the STEM student survey questions to reflect “student speak” and make them more authentic and related to UT Tyler. There is an approved pilot to use a refined Core Survey starting in 2018.

**2:47 - Canvas update – H. Collier, S. Dillingham**

*Update on transition to Canvas:* To date there have been 58 Canvas trainings and there are more on the calendar. Canvas 101 is the self-paced online course and over 200 faculty have completed this training. Palestine, Longview and Houston Engineering Center have also participated in training. Monday (3/27), some staff leave to go to Houston Engineering Center (HEC) to train faculty. Regarding student training, the team will be going to all student orientations. They have created a self-paced course online for students to learn Canvas. If you have any suggestions for the student course please send an email to Dr. Collier.

*Canvas Boot Camp:* Boot camps have had 35 to 40 people so there has been participation. Overall happy with feedback on Canvas. If there are any issues, please contact someone from the Department of Academic Transformation to get them resolved. Handouts were provided to the participants of the meeting. Camp Canvas is a 1-day conference with multiple Canvas sections and is coming up soon.

*Office of Digital Learning website update:* The Office of Digital Learning webpage now has three new links: (1) Schedule a recording (green screen and light board); (2) Request graphic design help; (3) Request training.

**2:55 - Quantum Leap RFP - A. Bill**

The Chancellor’s 9th quantum leap is on student success. The Board of Reagents has approved $10 million dollars to improve student success (graduating undergraduate students). There are four items that were shown to work in the past: (1) Student contracts—take the right classes, set a minimum GPA limit, meet with advisors, etc. If a student follows this contract, the University will be required to provide the necessary classes for the student to graduate; (2) Emergency financial aid for students who need assistance to pay a part of their tuition payment. This would be a grant/scholarship and not a loan; (3) Student engagement—service learning, interdisciplinary teaching and learning, travel abroad, etc.; (4) Provide a Graduation Help Desk.

Institution specific programs are needed. What system wants is a full proposal about what UT Tyler needs to make a quantum leap in student success. Please email Ashley Bill with ideas that you have by March 29, 2017 so that she can bring to the ideas to the Student Success Task Force. The ideas will eventually go to administration to determine a final proposal.

**3:03 Student convocation – O. Tolliver**

Information on UT Tyler New Student Convocation plan. A Power Point presentation was presented. Friday August 25, 2017 (Friday before classes begin) was the selected date for a student convocation.

**3:10 – Committees – L. Williams**

He is on the Committee on Committees. Faculty Senate will be working on a new University committee structure next year. If anyone has any comments, please email L. Williams or K. Mokhtari. Currently the new Faculty Senate president starts Sept. 1, so after that day the new Faculty Senate President meets with the Provost to set up committees; this is why the committees are not announced until October 1. There is a plan to change the process so that the Faculty Senate President-Elect meets with the Provost at the end of the spring semester to complete the work.

**3:15 Faculty Emeritus update - K. Mokhtari**

Faculty Senate President-Elect is the chair of the Faculty Emeritus committee by default. Currently, an email goes out to all faculty who then nominate those eligible for emeritus recognition. The deadline for nominations is March 31 at 12pm. The committee will meet April 3rd reviews nominations and prepare a report that will be submitted to the President April 22nd.

There is a problem in that the procedure for nominations contained within the HOP is not clear. For example, a nomination is required but it is not stated in the HOP how to do so. There is also an issue determining who is eligible and who is retiring. There are discrepancies between a list gathered from HR and those from the colleges. The current committee is trying to update the HOP description to make things clearer.

**3:20 – University budget – B. O’Donnell**

A Power Point presentation was presented on the University budget. At the competition of the presentation, VP O’Donnell received praise from many senators and faculty for the work he has done to make this an open and transparent process.

**4:03 – Adjourn**