**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, February 15, 2018**

**Alumni House**

**Call to order: 11:38 AM**

**Adjourned: 1:49 PM**

**Members Present:** S. Sass, F. Dykes, S. Spier, M. Souliman, M. Fischer, L. Williams, C. Snider, K. Mokhtari, G. Gordon, J. Klein, W. Njororai, K. Caruso, G. Duke

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:**  S. Odom, R. Al-Rousan, C. Swain, D. Criswell, A. Mirmiran, J. Delello, S. Kambhampati, M. Miller, P. Indic, R. Talukder, A. Bearden, Y. Wang, M. Abdelaziz, V. Betts, D. Bailey, B. Head, M. Giordano, B. Haas, K. Helgesen, D. Alfred, M. Hermann, V. Jowell, B. Deal

**Invited Speakers:** Dr. Michael Tidwell, Dr. Amir Mirmiran, Dr. Paul Streufert, Michael Giordano,

**11:38 – Call to Order – K. Mokhtari**

Senate President Dr. Kouider Mokhtari welcomed all who were present, welcomed Dr. Stine, and thanked those who helped facilitate her visit.

**11:50 – Approval of Minutes and Senate Matters – C. Snider**

Senate Secretary Colin Snider presented the minutes from 1/18/18. Senate unanimously approved minutes, with Mary Fischer motioning and Kleanthe Caruso seconding.

**11:40 - President Updates**

The president offered 10 short updates on various goings-on at UT-Tyler:

* Homecoming is 2 weeks away (Feb. 28). Stanley’s Barbecue will provide food and there will be live music. There is a registration page, and those interested in attending are asked to RSVP.
* UT-Tyler will host a professional development conference in the fall to help students learn about their fields and careers by attending panels conducted by alums from the various colleges. The conference will occur on the first Thursday of fall semester. Professors are asked not to cancel classes, but to instead reassign their students to the panels of their respective fields. There will also be a breakfast for students to network with professionals, and in the evening, graduate students will be able to attend a networking event as well.
* Faculty Senate and USAC are working collaboratively on a joint awards ceremony for staff and faculty alike. More information will be forthcoming.
* The Searches for VPAdvancement and VPSA ongoing; decisions will be forthcoming very soon.
* International outreach efforts are going strongly. UT-Tyler will be working with an investment group from China interested in developing in Tyler more generally. Additionally, efforts at international outreach were ramping up even before the recent announcement of a billion-dollar-plus investment project.
* The university has established new scholarship efforts via presidential scholarships that will target high GPA/SAT/ACT to offer full-ride scholarships, something that UT-Tyler previously did not have.
* President Tidwell will be testifying before a joint committee on tuition in Austin next week. The president will also be presenting the marketing plan and elements of the strategic plan in the following week. The university is planning a big event for these changes in March.
* UT-Tyler’s application to join Division 2 athletics has been submitted and received. A date for orientation to Division 2 has been scheduled in August. This does not yet mean UT-Tyler’s application has been accepted, but it is progressing along the intended path thus far, and the university should have a final decision regarding its application by June or July.
* The president will be making a major announcement the coming Monday (February 19) at 10:30 AM. Information will be forthcoming shortly.
* President Tidwell has been visiting the colleges to meet with each, and will be wrapping up the tours in the coming week.

**11:50 – Provost Updates – Dr. Amir Mirmiran**

*Quantum Leap on Student Success Grant*

UT-Tyler’s digital success toolkit is moving forward for 35 courses, with the goal of providing additional resources to augment and improve students’ performance in these courses. There will also be a faculty development component, as student success and faculty success are connected.

*Search updates*

The Provost’s office hopes to have an announcement on the new Executive Director for the Office of International Programs in the next few days. The search for a new Dean of Arts & Sciences has begun, while the search for the Director of Research and Scholarship continues. Finally, as part of the reorganization of Academic Affairs, the University College is being reformed as Assistant/Associate provost for undergrad education, with a search launching in next few days.

*Faculty workload*

The Board of Regents changed the regents’ rule on workload, and now, each campus has to provide their own final version of faculty workload policy by November 2018. UT-Tyler has been working on this policy this semester, with the goal of submitting a policy to President Tidwell by the end of the semester. A committee of 13 is working on the policy, with two representatives (one faculty member and one chair/dean/administrator) per college and with the Provost and the Faculty Senate President. Updates and town halls will be forthcoming later this semester. The new policy will especially focus on four key ares: ensure the new workload policy is in line with the strategic plan’s mission of Student Success; provide fairness and equity in workload requirements of facutly; connect assignments of faculty to assessment; and meet the university’s fiduciary responsibility to ensure the new workload policy lends itself to efficiency.

**12:01 – University Committee Report – Emeritus Committee – Dr. Wycliffe Njororai**

The Emeritus Committee has begun its work, and is seeking recommendations for faculty for Emeritus status. There are five requirements nominees must meet: they must have already retired in last 5 years OR are going to retire before Fall 2018; they must have a minimum of 10 years of service at UT Tyler; they must be a full professor; they must be nominated by at least 3 full-time faculty; and they must demonstrate good character and sustained quality service to institution. So far, the committee has received two recommendations and welcomes more.

Additionally, some faculty have expressed concern that associate professors could meet four of the five requirements, but are not full professors, but should still be eligible for emeritus status based on their service to the university. This is an issue that faculty senate and the faculty writ large may explore down the road.

Q: Might senate consider Dean Emeritus or Chair Emeritus, which system rules allow for?

A: This can also be a part of the conversation going forward.

**12:09 – Lyceum, Student Research Showcase – Paul Streufert**

The Honors Program and Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning are hosting the 3rd Annual Lyceum Student Research Showcase on Thursday, April 26. There will be student paper sessions in morning and student poster presentations in afternoon. The Lyceum is open to both undergraduate and graduate students in all fields. The Honors Program and the CETL ask faculty to participate in the Lyceum in two ways: encourage their students to present—especially juniors and seniors—and attend or serve as judge.

**12:13 – Faculty Senate Updates**

There are two new university policies in place. One will require faculty who offer online instruction to be trained in online instruction once every three years. The other is that the review of faculty teaching credentials shall be reviewed prior to teaching a course, with the chair determining suitability based on academic credentials and SACS expectations.

The Senate also summarized some of the general outcomes of the University of Texas System representatives Tony Cucolo and Susan Franzen to UT-Tyler last week. The Senate has notes from the visit available for those faculty interested, and it encourages discussions in departments and colleges regarding shared governance and the climate and culture of their respective units.

Michael Giordano offered a brief presentation about the upcoming Graduate & Professioanl Student Association Week in early April. Part of the week’s events will include Grad School 180, a competition in which students will have 180 seconds to present research and say why its important to everybody. There will be cash rewards for the winning presentations.

The Faculty Senate is moving forward on a Climate Survey, and more information will be forthcoming soon.

The Faculty & Staff Awards Event will happen at the end of the semester, with after-five attire. Date and location are being finalized, and will be announced soon.

The university is moving forward with its History of UT Tyler book project. Drs. Mary Fischer and Colin Snider are finalizing details, and hope to begin work on the project by the end of the semester.

**12:30 – Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research Presentation – Dr. Deb Stine**

Deb Stine was a guest speaker who worked with faculty to facilitate and develop discussions and methods regarding interdisciplinary research.

**1:49 – Adjourn**

Mary Fischer moves to adjourn, Kouider Mokhtari seconds, unanimously approved.