

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday October 15, 2020

12:30-1:50 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

Zoom Attendees:

Lynette Sutter, Lauren Kirby, Justin Reinert, Kouider Mokhtari, Barbara Wooldridge, Colleen Swain, Ashleigh Day, Catherine Ross, Brenna Scott-Rothrock, Mary Fischer, Julie Delello, Belinda Deal, Michael Tidwell, Christine Forisha, Forrest Kaiser, Matthew Kelly, Matt Stith, Sonja Morale, Dr. Lauri D. John, Sydni Blundell, Gina Doepker, Beverley Golden, Nicole Schugel, Chris Thomas, David Barron, Kim Livingston-Cobb, Rick Helpers, Jennifer Klein, Dr. KT Helgesen, Amir Mirmiran, Fernando Resende, Kathryn Martinez, Sherry Howard, Rebecca McKay Johnson, Premananda Indic, Margo Duncan, Althea Arnold, Dr. Glenn A Barnes, Sarah Bowdin, Marti Halbbrook, S. Whatley, Kent Stucky, Amentahru Wahlrab, Erin West, Sarah Sass, Tammie Hanson, Wycliffe W. Njororai Simiyu, Terra Gullings, Colleen Marzilli, Katie Stone, LaTrese Mass, Amy Hayes, Neil Gray, Charles Brown, Samantha Estrada Aguilera, Kim Nimon, Dominick, Randy LeBlanc, Janet Gehring, Olga Berkout, Colin Snider, Melissa Hill, Scott Dillingham, Jason Smee, Andrew Pettee, Janice Helpers, Elizabeth Yett, Tamela Kimbro, Annamary Consalvo, Lou Ann Viergever, Laura Boyd, Vivek Pandey, Barbara Haas, Prabha Sundaravadivel, Veronica Viesca, Brittani Riley, Cindy Strawn, Takova Wallace-Gay, Gisele Abron, Nary Subramanian, Dr. Cheryl D. Parker, Yonjoo Cho, Venugopal Gopalakrishna-Remani, Carla Reichard, Matthew Cartwright, Carol Wilkinson, Tammy Cowart

12:30	Welcome and Call to Order	Rick Helpers
12:35	Approval of September Meeting Minutes	Amentahru Wahlrab
12:40	President’s Updates	Michael Tidwell

- (Dr.Tidwell stepped away for a minute so agenda changed here). **Christina Forisha** update from library about a survey. Fliers will go out.
- Dr. Helpers announced a suggestion box in cooperation with USAC.
- President Tidwell returned and agenda is followed again: New things; **Covid numbers** look “good” though some students/staff/faculty (8 cases in current week but almost a dozen active cases). New signage on campus on doors/walls/and tables encouraging/requiring mask usage.

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- **Scrimmage** games for soccer. Numbers low in our conference and UT system in general. All student athletes competing are being tested twice per week and coaches are tested once per week. Barring a spike in numbers, there will be ongoing scrimmages.
- **Meeting** with enrollment management folks and worried about duplication of efforts. So taskforce will be created to assess level of duplication of recruitment efforts. Two faculty reps (SCOB and Nursing) plus undergrad and grad enrollment offices. General charge so that they can think creatively.
- **Q & A:** how has recruitment changed with Covid? Fairs are problematic but still marketing to high schools. Event last week promoting the change to top 25% acceptance. Lots of parents, prospective students, faculty, swoop, jazz band, cheer squad/pep squad. A number of students signed up for next Fall. 65% ahead of where we were last year. Local High schools are requiring all students fill out FAFSA. We are doing zoom meetings to help parents in English and Spanish. One question regarding adding a CAS faculty to recruitment committee mentioned by Dr. Tidwell. Dr. Tidwell agreed to add more faculty in his response.

12:55

Provost Updates

Amir Mirmiran

- Worries about graduation rates. We have 9% more seniors this year than last. But, rumors that grades are bifurcated due to Covid (perhaps). Faculty are encouraged to reach out to students to help make sure seniors graduate.
- This is SACS year. Running theme but needs to be reiterated.
- 50 year anniversary of birth of university first as Texas State, Texas Eastern, to UT Tyler
- Lecturer promotion track (and clinical instructors). Must go through HOP but the Provost supports finding a paths for promotion.
- Canvas to send grades to *MyUtt Tyler* so faculty don't have to enter twice
- Next few days launch search for permanent dean of SCOB with Dean Gray chairing the search.
- Next week work with faculty to appoint interim dean of college of health sciences
- Q & A: merger? Nothing until December. After that point, SACS accrediting committee will set up on-campus visit. Six weeks prior to visit there must be a second document (second to the one we submitted in September) plus a reaffirmation document before next September.
- **Faculty input into Calendar.** Before any change can happen must be approved by both grad and undergrad council.

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1:10 **Archer Center Fellowship** Katie Stone

- **Katie Stone** (helps honors program). Promoting Archer Fellowships which are open to all students regardless of major. Fellows will work and study in DC for a semester (undergrad) or Summer (grad). Junior, seniors and grad students from all majors should apply. Grad deadline is November 5 and undergrad Feb 15. Links to be posted.

1:20 **Office of Research and Scholarship** Kouider Mokhtari and Team

- Dr. Mokhtari showed a PP that will be posted online. Many new things that indicate that office is in best shape since 18 months ago. New team. Please see PP for outline and description.
- Trends in grant awards indicate that we are sending fewer grants as proposals but we are getting more awards (since 2018). The office is open, money is out there, come by and meet with the team.
- Stars and Rising Stars UT program should be applied for more as appropriate. See ORS for more details and talk to your dean.
- Research magazine and research lab (presented by Dr. Kim Nimon): guidance, computer stations, repository online: consultant team includes (again see video for details)
- Ultimately there are numerous wonderful things to access here.
- Emphasis that this is a service unit, to help make research life easier. Please contact this office with questions.

1:45 **Faculty Senate Update** Rick Helfers

- Highlights: Deadlines for Archer, USAC Faculty senate survey, midterm grades; workgroups in process: free speech, family, diversity and inclusion.

1:50 Adjournment