

The University of Texas at Tyler  
Office of the Faculty Senate

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Thursday, February 20, 2020  
12:00-1:50 p.m.  
BRB 1055

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Senate Members Present:** Althea Arnold, Amentahru Wahlrab, Amy Hayes, Christine Forisha, Colin Snider, Dominick Fazarro, Gina Doepker, Jimi Francis, Mary Fischer, Mena Souliman, Nathan Smith, Randy LaBlanc, Richard Helfers, Sarah Norrell, Wycliffe Njororai

**Faculty and Staff in Attendance:** Cynthia Martinez, Belinda Deal, Tai Wang, David Barron, Matthew Brinton, Sarah Bowdin, Laura Boyd, Gloria Duke, Katie Ramirez, Saren Spicer, Julie Delello, Colleen Swain, Joshua Banta, Kim Harvey-Livingston, Martin Allen, Neil Dong, Sydney Blundell, Muthukrishnan Sathyamoorthy, Andrew Pettee, Bob Beatty, Vicki Jowell, Angela Nunez, Kim Nimon, Janice Miles,

**Faculty and Staff in Attendance via Zoom:** Ashleigh Dinkins, Debbie Gibson, Faye Baxter-Jones, Vivek Pandey, Charles Brown, Gay Kato, Erin West, Veronica Viesca, Tanya Schlemmer, Kleanthe Caruso, Roger Lirely, Venugopal Gopalakrishna-Remani, Katheryn Courville, Ona Tolliver, Colleen Marzilli, Charles Barke, Kayla Thompson, Michael Millett, Melissa Hill, Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark, Neil Grey, John Lamb, Melanie Mogle, Marti Halbrook, Stephen Rainwater, Nary Subramanian, Amy Tiller, Scott LaLonde, Jennifer Klein, Sarah Chadee, Kathryn Martinez, Sonja Morale, Mohammed Ali

**Invited Guest Speakers in Attendance:** Provost Mirmiran, Kouider Mokhtari, Katherine Stone, Paul Streufert, Kassie Archer

12:00 Lunch

12:28 Welcome, Call to Order, and Senate Matters Colin Snider

- Gracie Buentello has sent out a Zoom link to the faculty salary compression study meeting tomorrow, 2/21/2020, at 10 AM. Faculty are strongly encouraged to attend and participate.
- The March Faculty Senate Meeting will be a faculty format meeting. President and Provost will still present at the beginning of the meeting, but then after that administrators will be asked to leave, and zoom will stop recording so that faculty can speak freely about concerns.

12:32 Approval of January Meeting Minutes Amy Hayes

12:33 Provost's and President's Office Updates Amir Mirmiran

- Updates on enrollment: the new top 25% percent appears to have increased confirmed enrollment for incoming freshmen. The number are about 50% up from where they were at this

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point last year. The percentage of the students who are within a 50-mile radius of campus has increased significantly as well. The SAT averages do not seem to be lower due to these changes either (so the new admissions rule has not appeared to lower academic quality of students).

- The UT-System Academy of Distinguished Teachers held a conference on campus earlier this month. One of the take-home messages from the conference was faculty exchange (either for a lecture or two, or for a whole semester) between the institutions in the UT-System. Dr. Mirmiran is going to work on promoting that idea with other Provosts in the system.
- System has approved our faculty's participation in the ACUE (?? Follow up) faculty development program. They are still looking for faculty who are interested from Pharmacy, Education and Psychology. They have approved funding for a course release for faculty who are selected to the program.
- Provost says that he is a little behind on the tenure and promotion letters, but they should be out by the end of February.
- Dr. Mirmiran updated us on the potential updates to the HOP about when faculty would be able to apply for permanent residency through UT-Tyler. They are working to remove the one year waiting period to apply. The HOP committee is going to review new policies which could potentially be in place and approved by the end of March 2020.
- Steering committee for the merger/acquisition is going to try to have a draft of the merger plan by the end of May. They do not anticipate that there will be any impact on our faculty workload or the number of faculty. The committee will provide some more details/updates at the March Senate meeting.

12:48

OSR Updates

Kouider Mokhtari

- See the attached slides for additional details, important contact information, and upcoming dates and events.
- The office is working on securing more funds and support for new faculty who are working on starting research programs.
- Updates on Cayuse: the new electronic IRB application system is open and ORS is no longer accepting old versions of applications. There are two remaining trainings left, one February 21 and one Friday February 28.
- There are several upcoming professional development workshops. See the slides or the ORS website for dates and links to sign up.
- ORS is reviewing bids/proposals from two different consulting firms to help faculty write and secure big grants.
- There are new efforts to mitigate threats of foreign influence on research and theft of intellectual property. One specific part of this is that ORS has hired a compliance officer to work on this.
- Faculty development leave proposals have been submitted and winners will be notified in April, 2020.
- Internal grants are due March 16.
- The ORS is accepting proposals for scholar-in-residence Program. Email with details of request is forthcoming.
- Requests for nominations for University Distinguished Professor rank/promotion is forthcoming.

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- Kouider is working with Dr. Kim Nimon to start a Research Design and Data Analysis Lab. They shared results of the survey that went out to the faculty and a working draft of a proposal. Faculty were most interested in help with analyzing data, learning new software, preparing grant applications, and referring students to get help. About 80% of respondents thought that the lab would be a good idea.
- They are thinking about trying out a Faculty Research Incentive Program (FRIP) program, which could potentially reward faculty by giving one-time stipends, increasing base pay, or supplemental funds for research.

1:30                      Lyceum Updates    Katherine Stone and Paul Streufert

- The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lyceum Student Research Showcase is April 17<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to sign up for judging. You can email [karcher@uttyler.edu](mailto:karcher@uttyler.edu) with your availability that day if you are interested in serving as a judge.
- The Freshman Book for 2020 is Think Like a Freak by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. They are looking for faculty members to lead book discussions with students at freshman orientation this summer. You can email [kstone@uttyler.edu](mailto:kstone@uttyler.edu) if you are interested in leading a 45-minute discussion. It is a paid opportunity for faculty: \$50 a session and they would like for you to sign up for 3 sessions. The Honors Office will provide you with some sample discussion questions.

1:35                      Introduction of David Barron

- New Associate VP for University Enrollment Management

1:40                      Introduction of Andrew Pettee

- New Assistant VP for Student Success and Dean of Students
- He is going to be introducing a series of trainings for faculty about the issues facing students who are also veterans.

1:45                      Adjourn