

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday July 16, 2020
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

Zoom Attendees:

Colin Snider, Amy Hayes, K.T. Helgesen, Rick Helpers, Mary Fischer, Wycliffe Njororai, Catherine Ross, Amentahru Wahlrab, Amir Mirmiran, Belinda Deal, Brent Bill, Charles Brown, Chris Thomas, Christine Forisha, Christy Gipson, Sarah Sass, Beverly Golden, Amanda Cartwright, Andres Garcia, Arun Kulkarni, Brandi Ballard, Brenda Burton, Christy Graves, Colleen Marzilli, Colleen Swain, Danielle Bailey, David Criswell, Deborah Crumpler, Dominick Fazarro, Donald Simmons, Cheryl Parker, Cory Sills, Frank Dykes, Gina Doepker, Gracy Buentello, Greg Bock, Heshium Lawrence, Janet Gehring, Janice Helpers, Jason Smee, Jeff Howlett, Jennifer Chilton, Jerry Stuff, Josh Neaves, Justin Reinert, Kathryn Martinez, Katie Anders, Kent Stucky, Kerrie Anne Ambort Clark, Kim Nimon, Kim Harvey-Livingston, Kimberly Tucker, Kouider Mokhtari, Lauralee Meyer, Lauri John, Lisa Jett, Lori Allen, Lou Ann Viergever, Lynette Sutter, Lynn Harris, Mandy Link, Margo Duncan, Mark Sidey, Mena Souliman, Michael Gangone, Nathan Smith, Sheldon Davis, Donald Simmons, Kim Nimon, Ona Tolliver, Paul Streufert, Peggye Mahfood, Randy LeBlanc, Rebecca McKay Johnson, Sarah Bowdin, Sarah Norrell, Saren Spicer, Scott LaLonde, Sheldon Davis, Stephanie Daugherty, Sydni Blundell, Tammy Cowart, Vandy Dubre, Vanessa Joyner, Yong Tai Wang, Kim Laird

12:30	Welcome and Call to Order	Colin Snider
12:32	Approval of May Meeting Minutes	Amy Hayes
12:33	President's Updates	Michael Tidwell

COVID Updates

- Planning Fall semester and now planning for Spring as well. Plan is to try to have a “regular” fall semester.
- The President shared current enrollment numbers from 7-16-20, our Fall 2020 enrollment numbers have now caught up with the Fall 2018 enrollment and are closing in on last year's numbers from this date.

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- Still in the process of enrolling new freshman for the fall and those are looking strong even with predictions of regular summer melt (difference between enrollment and those who actually show up).
- Guidelines for what faculty should do if you get COVID symptoms:
 - Please stay home. Please encourage students to do the same if they feel unwell.
 - Masks are also required on campus in shared spaces, and face shields have also been ordered for faculty members.
 - If you test positive for COVID, you need to notify Incident Response Team by calling the hotline 903-565-5999).
 - Asking that people who have an immediate family member who tests positive to self-isolate for two weeks as well.
 - Please see this website for frequently updated procedures: uttyler.edu/coronavirus
- There is a conversation about bringing testing to campus by partnering with UT-Health Science Center. Updates coming soon.
- Question: is anyone keeping track of numbers of students who are sick but not on campus this summer? Answer: They are asking students to report symptoms and testing in the same way that faculty are. Any students and faculty who have tested positive have not contracted it on campus (as far as we know).

Student Townhall about Race Issues and Protests

- 400 students joined the town hall with Dr. Tidwell and Mirmiran and Chief Medders
- There were not many questions, but they did want to know what steps the campus is taking to promote diversity and ensure safety of all students
- Dr. Tidwell also held a general town hall with students after that one and there were no further questions about race/protests.

Commencement Updates

- May 2020 was originally postponed to September 2020, now postponed until May 2021.
- Plans for December 2020 commencement are to postpone it to May of 2021 as well.
- Dr. Tidwell raised the issue of holding an online/virtual commencement for discussion.
 - Could we possibly hold a virtual commencement in December while still holding an in person one that is postponed until May 2021?

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- Dr. Sass suggested that we survey students to see what they would prefer, and at least include SGA.

12:48

Provost's Updates

Amir Mirmiran

- Dr. Mirmiran began by thanking Colin Snider for his service as Faculty Senate President this year and commitment to shared government.
- SACSCOC Timeline updates
 - Merger prospectus due to SACS by September 1, 2020
 - SACS will make a decision about merger in December, with merger taking effect January 1, 2021
 - Site visit will then take place in the Spring of 2021 (requires a document to be submitted 6-weeks before the site visit), with a re-affirmation document due September 2021 (was originally due this year but has been delayed because of merger).
- Fall REBOOT update
 - Close to 400 face shields have been ordered for faculty and staff to facilitate the instruction of face to face class.
 - Committee has been working with office of digital learning to ensure classrooms are ready for zoom
 - Instructors are responsible for communicating with their students how any hybrid rotation of students scheduling will proceed.
 - It is important that everyone has a plan B online option for any classes that remain face to face or hybrid.
- ProctorU update
 - Academic Affairs have decided now is not a good time to change proctoring services, but please send them feedback about what is and is not working, and if you have ideas about other mechanisms for proctoring online exams.
- Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan
 - They are working on a draft of this that will come to faculty senate for approval this year.
- 50th anniversary of UT-Tyler is 2021
 - Deans and department chairs should be working this year to compile milestones and achievements of each program

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- 50th anniversary celebration will begin in Summer of 2021

1:03

Faculty Senate Annual Report

Colin Snider

- Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding International Students and UT-Tyler
 - Senate drafted a resolution last week that addresses broader issues related to the support for our international students.
 - Resolves to work together to ensure that international students are provided with the education that they seek, are protected in their pursuit of education, and that we continue to expand the international profile of our institution.
 - Senate voted to pass the resolution (18 yes votes, 0 no votes)
- Dr. Snider's Annual Report for 2019-2020 Highlights:
 - Wanted to address the climate of feeling disengaged among faculty and staff
 - Ensure the representation of faculty voices in institution decision making
 - Showed evidence of our ongoing and growing involvement in university decisions
 - Increased collaborations with other important stakeholders on campus, including SGA and USAC
 - Collected faculty input through at least 4 different faculty-wide surveys this academic year
 - Passed resolutions regarding family care, free speech, the academic calendar, the UTT-UTHSCT Merger, and international students
 - Wrote a white paper on tenure and promotion guidelines in response to COVID-19 pandemic
 - Shepherding changes to HOP to protect faculty
 - Upcoming issues and priorities for the senate include: diversity and civil rights, upcoming merger with UTHSC, moving the institution to an R2 research status, resume efforts to address salary compression.
- Closing remarks from incoming senate president Dr. Rick Helfers
 - Faculty should continue to communicate concerns regarding safety and COVID to Dr. Helfers and Dr. Helgesen, who are our representatives on the IRT committee.
- In case anyone actually reads these all the way through, it has been an honor taking copious notes for your enjoyment throughout the year. Peace out. -Amy Hayes

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1:32

Adjournment