

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday April 21, 2023

12:40-1:55 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/FYrdGupsIs75ByWf9kL9XN8IB7ezRQo4YDtbFq-e-9DiaMSFNqHG39k_CzZM3MUU.gpu42GUhBdfi0WJG

Passcode: H5E&\$F7T

Attendees:

Senators: (* indicates present)

At Large	Staci Zolkoski	Yonjoo Cho*	Michael Morris*
CAS	Matthew Stith	Joseph Vandehey*	Sarah Roberts
Soules COB	Barbara Ross Woolridge	Rochell McWhorter*	Vivek Pandey*
CEP	Christopher Thomas*	Lauren Kirby*	Forrest Kaiser*
COE	Premanda Indic*	Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas	Chung Goh
SON	Colleen Marzilli	Julie George*	Dixie Rose
COP	Santosh Aryal*	Justin (Cole) Wilder	Ayman Hamouda*
Library	Vandy Dubre*	Lori Fregoso*	Michael Skinner
SHP		Kimberly Elliott*	Jessica Escareno* and Anjali Parti*
SOM		Buka Samten* and Jessica Bracks	James (Ryan) Menard*
	Amentahru Wahrlab- President Elect*	Rick Helfers-Past President*	Harrison Ndetan- President*

Zoom: Andy Alvarado, Christian Alvarado, Julie Anderson, Pamela Beall, Chuck Brown, Hannah Buchanan, Devon Churchill, Andi Cooley, David Coursey, Belinda Deal, Julie Delello, Denise Duncan, Mary Fischer, Beverly Golden, Kevin Gosselin, Rachel Harrington, Lynn Harris, Lisa Jett, Lauri John, Shashi Kant, Jaema Krier, A. Kurdows, Arun Kulkarni, Heshium Lawrence, Peggye Mahfood, Becky McKay, Sonja Morale, Steve Myers, Pierre Neuenschwander, Gina Nickels-Nelson, Kim Nimon, Jeff Noblitt, Sarah Norrell, Joyce Pitts, Yvonne Ralph, Dave Rowlett, Sarah Sass, Joey Saxon, Cindy Scott, Jared Sexton, Loren Simmons, Karan Singh, Linda Speed, Joel Staves, Cindy Strawn, Cree Summerville, Krist Swimberghe, Lou Ann Viergever, Amy Weakley, Jennifer Woolridge, Jacki Wyman, SW

In Person: Lou Ann Berman, Gracy Buentello, Kirk Calhoun, David Christian, Andy Krouse, Poonam Kumar, Leon Leach, Amir Mirmiran, Kouider Mokhtari, Dwain Morris, Wycliffe Njoral, Jeff Noblitt, Julie Phillely, Isai Ramirez, Colleen Swain

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AGENDA

12:40 Welcome and Call to Order/Invocation – Dr. Harrison Ndetan, Faculty Senate President

12:41 Approval of January minutes – Dr. Julie George, Faculty Senate Secretary

12:42 President Update: Dr. Calhoun

- Several construction projects ongoing: Medical school building & nursing building are in progress, design and planning for science building, UA expansion and safety enhancements,
- Childcare: working to get childcare facilities for employees; will be in UA building and will require building/safety enhancements; hoped to be able to move on that more quickly but due to regulations, it will likely take 1-2 years to get that going
- Faculty pay: ongoing conversation; looking at new benchmarks; team reviewing now to help increase salaries to recruit and maintain quality faculty
- Legislative session: UT System is highly engaged
 - Funding for higher education: hoping for increased formula funding, Dr. Calhoun has testified in support of UTT; hoping to be able to get more funding for salary increases
 - Tenure: some kind of legislation is coming (SB 18 to be voted on today), could create a timeline for tenure reviews, our goal is to make sure legislation is constructive and check the details; one potential bill to make BOR grant tenure- UT System already does that
 - DEI- SB17 already passed Senate; UTT trying to ensure that whatever ends up being the final legislation is beneficial to UTT
 - CRT-historically legislation has not dealt with higher ed; could include legislation that it be taught as a theory

12:56 Legislative Update: Dr. David Coursey- UT System FAC (Faculty Advisory Council)

- SB 18: Tenure bill-effectively eliminates tenure; planned to have a floor substitute before vote today, but just heard that won't be happening so vote will be on bill as is; however, not much traction on this issue in the House but will be watching
- SB 17: DEI-abolished DEI programs/initiatives; passed the Senate but not likely to pass the House
- SB 16: CRT-passed in Senate; can't compel a student to believe certain political positions; associated fine; highly unlikely to pass House

1:15 EVP Business Update: Mr. Dwain Morris

- Budget process ongoing
- Won't know final budget until after legislative session
- IT Update- Isai Ramirez
- Continuing to work through migration
- Looking at new reports very often and analyzing and addressing issues

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- Continue to submit tickets for issues so we can see trends
- Please make sure to read emails from IT Support for important email and to make sure your tickets are resolved successfully

1: 20 Provost Update: Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Thanks to the library, Graduate School, and ORSSP for coordinating a successful research month with many activities this month
- East Texas Research Conference to culminate the month tomorrow

1:22 EVP Health Affairs/Vice Provost Update: Dr. Julie Philley

- First medical student cohort starts in June with white coat ceremony in July
- Thanks to Dr. Calhoun for actively advocating for UTT in the Texas legislature
- New deans for COP and SHP are in place and adjusting to new roles
- MOT is moving to North Campus this summer
- Working on budget/ways to ensure meeting budget each month

1:25 Tuition Reduction Program: Mr. David Barron, VP Enrollment Management

- Piloted in four graduate programs: electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, computer information science, and biology
- Created more GA positions to reduce tuition
- All programs showed growth
- Invested \$161 K, Revenue almost \$254 K; ROI 157%
- Plan to expand for 23-24 year but does not have to include GA positions if not applicable to program
- Must admit at least 10 more students than last year
- Did market analysis to choose programs and discussed feasibility with faculty
- New programs for next academic year: cyber security, public administration, civil engineering, chemical engineering, communications, math
- FYI: endowment scholarship applications open but closes May 1; encourage students to apply

1:33 Marketing Update: Mr. Jeff Noblitt

- Consolidating and merging uttyler with HSC site to relaunch web presence; to be done by this fall
- Demo of new site-
- Easy access for internal stakeholders (students, faculty/staff, alumni)
- Spanish option
- Links for help-information, visit, apply, give
- Main focus is perspective students and information about all things UTT
- Find your program link will allow to find everything from microcredentials to all majors/degree plans
- More interactive; lots of stories; functional for mobile devices

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- Discussion:
 - Will faculty profile be linked to faculty180? Unsure at this point but will be working on that
 - What about keeping pages updated? This will be easier with new system; have better web governance structure; better functionality to update and maintain
 - Library page-very interactive and needs to be worked with closely

1:54 Senate Updates, Announcements: Dr. Harrison Ndetan

- Look forward to seeing everyone at commencement next weekend
- Remember ETRC is tomorrow; please attend and bring colleagues

1:55 Adjourn