

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday February 17, 2022

12:32-1:58 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/wpimB0tnoa_ShfREsXV8lmwuv96yHXiPvEfmydjKkSGZ-5KRBHNio6LcwiylZ_c.bMvGo0u-51_1T7Dw

Attendees:

Zoom: Lauren Kirby, Andy Pettee, Osama Shoair, Andres Garcia, Kenneth Bryant Jr., Cindy Strawn, Samantha Estrada, Kim Elliott, Lori Fregoso Mohammed Ali, Vicki Jowell, Kim Nimon, Josh Neaves, Francine Durr, Julie Philley, Panda Powell, Zahide Sunal, Julie George, Gina Doepker, Gisele Armond Abron, Sonja Morale, Kay Jenkins, Amanda Cartwright, Riqing Yu, Donna Patillo, Kim Laird, Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Ledlow, Brittany Childs, Cindy Scott, Roger Lirely, Ryan Shartau, Lisa Bush, Amy Tvinnereim, Kevin Moore, Christopher thomas, Saren spicer, Julie Anderson, Kouider Mokhtari, Jeff Noblitt, Dixie Rose, Cindy Rutledge, Kim Sheets, Tamela Kimbro, Pam Beall, Heshium Lawrence, Michael Vick, Sherri Whatley, Mary Fischer, Erin West, Ona Tolliver, Yonjoo Cho, Crystal Fraizer, Janet Gehring, Deena King, Dominick Fazarro, Cynthia Martinez, Michael Morris, Marti Halbrook, Carl Baranowski, Dalia Nessim, Coby Dillard, Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas, Kimberly Ashley, Brista Hurst-Kent, Hannah Buchanan.

In Person: President Kirk Calhoun, Katie Stone, Josh Banta, Christine Forisha, Richard Helfers, Premananda Indic, Rochell McWhorter, Harrison Ndetan, Catherine Ross, Sarah Sass, Muthukrishnan Sathyamoorthy, Amentahru Wahlrab, Barbara Ross Wooldridge, Staci Zolkoski, Sarah Norrell, Livia Garza, Gracy Buentello, Glenn Barnes, Barbara Haas, Scott Dilingham, Amy Krouse, Muthukrishnan Sathyamoorthy, Tanya Gaddis, Sara Jones, Morgan Kopycinski, Lou Ann Berman, Mary Logan, Stephanie Fenter, Amir Mirmiran, Lorri Allen.

AGENDA

12:32

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Sarah Sass

- Thanked leadership for meaningfully including faculty in COVID decision-making during the past year.

12:35

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Dr. Joshua Banta

- Approved at 12:37

12:38

President's Update

Dr. Kirk Calhoun

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- COVID
 - Campus is fully opening again. People have offered a variety of opinions about this, from strongly in favor to strongly against. There is a debate about how to deal with COVID among higher education administrators, but Dr. Calhoun is of the opinion that we need to carry on with our lives and learn to live with it. COVID is here to stay regardless. There are many more people getting vaccinated and eventually therapeutics such as antivirals will be widely available, so with this in mind it is safer to reopen campus and return to normalcy than it was at earlier stages of the pandemic.
 - There will continue to be accommodations provided to faculty/staff/students who are immunosuppressed or who have vulnerable loved ones.
- Construction updates
 - Dr. Calhoun had lunch with Chairman of the UT System Board of Regents Kevin Eltife where they discussed development of the UT-Tyler campus. There is a lot of construction happening going forward:
 - The medical school building in the medical district, which will serve all three phases of medical education. They will be learning in the same facility where care is being delivered. It will be a comprehensive facility for the training of physicians to serve Northeast Texas.
 - The three phases of medical education are:
 - Undergraduate medical education
 - This is not undergraduate education in the sense that most of us are aware. Rather, it refers to the medical students.
 - Graduate medical education
 - This is not graduate education in the sense that most of us are aware. Rather, it refers to medical interns and residents that already have their medical degrees.
 - The health center campus has had family medicine residents for years, and they have already added internal medicine. They will soon be adding more residencies, including:
 - Preventive medicine
 - Surgery
 - Pediatrics
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology
 - Urology
 - There will also be fellowships, which are performed after the residency to further hone skills. The fellowships will include:
 - Cardiology

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- Pulmonary critical care
- Continuing education
 - This refers to providing classes for licensing requirements and maintaining certifications.
 - This is important, because licenses and certifications require doctors to demonstrate that they are engaged in continuing medical education and that they current on the latest research and innovations. UT-Tyler is committed to being a central part of the continuing education process for the doctors that we train.
- Both Christus and UT Health East Texas will be participating in clinical experiences for medical students in and around the medical school building.
- This is all pending approval of the Board of Regents. They should be approved in a month or two and we can move ahead.
- Texas Higher Education has already approved the plans for the medical school. A site visit from the medical school accrediting body will occur soon. Everything is moving along nicely and Dr. Calhoun is very optimistic about the process.
- A remodeling and expansion of the nursing school building.
 - Dr. Calhoun is inundated with calls from hospital executives both regionally and far away asking if we can increase the number of nurses we graduate to meet the critical shortage.
 - The project is moving forward with some funding from the UT System Board of Regents to get that done.
 - The new facility will be very student focused. There will be an increased number of simulation labs and other tools to provide the most state-of-the-art nursing education.
- A new science building
 - Funds from the state have been procured to get it done but inflation has meant that more funds are needed from the UT system.
 - A site on the main campus is already selected.
- A question was asked about when we will get more updates on the approvals processes for the building. Dr. Calhoun responded that the announcements about the medical school will come first in the next couple of months. Then approval of the nursing school will likely come second, in another four to five months. This has to be done slowly and with discretion because people in the community and the state are very cost-conscious.
- Evergreen study

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- Dr. Calhoun will talk to everyone about how to address any problems revealed by the salary study.
- Trademarks:
 - Dr. Calhoun has received good feedback on the new proposed academic mark. The new mark is needed to demonstrate that we are a blended university of the two campuses.
 - A new athletic mark is being developed that incorporates “UT-Tyler” and “Patriots,” unlike the current one, and that includes the mascot (Swoop).
 - A question was asked as to when we must stop using the Flag-T letterheads and other materials. Dr. Calhoun responded that a new marketing guide is being developed, and new websites are being designed. This process can take a few years. He anticipates this process will not be too wasteful because so much of what we do is digital. When the time comes, hopefully we won’t have too many old letterheads to throw out, and if so, we can use them as scrap paper.

1:02

Provost’s update

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Our campus was one of three universities recognized by our coordinating board with a star award for our handling of COVID protocols. Dr. Mirmiran recognizes our faculty for their efforts that led to this award.
- The governor just acknowledged that our campus is now in the R2 – high research activity category according to the Carnegie classification system. Dr. Mirmiran celebrates this achievement, and sees it as progress towards his goal of making UT-Tyler the higher education capitol for East Texas.
- Dr. Mirmiran recognizes our students for getting prestigious job offers and awards for various things.
- A faculty in Mechanical Engineering received a Fullbright award.
- Reminder that the on-site visit from SACSCOC is March 14th – 17th.
- As part of the student success initiative, the university is creating a new position: Associate Provost for online and continuing education. More emphasis on expanding online offerings will allow us to grow our student body and extend the reach of our institution. While we expand our in-person capacity, online education will allow us to grow the student body in the meantime. It can serve as a bridge until our in-person capacity catches up with demand.
- Dr. Mirmiran is focused on student retention.
 - We have a goal of 90% retention going forward. This is aspirational but we continue to make incremental progress.
 - Dr. Colleen Swain has been directed to focus resources on retention.
 - No matter the modality (online or face-to-face), we need to make sure that we are meeting student needs.
- A question was asked about whether more faculty and support staff will be added to support growth. Dr. Mirmiran responded that more faculty and staff will be added in proportion to the rates of growth in the programs. Dr. Mirmiran noted that deans have discretion to adjust teaching loads, and that if there are still staffing issues in the classroom, they deans can come

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

to him with a case for it. Dr. Mirmiran said that more IT support capacity is being added to keep up with growth in online programs.

1:13

Health Campus update

Dr. Julie Philley, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

- Dr. Philley appreciates the leadership of Dr. Neil Gray, who temporarily placed the nursing program in the School of Community and Rural Health. The task force under Dr. Gray's leadership looked at ways that we can start a new school of health professions or a college of health professions. Dr. Philley feels it is an excellent proposal. It is under discussion with UT System and the coordinating board. As this develops, faculty input will be sought as well. The target is to have the new school unveiled this in the fall.

1:15

Quality Enhancement Program

Director Katherine Stone, joined by Dr. Lou Ann Berman and Tonya Gaddis

- The upcoming SACSCOC site visit is in March, and we are in a strong position thanks to everything that the faculty do to make our campus the great place that it is. The SACSCOC committee will tour all campuses (main, health, Palestine, Longview, Houston) and will conduct in-person interviews along the way. Director Stone reminds us that these inspectors are our colleagues at peer institutions. Treat them with respect and focus on the positives on our campus. There will be pre-interview orientations for all persons on the schedule to talk with SACSCOC.
- QEP
 - This initiative is to incorporate real-world problem-solving into our courses.
 - This has been under development for many years.
 - The specific aims of QEP are:
 - Put real-world problem-solving exercises into every discipline
 - Add co-curricular learning extension activities in real jobs. Director Stone feels we need more of this.
 - Identify pedagogical frameworks that can be incorporated into faculty development workshops to make this initiative continue to grow and spread.
 - Topic identification and development
 - We want to focus this initiative on topics that meet students' needs.
 - To find out where to put emphasis, surveys have been sent to alumni and faculty.
 - There is also a steering committee with faculty committee members.
 - Student learning outcomes for courses
 - These are important to the QEP initiative. There should be a real-world problem-solving element to them. Director Stone would like to develop an assessment plan for student learning outcomes to see if they are incorporating real-world problem solving.

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- The QEP initiative is earmarked through the 2026/2027 academic year, so this is a long-term commitment.

1:27

Jeffrey Noblitt, Vice President of Marketing Office of Marketing and Communication

- VP Noblitt updated us on the athletics branding.
- The public relations and consultancy firm Edelman has been contracted to work on this.
- They worked with him to collate input from Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, student athletics, the university council, and the regional development board.
- The recurring sentiment was to bring back Swoop. Eagles are an important part of the athletics identity. There are eagles all throughout campus.
- They looked at all the other logos in the state and elsewhere, and all the eagle mascots, when zeroing in on the new design.
- He showed us some finalist ideas. See the Zoom video recording from 57:00 to 59:00 to view the designs.
- You can email jnoblitt@uttyler.edu with feedback on the designs.

1:36

Strategic planning update

Chief-of-Staff Stephanie Fenter, Vice President of Strategic Planning

- The university needs a new strategic plan as part of its new identity.
- A strategic planning committee has been meeting since last summer.
 - They've been holding discovery interviews to get opinions on UT-Tyler's strengths and what we should build on and expand going forward.
- Proposed 2022 – 2026 strategic priorities:
 - Enrich the student experience
 - Enhance the quality, quantity, and delivery of our programs
 - Micro-learning and mico-certification are big buzz-words out there.
 - Partner and collaborate in service to our community
 - Advance excellence in teaching, research, and healthcare
 - Ensure sustainability and foster accountability

1:51

Office of Research and Scholarship

Dr. Steve Idell, Executive Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Kouider Mokhtari, Associate Vice President for Research and Associate Dean of the Graduate School

- Dr. Idell:

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- The R2 research designation is very prestigious. Be proud of it. This was the result of \$36 million in annual research expenditures from the health campus and \$2.5 million from the main campus, and the doctoral programs on the main campus.
- He has been impressed with the research on the main campus as being really top-shelf stuff. There's great NSF, NIH, and liberal arts-funded research being done.
- We need to maintain all of this to keep growing. We need to expose undergraduates to this research as well.
- There is no effect of R2 designation on faculty that are here already. It only affects new faculty coming in.
- The Graduate School is being reorganized. Graduate enrollment has been moving in the wrong direction at UT-Tyler, in contrast to national trends. So change was needed.
- Dr. Mokhtari
 - There is an initiative to promote excellence in graduate education. ORS is collaborating with departments to increase graduate enrollments/retention.
 - Proposals are due for internal grants by February 28th. Preference is given to proposals with joint PIs spanning the main and health campuses.
 - The East Texas Research Conference is on April 11th. ORS is working on the program. The meeting will be virtual.

1:58

Faculty Senate President update

Dr. Sarah Sass

- Ballots are going out March 1st for Faculty Senate President-Elect. There is still time to nominate people.
- The inaugural meeting of the wellness committee headed by Dr. Cathy Ross is on March 2nd.

1:58 **Adjournment**