

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 2019
UC Ballroom
Call to order: 12:30 PM
Adjourned: 1:58 PM

Senate Members Present: Catherine Ross; Colin Snider; Frank Dykes; Gary Miller; Gina Doepker; John Lamb; Joseph Glavy; Kouider Mokhtari; Mary Fischer; Michael Veronin; Randy Leblanc; Sarah Norrell; Sarah Sass; Scott Spier; Sooah Park; Wycliffe Njororai

Senate Members Zoom: Suzanne Abbey; Amanda Hall;

Faculty & Staff in Attendance: Danielle Bailey; Sally Bouis; Gracy Buentello; Kleanthe Caruso; Julie Delello; Gloria Duke; Rebecca Fernandez; Amy Hayes; Jennifer Klein; Javier Kypuros; Kimberly Laird; Kara Marrs; Cheryl Parker; Jessi Rueter; Braelyn Seely; Lynette Sutter; Colleen Swain; Yong Tai Wang; Sonja Warren; Rahmat Talukder; Ona Tolliver

Zoom Participants: Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark; Cindy Strawn; Veronica Viesca; Patty Bell; Denice Duncan; Richard King; Debbie Gibson; Alma Ravnell; Tonya Gaddis; Scott Dillingham; Charles Brown; Rafe Biswas; Melissa Hill

Invited Guest Speakers in Attendance: Lou Ann Berman; Danielle Bailey; Julie Dellelo; William Geiger; Amy Hayes; Laura Jackson; Provost Amir Mirmiran; Jessi Rueter;

AGENDA

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Call to Order

12:34 Approval of January Meeting Minutes

12:35 Update - VP for Technology and CIO

Lynette Sutter

Dr. Wycliffe Njororai Simiyu

Dr. Sarah Sass

Dr. Sherri Whatley

Dr. Whatley described updates from the Technology and Information Analysis Division. For full information, please see her presentation located on the faculty senate webpage. A few highlights:

- Technological support has moved to RBN 3022
- HelpNow is a useful centralized source of IT help- help.utyler.edu
- Another centralized resource of various services available to us: one.uttyler.edu
- Tech purchases – IT reviews new computer requests. Current university policy: may have one primary PC/laptop and one low cost tablet/ipad. Grant-approved systems are excluded but should meet supportability and security requirements
- There is an event coming up called “TECH Touch” that will be held in USC 118 where faculty and staff can “test drive” various approved devices (stay tuned from IT for further information)
- Dr. Whatley reviewed various questions she had received prior to her presentation. Please see the presentation for those questions and answers.
- A question that arose in the group was about a UT system predictive analytics project that helps us look at data of student applicants to see if we can predict which groups of students come (for example is it those students we give a scholarship to, etc). The project works closely with Lucas Roebuck and is a short project that will only last a few more months.

- Dr. Whatley's area will be developing a data advisory committee, please stay tuned for calls for volunteers.

12:50 Updates from the Provost's Office

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- An update on searches was provided. The Dean of the College of Education and Psychology search has begun, and candidate reviews for the Soules COB is underway.
- Please let students know that the graduate school is eliminating graduate application fee for alumni. Not just for existing UGs, also for any UTT alum.
- A showcase is being planned between the Provost's office and Faculty Senate to highlight initiatives undertaken in departments with the 15K the Provost's office provided to departments. This initiative will be to allow sharing of initiatives and to determine which ones might be good to continue, which to change, etc. A poster presentation format was discussed, the data will likely be in April. Dr. Mirmiran and Dr. Sass visited chairs council in February to discuss the idea and format with chairs.
- April is research month – Grad 180, Lyceum, Celebration of Scholarship will all take place in April, please take part. In addition, all deans have paid registration fees for everyone to attend East Texas Research Conference in May.
- Faculty senators are now participating in leadership teams at the college level with Deans

1:00 Update on QEP

Dr. Lou Ann Berman Dr. William Geiger

Dr. Geiger described updates on the QEP. For full information, please see the QEP presentation document located on the faculty senate webpage. A few highlights:

- For SACSCOC, a quality enhancement plan is developed every 5 years; our next reaffirmation visit is Spring 2021.
- 2 years ago – pulled together planning team for QEP. Did a survey of students, faculty, staff and alumni. Out of 20/25 topics, 4 rose to the top. 1. Work related knowledge/skills, internships, career planning/being career-minded, and solving complex real world problems.
- Now a second implementation committee being formed. SACS expected analysis to come from analysis of ongoing assessments, not a survey. So Dr. Berman looked at assessment we had from NSSE surveys over a period of years. An area identified as in need of improvement across a 4-year period was the application of knowledge to solving real-world problems. Before digging more deeply, share with folks on academic side. Not all programs would have to adopt it, and it can vary from discipline-to-discipline.

1:10 Faculty Professional Development/CETL

Dr. Delello and FLC liaisons

Julie Delello; CETL is located on the bottom floor of the library. Please send ideas for CETL workshops to them. In addition, the offices has 4 learning communities

- **Academic Innovation (Awards and Showcase): Dr. Danielle Bailey;**
 - Meets 1x/month –works on 2 things on yearly basis – teaching and learning awards. These help faculty and teaching staff implement new content.
 - Application deadline Weds March 20 – doing something innovative in the classroom, and are \$2k awards provided in Fall 2019

- Academic Innovation showcase – April 12 1-5p
<https://www.uttyler.edu/cetl/faculty-learning-communities/academic-innovation.php>
- **Student Research Lyceum: Dr. Amy Hayes;**
 - Goal is to give faculty tools need for undergraduate and graduate student research
 - Student research faculty panel discussion event Tuesday March 19 – 12:30-1:30 Soules 307
 - What does student research look like across disciplines
 - Sign up to attend
https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NW97rCI13HJUfr
 - 4th annual lyceum – accepting applications – April 1 is deadline. 150 word abstracts
https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_785PBUiL1oKqEGF
 - Faculty judges for morning/afternoon sessions and poster session still needed.
- **Service Learning Showcase: Dr. Rochell McWhorter & Dr. Jessica Reuter;**
 - Upcoming service learning faculty learning community events
 - Open app period to submit courses as designated service learning – due April 29 <https://www.uttyler.edu/cetl/faculty-learning-communities/service-learning.php>
 - Next FLC meeting Tues, Mar 7
 - March 28, 2019- Ornelas Activity Center – celebration of service learning showcase. Showcase of projects.
- **Global Awareness and Diversity: Dr. Colin Snider**
- Participants on the FLC have begun work on addressing and discussing Global Awareness and Diversity on campus in three areas:
 - Global Awareness and Diversity in the Classroom
 - Faculty and Staff Development in Global Awareness and Diversity
 - Global Awareness and Diversity at UT-Tyler and Beyond
 - There are currently 4 big projects: 1. Outreach to community 2. speakers 3. Research/conference trip – bringing global awareness to classroom 4. Certificate program

1:35 Updates on Legislative Affairs and Community Relations Laura Jackson

Director Laura Jackson described from the Legislative Affairs and Community Relations divisions. For full information, please see her slides located on the faculty senate webpage. A few highlights:

- A general overview of state and local leadership was provided
- The House and Senate-introduced budgets are both slightly up this year.
- Current legislative initiatives were discussed. In particular, the student right to vote initiative has to do with allowing students to vote on things like if they want their student fees to be raised in order to support rec center opportunities that they want.
- Updates from Community Relations included letting Laura know when we are working with outside groups in community engagement so we can be more coordinated in terms of our efforts in the region

- The “100 communities” initiative was discussed, where the Community Relations staff plan to visit 100 communities by August 31 to make initial community connections, including Chamber CEOs and school superintendents.
- East Texas High school idea challenge was discussed, see uttyler.edu/idea. This is a two-phase competition for area high school students, with YouTube elevator pitch due March 15 and “Shark Tank” competition on campus May 17. Schools earn \$\$\$; Students earn scholarships
- A Patriots Discount program was developed to partner with local businesses to offer discounts to UT Tyler students, faculty, and staff. Early adopters are listed. Please encourage businesses you shop/eat at to apply <http://www.uttyler.edu/community/discount-program/>
- Discovery Science place offers research and service opportunities for colleges. Deans are on community engagement teams from CAS, CEP and CoE.
- For more, see uttyler.edu/community

1:45 Updates from UT FAC

Dr. John Lamb

- An update on the February UT System FAC meeting was provided. Chancellor Milliken shared a couple of new initiatives, including free speech and diversity.
 - o Last spring, the FAC wrote a free speech statement and it Chancellor Milliken asked the group to entertain going to a University of Chicago statement, but FAC preferred the one they recently drafted.
 - o Another initiative is increasing diversity within UT system. John proposed ways we as a faculty senate can contribute. 1. Faculty senate can put forth a definition of diversity and inclusion. 2. We can work on a paid parental leave policy. These issues can allow us to address some of the issues in recruiting/keeping good faculty.
- Finally, student evaluations came up at FAC regarding how much weight to give them. As a faculty senate we could come up with a recommendation.

1:55 Announcements

Dr. John Lamb & Dr. Wycliffe Njororai Simiyu

- Faculty Affairs committee- Faculty Awards event - doing a lunch again; bringing it back to study day and have already booked UC Ballroom - faculty and staff are invited
- Email went out from Colin about nominations for White and Piper – be sure to nominate if relevant
- Culture survey – 40% participated. On March 21, Susan Franzen and President Tidwell will be at the regular faculty senate meeting to discuss the results and the values we want to embrace moving forward. We will be meeting in UC Ballroom again.