

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, July 21, 2022

12:36-1:50 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/dmRInQJTYFs0sauHKsOpuAijnC86T8RUSeLaSsgm5DZabL GaLHh4w4hoJaIyVkyf.Gwk_ObUurg_VPZ3p

Attendees:

Zoom: Mohammad (Rafe) Biswas, Hannah Buchanan, Barbara Elliott, Kim Elliott, Samantha Estrada, Julie George, Christy Gipson, Lauri John, Lauren Kirby, Colleen Marzilli, Dalia Nessim, Sarah Norrell, Patricia Royal, Ryan Shartau, Zahide Sunal.

In Person: Joshua Banta, Glenn Barnes, David Barron, Sydni Blundell, Gracy Buentello, Kirk Calhoun, Christine Forisha, Richard Helpers, Brista Hurst-Kent, Andy Krouse, Kouider Mokhtari, Amir Mirmiran, Harrison Ndetan, Julie Philley, Cindy Scott, Mena Souliman, Sarah West, Staci Zolkowski

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

AGENDA

12:36

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Sarah Sass

12:36

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Dr. Joshua Banta

- Approved at 12:39

12:40

President's Update

Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- Dwain Morris was named as the new Executive Vice president of Administration and Chief Business Officer (CBO), effective Aug. 1.
 - He has a long history with the UT System, working previously at MD Anderson and at UT-Austin Dell Medical School.
 - He's a good leader, a good fit to our university, and he is very open-minded to suggestions. He fosters good relationships with faculty.
 - A couple of his current tasks:
 - Implement the recommendations submitted by information technology (IT) experts across the UT system regarding how to modernize our IT.
 - The recommendations are complex and extensive. They include how to merge the main campus and health center campus email addresses (complicated by differing FERPA and HIPPA privacy rules, respectively).
 - Ameliorate the student housing shortage by building more capacity
- He will share the strategic plan at convocation. A preview:
 - IT
 - Student housing
 - Growing curricular offerings
 - Growth in enrollment
 - If we grow enrollment to 15,000 students, we will get significant economies of scale that will allow us to invest in faculty and the future.
 - Enrollment growth will be most easily achieved in the online space. That's where most universities are achieving their best growth.
 - We have recruited a person who will be joining our administration and our faculty who will have the specific mission of working with the Dean, faculty, and others to develop more online programs, and to generally

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

modernize our course offerings. She comes from a university that has 9,000 online students.

- [Post-script: It was revealed on August 1st by Provost Mirmiran that the person Dr. Calhoun was referring to here is Dr. Poonam Kumar. She will serve as Associate Provost for Online and Continuing Education. She previously served as Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Digital Learning at Lamar University, overseeing 77 online programs with over 9,000 students.]

- COVID

- There is fatigue, but COVID is still here and will be here. It is endemic. The world has changed, the virus has changed. There are medications and treatments available now that were not available earlier on. We need to look at it more like a bad flu than as something that should shut the university down. We need to have a clear stance about that.
- Public Affairs is working on a letter that will be addressed from Dr. Calhoun:
 - The university will be open as usual.
 - 100% capacity.
 - If you have an underlying illness or condition that makes you vulnerable, we will work with you to find an accommodation.
 - Masks will not be required, but please be respectful of peoples' choices, no matter what they decide.
 - If you are sick, stay home.
 - We are not requiring vaccinations, but we encourage people to get vaccinated, get boosted. It will give you a milder expected course of illness.
 - The COVID response team is shutting down. We will still work with healthcare professionals to see where we're at.
 - The COVID statistics website will be shut down because it is not helpful any more. The reason it is not helpful any more is that most people take COVID tests at home and do not report them.
 - The university will continue to track hospitalization rates and bad hospital outcomes. If it becomes bad, we will look at what needs to be done. But COVID hospitalizations in our area are currently at an all-time low.
 - He recognizes that some people may want a more cautious approach, but this is in the best interest of the university and the community.
- A suggestion was made to hold monthly vaccine drives. Dr. Calhoun believes this is a good idea. Another person in the audience suggested that vaccine drives should include many different vaccines, not just COVID.

- Monkeypox

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- A question was asked about Monkeypox. Dr. Calhoun gave the floor to Dr. Philley to answer. She said that we are prepared to handle an outbreak. It's on our radar.

1:02

Provost's update

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- He recognizes outgoing Faculty Senate president Dr. Sarah Sass for leadership and accomplishments and thanks her for her taking on the role.
- Fall enrollment
 - Fall enrollment is good.
 - It is 8% higher as compared to where we were last year.
 - We are where we were at in 2019!
 - We have a record freshman class
 - CAP students (<https://www.uttyler.edu/admissions/coordinated-program/>) begin in summer, which helps the enrollment numbers as well.
 - Enrollment is improved for freshmen, transfer students, and graduate students as compared to recent years.
- Retention
 - Dr. Mirmiran gave the floor to Dr. Colleen Swain, Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education. She says that she looks at retention numbers every day. We are at 70% presently, and we want to get up to 80% like we had before COVID.
- Updating course offerings
 - The plan is to diversify our portfolio of courses (including online courses), with ties to Coursera and Google to allow students to get microcredentials.
- The search for the Associate Provost for Online and Continuing Education is concluding and the selected candidate will be announced soon.
 - [See above about Dr. Poonam Kumar.]
- Dr. Mirmiran thanks Drs. Mokhtari and Idell in the Office of Research and Scholarship:
 - Funded many internal grants
 - Funded a record number of faculty development leave applications from a record number of applicants.
 - Faculty and chairs should recognize this opportunity for professional growth and promote it to their faculty.

1:08

Health Campus update

Dr. Julie Philley, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- She recognizes outgoing Faculty Senate president Dr. Sarah Sass for leadership and accomplishments and thanks her for her taking on the role. She emphasized Dr. Sass's kind and collaborative approach to shared governance.
- There are currently two health-related Dean searches underway:
 - School of Health Professions
 - School of Pharmacy
- The School of Medicine is open for applications.
 - Over 3,000 have been received so far. 6,000 are forecasted. [There will be 40 slots.]
 - Interviews will take place in the fall, and the students will begin next summer.
- The health center received a \$10 million gift from the Rogers Foundation to support mental health.
 - It will mostly support endowments to support faculty
 - \$1 million for School of Nursing
 - \$1 million for College of Pharmacy
 - \$1 million for psychology
 - Some of it will be for psychiatry (child, adolescent, geriatric)
 - Scholarship money
 - Some money earmarked for developing curricula specifically related to mental health
 - Will be funded over a number of years
- Nursing School renovations plans will be brought before the Board of Regents soon. We've been busy with this.

1:12

President's Update, Part II

Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- UT Tyler and Kilgore College have inked a deal to create a pipeline for certain programs directly into the Longview campus for business, education, nursing, and healthcare
 - It will be seamless for students going from Kilgore College to UT-Tyler
 - A press release is forthcoming
- UT Tyler and TJC have also inked a deal regarding the TJC Promise.
 - The TJC Promise allows high-achieving students to attend TJC at little-to-no cost.
 - The deal allows TJC promise students to flow into UT Tyler's Promise program, where they can continue their education at UT Tyler for little to no cost (as long as their family's income is less than \$85,000 per year).
 - The money has been earmarked by UT System for this purpose.
 - A press release is forthcoming

1:14

Office of Research and Scholarship

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

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

- The Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs is now the name of his office.
- It is actually two separate legal entities:
 - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler
 - Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs
 - The University of Texas at Tyler
 - Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs
- These two entities are merging administratively but will remain as separate legal entities.
- Research Leadership Team
 - Anna Kurdowska, PhD, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance and Compliance Officer, oversees research compliance on both campuses.
 - Panda Powell, MBA, CRA, Director, oversees the Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs on both campuses.
 - Lisa Bush, MS, CIP, Director of the Human Research Protection Program and IRB Director, oversees IRB operations.
 - Alan Cook, MD, MS, FACS, Medical Director, Center for Clinical Research.
 - Kent L. Willis, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Research & Associate Dean, Graduate School, oversees recruitment and admission.
- Council of Academic Deans (CAD) Retreat
 - Occurred on July 14, 2022
 - The Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs and the Graduate School will collaborate with faculty and staff to help achieve strategic priority of doubling our research expenditures to \$48M by 2027 through following initiatives:
 - Recruit & retain high-caliber faculty to engage in rigorous research and scholarship supported by extramural funding
 - Promote, facilitate and fund cross-disciplinary mentorship and collaboration opportunities for new and existing faculty
 - Engage undergraduate and graduate students in research and scholarly work
 - Work with academic units to set expected research productivity and impact based on their peers
 - Incentivize research and scholarship productivity and impact for academic units and their faculty
- Faculty Development Leave (FDL)
 - Eight FDL applicants submitted for one semester leave of absence
 - FDL review committee recommended funding five of eight applications (three in CAS, one in COE, and one in SHP)
 - Academic Affairs funded five FDL applications (one Fall 2022; four Spring 2023)
- Internal grants
 - Seven very nice projects were funded.

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- Graduate Student Application, Admission, and Enrollment Trends
 - Newly instituted programs and initiatives have so far resulted in a higher level of service to graduate education, which has in turn resulted in increased graduate student applications, admission, and enrollment.
 - As of July 20, 2022, preliminary admission funnel counts show an increase in domestic and international graduate student applications received in Fall 2022 over the prior year with a favorable trend for increased enrollment of new graduate students as well as increased retention of returning students.
- Incentivizing Growth in Graduate Student Enrollment and Retention
 - New Graduate Fellowships
 - The [New Graduate Fellowship \(NGF\)](#) is available to graduate students in their first semester. This is a \$1000 award that may be renewed each academic year. The scholarship also grants in-state tuition.
 - The deadline is up until the first day of classes for the regular Fall 2022 session.
 - Tuition Reduction Benefit (TRB) Program
 - The goal of this scholarship program, which provides 50% tuition reduction, is to support UT Tyler graduate student growth in programs with available capacity by creating scholarships to reduce the resident (in-state) portion of tuition.
 - Endowed Graduate Scholarships
 - These are new graduate scholarships for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters. These scholarships are awarded competitively to students who have demonstrated noteworthy academic achievement. To be eligible, students
 - must be enrolled as a full-time graduate student (9 credit hours per semester) during the academic year and all subsequent academic years during your program of study.
 - must be continuously enrolled as a graduate student in good standing (i.e., maintain a 3.0 GPA) and making progress toward your graduate degree.
 - Funds available are a one-time allocation. First come-first served.
 - The deadline is up until the first day of classes for the regular Fall 2022 session.
 - Early Enrollment Incentive
 - This incentive is open to *newly admitted graduate students* to help them reach their academic goals. Eligible students need to enroll for Fall 2022 by July 15th to qualify for a \$200 book allowance. More information about this incentive is provided on the Graduate School website <https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/early-enrollment-incentive/>
 - Patriot Admit and 4+1 Proposal

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- In May 2022, a Patriot Admit 4+1 Proposal was approved by the Council of Deans in consultation with department chairs, the Graduate School, Provost Amir Mirmiran and Vice Provost Lou Ann Berman.
- The UT System Board of Regents will review the proposal at the August Meeting. If approved, the Patriot Admit and 4+1 programs will launch Fall 2023.
- Thanks to Drs. Mirmiran and Berman for their leadership in facilitating this initiative.
- Graduate Student and Faculty Research Support
 - Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs)
 - During AY 2021-2022, the Graduate School in partnership with The Office of The Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost funded a total of 39 graduate students received Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$3,500 per semester).
 - These awards are disbursed by the Graduate School with the goals of facilitating faculty and graduate student research.
 - We anticipate same level of GTA funding support in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.
- During AY 2021-2022, several faculty members across all colleges and schools requested and received funding to support the hiring of Graduate Research Assistants, Lab Technicians, and Post-Doctoral Research Fellows. Funding ranged from \$1,500 to \$60,000 per faculty member.
 - These awards are designed to support high quality research and acquisition of extramural funding.
- Looking Ahead
 - The Graduate School will be offering programs aimed at advancing graduate education and graduate student success:
 - Graduate Student Orientation
 - Graduate Student Appreciation Week
 - Program Coordinator Appreciation Luncheon
 - EAB Navigate
 - Graduate Student Peer Mentoring
 - Graduate Student Experience Survey
 - Professional Development Opportunities
- More information
 - More information about the Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored programs is available via <https://www.uttyler.edu/research/>
 - More information about the Graduate School and its services is available via <https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/staff/>.

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- For questions or assistance regarding graduate student recruitment, retention, and student success, contact The Graduate School via phone: 903.566.7457 or E-mail: ogs@uttyler.edu.

1:30

Faculty Senate President update

Outgoing President Dr. Sarah Sass

- Brief highlights of shared governance activities
 - Shared governance wins
 - Commitment to accessible childcare on the main campus within a year
 - Combined Staff and Faculty Senate task force
 - 3% instead of 2% equity pay increase this year on the main campus, for both faculty and staff
 - Faculty Senate Salary task force and especially: Dominick Fazarro, Barbara Wooldridge, Christine Forisha, Amentahru Wahlrab and Senate reps and Deans who helped us gather salary data
 - Collaboration with Staff Senate and SGA
 - University-wide wellness group with staff, student, and faculty representation on both campuses - led by Kim Livingston-Cobb and Dr. Cathy Ross
 - https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2octTEE18g9uOy2
 - Beginning an accessibility “audit” on main campus led by SGA – included SGA, Staff Senate, and Faculty Senate
 - Faculty Senate/Staff Senate/SGA Presidents 1:1 monthly meetings
 - End-of-year awards collaborative event with Staff Senate; Staff Senate helped fund
 - Faculty Senate contributed small \$ to University Appreciation Days
 - Key areas of Senate representation
 - President’s Cabinet
 - Monthly meetings with President Calhoun
 - Monthly Executive meetings with Dr. Mirmiran and Dr. Philley
 - New Strategic Plan
 - Planning for new school of health occupations led by Dean Gray and commissioned by EVP Dr. Philley
 - Covid Response Team
 - HOP Consolidation review: e.g., Tenure and Promotion, Faculty Grievance
 - UT System IT review of both campuses
 - Other representation and efforts
 - Searches (ex: Advancement, Marketing, Associate Provost for Online Education, Dean of Medical School, Registrar, CBO, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs for Medical School, director of CETL, others)
 - Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion council

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- Career Success Conference
- Commencement, end of course evaluations, SACSCOC visit for reaccreditation, new fellowship advisory committee
- Initiating discussions around expectations as we embrace our combined R2 status
- Reps on University Committees 2021-2022
 - Budget – Colleen Marzilli (did not meet)
 - Executive Compliance Committee– Sarah Sass
 - Faculty Affairs Committee- Sarah Sass
 - Faculty Emeritus Committee – Harrison Ndetan
 - Graduate Council –Takova Wallace-Gay
 - HOP Committee – Mary Fischer, Harrison Ndetan, Sarah Sass
 - Research Council- Staci Zolkoski
 - Student Achievement committee–Rochell McWhorter
 - Student Appeals Committee– Barbara Wooldridge
 - Student Engagement Advisory Committee – Matthew Stith
 - Undergraduate Student Success Committee – Cathy Ross
 - Undergraduate Council – Christopher Thomas
- Senate end of course evaluation committee reps
 - CAS – Josh Banta (chair)
 - SON- Colleen Marzilli
 - CEP – Lauren Kirby
 - Pharmacy – Justin “Cole” Wilder
 - SMBS – Pierre Neuenschwander
 - SCRH - Reuben Cowan
 - Soules – Rochell McWhorter
 - COE - Premananda Indic
- Career conference planning reps
 - Mohammad Biswas - Engineering (Houston campus)
 - Michael Morris - SCRH
 - Mary Fischer - Soules COB
 - Josh Banta - CAS
 - Sarah Sass – CEP
 - Colleen Marzilli – SON
 - Pharmacy - open
 - SMBS/Medical school – open
- Harrison Ndetan represents Senate
 - Standing salary committee
 - Standing wellness committee

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- Input on other additions/deletions to current university committees? Reach out to Dr. Ndetan!
- Dr. Sass thanks the current and future Faculty Senate executive committees for their efforts. She also thanks Lynette Sutter for all of her efforts to support Faculty Senate.

1:30

Faculty Senate President update

Incoming President Dr. Harrison Ndetan

- Dr. Ndetan thanks Dr. Sass for her tireless efforts and her support in making it a smooth transition.
- There are three primary areas he wants to focus on as president:
 - Affecting change. “Be the change you want to see in the world.”
 - Ensuring open communication between the administration and faculty is essential to make that happen.
 - Collaboration among faculty and with the administration. This is necessary for faculty to truly be partners in shared governance.
 - Being adaptive and responsive. It’s important that the Faculty Senate leadership fosters a good listening environment where faculty can share their ideas and concerns and where the administration can share ideas with the faculty.
 - This is very important, because as an institution of higher learning we come from different cultures and backgrounds and bring different perspectives.
- Dr. Ndetan thanks the incoming Faculty Senate leadership for their participation.
 - This is a challenging time for our institution, given the pandemic, but also a time full of exciting new opportunities to expand our institution in a myriad of ways.
 - You each bring your unique skillsets and perspectives to this job, so leverage those individual talents in service of representing the faculty and advancing our institution.
 - It’s important to bring our passion and engagement to the work of the Faculty Senate. We have to care about what we are doing to support each other, to support the students, to support the institution.
 - We need to practice constructive uncertainty. This means to be deliberative and not hasty in our decision-making to consciously limit the impacts of our preconceived notions and expand our thinking. It will allow us to consult the wisdom of our shared, diverse, and collective voices.
 - We need to adhere to the idea of psychological safety. This is the idea that diverse ideas are most easily shared and fostered when the environment is open and welcoming and free of ridicule.
- He thanks the administration for their engagement with Faculty Senate. They have been compassionately and patiently helping us to understand the administration’s perspective.
- He emphasized the importance of transparency on the part of the faculty and the administration to the shared governance relationship.

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

1:48

President's Update, Part III

Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- Dr. Calhoun plans to do away with the expense and logistics of outside commencement speakers, and use internal faculty speakers instead. This will more intimately involve faculty in the commencement ceremony. Dr. Sass will be the first one, taking on the role of commencement speaker at the next ceremony.

1:50 **Adjournment**