

# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Office of the Faculty Senate

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Thursday May 20, 2021  
12:30-1:20 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

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### Minutes

**Attendance:** Lynette Sutter, Joel Rion Staves, Alyssa Gill, Kleanthe Caruso, Lee Ann Fabry, Cindy Strawn, crutledge, Larry Lowry, Christopher Thomas, belliott, Lorri Allen, Brista Hurst Kent, Andrew Krouse, Cheryl Parker, Colin Snider, Colleen Swain, Amir Mirmiran, Matthew Brinton, Nicole Schugel, Hlawrence, Kim Elliott, Margo Duncan, akurdows, Matthew Stith, Michael H. Kennedy, Kathleen Helgesen, Rick Helfers, Kenneth Bryant, Gracy Buentello, Barbara Haas, Gregory Bock, Christine Forisha, Pamela Beall, Sarah Sass, Vanessa Casanova, Kirk Calhoun, Michelle Crum, David Barron, Francine Durr, Sarah Meisch-Lacombe, Scott Dillingham, Muthukrishnan Sathyamoorthy, Ona Tolliver, Tim Ochran, Hannah Buchanan, Kevin Moore, Catherine Ross, Kim Livingston-Cobb, Fernando Resende, Racheal Harrington, X. Neil Dong, Torry Tucker, James Ji, Sarah Chadee, Dalia Nessim, Galina Florova, Vivek Pandey, Lisa Jett, EBattle, Kim Nimon, Patricia Royal, Amy T, Agatha Borne, Kent L. Willis, Amy Hayes, Kim Laird, David Christian, Yordi Tiruneh, Veronica Viesca, Takova WallaceGay, Rosemary Cooper, Julie Anderson, leanne m, Lauren Kirby, Grace Coleman, Saren Spicer, Leah Velarde, Patti Olusola, Janice Miles, Brittany, Kay Jenkins, Jerry Ledlow, Jason Smee, Vicki Jowell, Barbara Wooldridge, Premananda Indic, Michael Vick, Mandy Link, Andres Garcia, Leanne Metcalfe, Cynthia Martinez, Shaadi Khademi, Yanira Oliveras Ortiz, Crystal Frazier, Jay Galeon, Dr. Lauri D. John, Randy LeBlanc, Jessica Escareno, Karen Walker, Harrison Ndetan, Amentahru Wahlrab, Joshua Neaves, Christian Alvarado, Gisele Abron, Brista Hurst Kent, Jenifer Chilton, Waymon Wesley, Michael Morris, Dominick Fazarro, Beverley, Kay Jenkins, Lauren Hendley, Steven W. Cox, Mohammed Ali, Lauren Hendley, Olga Berkout, Sam Carrell, john yoder, Dr. Lauri D. John, Susan Rossman, Glenn Barnes, Lauren Hendley, Ryan Menard, Emmanuel Elueze, Kati Morris, Melissa Hill, Lella# Vijaya, Cynthia Scott, Mary Fischer

12:30 Welcome and Call to Order Dr. Rick Helfers

- Greetings from Dr. Helfers.
- Thanks to Julie Anderson for organizing spring graduation! Thanks to everyone who was able to attend.
- Make it Stick is a good book recommended by CETL
- Trainings need to be done this week (cyber security etc, everfi)
- Link to a tool kit from CDC that might be useful for summer courses and the fall. To help students get vaccinated.

12:35 Approval of February Meeting Minutes Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab

- Minutes approved

12:40 President's Updates Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- President Calhoun thanks everyone for attending May commencement. Said that one student described the graduation ceremony as a baptism. He also said many students were grateful for all the faculty who attended.
- CDC and masks. Those who are vaccinated are extremely low risk of getting Covid-19 and even less risk of getting seriously sick if they do get it. Governor Abbott ordered government offices

## The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

to no longer require masks for covid related reasons (if you need a mask for some other reason than covid, then keep wearing a mask). See president's email of 5/20/2021. Urges all those who are not vaccinated to get vaccinated. It is safe, effective, and helps us all return to more normal life (especially on campus). Governor even says "do the right thing" which is get vaccinated. If not, wear a mask. Faculty may place signs indicating that mask wearing is recommended for the unvaccinated on their doors but cannot require a mask for covid reasons.

- Time to reinitiate the 5 year vision/mission/strategic plan. Respecting time, but want full participation from faculty/staff/students. One of the work groups will be faculty (next 5 year future of the university). There will be numerous work groups that will send recommendations up the chain over the next 6-8 months.
- Multitude of community events on our various campuses. Not possible for president to attend them all. Would like to see greater participation from deans and faculty. Faculty will be called upon to participate, especially when relevant to them. The goal is to present a public face for the university. His hope is that we promote the university.
- Working on a note to faculty about equity and diversity. Responsibility of president of university set the right tone and encourages that we do the right thing and that everyone is aware (title 9 and 7 issues). Everyone on campus should feel safe and treated fairly and if not they know what the steps are to take.
- Final point: faculty should think about this. Our students are going to enter a world where they will work in diverse settings. Successful ones will better understand diversity and equity. This is also why faculty and staff need to have diversity training. We should teach our students to do likewise. Will communicate directly to university about this (in the near future).
- Q & A: what is timeline for strategic plan? A: would like a nearly finished product by March at the latest and a fully finished product by May meeting. Q & A: requiring vaccination is not possible given the governor has expressly forbidden since the vaccine is emergency use. But, likely soon that Moderna and Pfizer will pass fda. Q: If we have immune compromised students in the class, can we require students to wear a mask? A: No. \$1000 fine from state of Texas. students who are immunocompromised to contact the Student Accessibility and resources office for assistance. Faculty should contact HR. Q: updates about academic legislation. A: legislation regards to tenure has been slowed. Unlikely to be implemented. A: regarding core changes, the THECB is strongly hinting that there will be some changes with the Core. This must go through a rule making process. Suggestion to send email to entire university about immunocompromised should contact HR/Student Services.

12:55

Provost Updates

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Please reach out if you see anything that gets in the way of returning to normalcy for fall 2021.
- Update on SACS: Dr. Berman is working hard on the compliance reports due in September. Expect to hear back from Sacscoc in December. Finally approval in December 2022 of the merger etc.
- Hop committee has met to create merged hop. Further merger items: academic calendar, faculty
- Calendar might change for spring break since TISD and TJC is now on a different schedule than UT Tyler.
- Budget hearings organized by kim laird. Wonderful report of successes of faculty and staff accomplishments. Publish provost list of faculty accomplishments in august

## The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- Faculty task force: early June make an announcement about school of nursing and health sciences future.
- Dean search for Soules. Hoping to hire by January 2022.
- Q &A: are we incentivizing vaccination? A: no answer at this moment but in the works. Q: if a vaccinated person gets covid, do they quarantine for two weeks? A: (Dr. Calhoun stepped back to answer this): science seems to indicate that vaccinated people aren't contagious. But, will send info when known. Q: compression and raises update? A: president says he's advocating for it but the request exceeds the funding available. Some money from CARES act can go to student tuition, other money is related improving response to future pandemics or offset expenditures from this pandemic. We did not get an increase in our state funding from last year. Legislature did not increase funding based on our growth. Management team is trying to figure this out. Q: [Dr. Mirmiran returned for this] enrollment update. A: We have a record breaking confirmation for the freshmen cohort in upcoming fall 2021, and also have a total great enrollment in summer 2021.

1:10 Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Rick Helfers

- Update on transfer student orientation. Hopefully for 2022 we'll have an online orientation. Fall 2021, department chairs will have better data on first semester at UT Tyler students so that we can help them better. Over the summer please consider ways that you can help transfer students in your specific courses.
- Family resource committee has reported and information from that will be coming out this summer
- HOP committee is doing the first reading of the merged faculty senate portion. Expect an all campus reading soon. Hopefully that will get to Dr. Calhoun in June so that we have a unified senate by fall 2021.
- Third Thursday of June will be next senate meeting.

1:20 Adjournment

- Adjourned at 1:31pm