

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday May 19, 2022

12:34-1:39 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/Hb1i39Ntt_bnWOog1P8NeFtxYwFGDnqd3Y86sfHEhPXOIziNg9MHUn9P_bSrnPpl.wQFaApeesT42QFSE

Attendees:

Zoom: Kerrie Anne Ambort-Clark, Mohammad Rafe Biswas, Sarah Bowdin, Fredericka Brown, Sharon Brown, Barbara Brown-Elliott, Hannah Buchanan, Brittany Childs, Reuben Cowan, Kimberly Elliott, Crystal Frazier, Andres Garcia, Janet Gehring, Julie George, Christy Gipson, Janet Harris, Donny Henry, Lauri John, Vicki Jowell, Lauren Kirby, Becky McKay, Rochell McWhorter, Sonja Morale, Michael Morris, Cheryl Parker, Sarah Roberts, Susan Rossman, Patricia Royal, Muthukrishnan Sathyamoorthy, Osama Shoair, Matt Stith, Paula Tate, Chris Thomas.

In Person: Lori Allen, Katie Anders, Joshua Banta, Kirk Calhoun, Kerri Camp, Stephanie Fenter, Christine Forisha, Tonya Gaddis, Genita Harris, Richard Helfers, Jeff Howlett, Steve Idell, Deborah Koslover, Andy Krouse, Mary Logan, Gary Miller, Amir Mirmiran, Jeff Noblitt, Angela Nunez, Andrew Pattee, Howard Patterson, Julie Philley, Manuel Reyes, Paul Roberts, Catherine Ross, Cindy Scott, Colin Snider, Natalia Menkina Snider, Linda Speed, Katie Stone, Amentahru Wahlrab, Barbara Ross Wooldridge, Staci Zolkowski

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

AGENDA

12:34

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Sarah Sass

12:34

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Dr. Joshua Banta

- A participant did not receive the minutes in time to read them. Therefore, the minutes were not approved until the end of the meeting.

12:37

President's Update

Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- Budget
 - It is premature to show the FY 2023 budget because we have yet to make the budget presentation to the UT System, which then goes to the Board of Regents, and each level of the process will have some input. Therefore, any numbers at this point are subject to change.
 - The FY 2023 budget will likely be \$3 – 4 million in the red, which means dipping into reserve funds.
 - This is because:
 - Forecasted enrollment growth did not happen. Growth in freshmen and sophomore cohorts has been phenomenal, but there's been drop-offs in enrollment in the College of Pharmacy and in the Graduate School.
 - While the Health Center campus has been very healthy and is very important for balancing the overall budget, federal program 115 Medicaid waiver will be discontinued. This will lead to a \$14 million revenue reduction on the Health Center campus.
 - Even still, the Health Center campus will be helping to subsidize the overall budget and keep us from being even farther in the red overall.
 - Dipping into reserves is not good. The trend on the academic side is obvious and has to be addressed.
 - Hopeful sign: freshmen → sophomore class growth is good. If we can keep it up, overall enrollment will grow (as long as we don't have any more COVID dips). Enrollment and retention growth are the keys to budgetary happiness.
 - To address structural financial issues, we will need help from the legislature.

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- For instance, the College of Pharmacy gets no funds from the state, which makes it substantially more expensive than any other public pharmacy programs in the state. This is negatively influencing enrollment.
- We need permission from the legislature to increase tuition and fees (this would not impact students materially because the maximum sizes of Pell grants have been increased). The problem is that it is an election year, so this option is off the table for now.
- He wants to find other ways to address finances.
- There is likely no money available in the 2023 budget for merit raises. He is optimistic that there will be money in the following fiscal year.
- All of that said, the promised across-the-board raises and the most urgent salary fixes identified by the Evergreen study are not in jeopardy. Those will be preserved regardless. He is protecting those promises.

12:52

Provost's update

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- UT System confirms that the tenure & promotion clock will be extended for one more year due to COVID-related disruptions.
- Job searches
 - Please look for an email from Associate Provost Colleen Swain about applying for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Director position that is being vacated by Dr. Julie Dellelo.
 - The search for the Associate Provost for Online & Continuing Education is well under way and going well. The 50 applicants are being thinned to 10 finalists, of which three will be invited for in-person interviews at the end of May/in early June.
- QEP implementation: even if your course is not targeted for QEP enrichment at this time, please take this opportunity to bring out the real-world relevance of the entire curriculum to your students. Think broader than just QEP the current problem-solving initiative.

12:55

Health Campus update

Dr. Julie Phillely, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

- The overall budget is difficult in part because of the loss of a \$14 million revenue stream on the health side. But we were prepared for that with some strategic investments that will mitigate any serious disruptions.
- The development of the health professions guild, an endeavor spanning colleges on both the main and the health center campuses, will be a strength.

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

- Despite the current shortfalls, the health campus budget is still strong enough to allow the health campus to help the overall UT-Tyler unit balance its budget.

12:57

Dr. Paul Streufert

Founding Director of the Honors College

Dr. Colleen Swain

Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education

- Dr. Swain:
 - We are excited about the opportunities presented to us by becoming an R2 institution. There's great potential. Dr. Streufert will talk about an initiative they have been developing that they wish to introduce and solicit feedback. It will be no cost to the university for several years.
- Dr. Streufert:
 - **Headline:** the proposal is for the Honors Program to transition to an Honors College.
 - **Background:**
 - The Honors Program has two sides:
 - The academic side
 - Cohorts that work together and engage in team-teaching other active learning activities.
 - The special events/outreach side
 - Performing Greek tragedies in the park.
 - Global Quiz Night
 - An Honors experience is broader, deeper, and more complex.
 - **Statistics:**
 - Retention within the Honors program: 2021/2022 retention was 90%, with 96% of Honors students staying at UT-Tyler.
 - There was a COVID-related dip in 2020/2021 down to 80% retention within the Honors program.
 - Average GPA for spring 2022: 3.72/4.0
 - Graduation rate: 74.41% for the class of 2022 Honors cohort who began in 2018.
 - From class of 2019 cohort, 29% of those students studied in the Graduate School specifically at UT Tyler, and 53% of them went on to a graduate degree somewhere.
 - Honors is helping to feed the Graduate school, but also to feed other schools like medical schools and law schools.
 - **Why transition to an Honors College?**
 - A little less than half of all R2 institutions in the country have Honors Colleges, rather than just Honors programs, but more than half (62%) of R2

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

institutions in the state have Honors Colleges, and the same percentage of UT System schools (62.5%) have Honors Colleges rather than just Honors programs. Only UT Tyler, UT El Paso, and UT Permian Basin have Honors programs instead of Honors Colleges.

- If we transition to an Honors College right now, it would put us on the same trajectory as UT Dallas at our same point. They became an Honors College in 2014 when their program was the same age that ours is now.
- Our honors students are already performing at an Honors College level.
 - UT Tyler students compete with R1 and R2 students at Honors College conferences, and often win. In 2018 and 2019, UT Tyler students won 20% of the awards at the national Honors conference. One student won the award for best undergraduate research at the conference this year.
- We already have great and distinguished Honors Program alumni.
 - We want to increase scholarships available to Honors students to entice more of them to come here and to entice the best students to come here. This will require fundraising.
- We are already strengthening the learning environment for Honors students by developing learning-living communities in special Honors housing.
- The target set by the National Collegiate Honors Council is that 3 – 5% of the student body should be in the Honors program. We currently have 2.7%, so we are almost there.
- Being an Honors College will allow us to have dedicated staff who can help Honors students (and other students) to get nationally competitive scholarships.
- Proposed timeline:
 - 2023: inaugural year of Honors College
 - 2024: have personnel in place
 - 2025
 - have curriculum in place
 - 9% of the student body is the target to have in the Honors College
- Questions? Comments?
 - Paul Streufert: pstreufert@uttyler.edu
 - Laura Grace Dykes: ldykes@uttyler.edu

1:15

Dr. Paul Roberts

Associate Dean for the College of Business and Technology, Associate Professor of Human Resource Development (HRD), and Faculty Athletic Representative

Dr. Howard Patterson

Vice President of Athletics

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Dr. Gary Miller

Associate Professor of Education

Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee

- Dr. Patterson:
 - Changes since becoming Division-2 (D2):
 - We've hired James Bonette, who is the Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance.
 - UT Tyler led the LoneStar Conference in terms of the number of athletes on the Honor Roll. Their spring 2022 GPA was 3.37. The highest GPA in the conference. There were 25 women with perfect 4.0's and 10 men.
 - We are full members of D2 this year, meaning we are spending at that level on our sports teams.
 - Several of our teams are going into the postseason this year. This is the first year we are eligible.
 - UT Tyler Women's Softball is NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION!
 - We serve as a model for COVID mitigation.
 - Thanks to Asst. Dir. Bonette, we acquired a grant from the NCAA to hire a full-time COVID mitigation intern.
 - We are focusing on student well-being with a 1/2-time employee working on mental health issues with student athletes.
 - There is software to keep track of student likenesses being used for marketing purposes. We do have some student-athletes making some money this way.
 - Dr. Roberts:
 - As the faculty athletic representative, his roles are:
 - Student-athlete well-being
 - Often this is regarding head injuries, where faculty need to be made aware that accommodations for students are needed while they recover.
 - This can also have to do with overall mental health. Being an athlete poses challenges so it is important to support them in this way.
 - Student-athlete exit interviews, so that we make sure they are being well taken care of.
 - Academic integrity of student-athletes
 - Ensure students are held to the same standards as all other students, nothing more and nothing less.
 - Please copy him on any emails relating to academic integrity issues involving a student-athlete.
 - Institutional control. Make sure students are making progress towards their degrees. They cannot just take electives.

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- Compliance. He also is on the compliance committee. The goal here is to discretely handle compliance issues.
 - Chi Alpha Omega faculty advisor. There is an increasing number of students in this honors organization on our campus. Even as a D2 school, our students perform academically at a very high level.
 - Intercollegiate athletics. He's on the committee (Dr. Miller is the chair).
- Dr. Miller
 - Intercollegiate athletics is an advisory committee.
 - We are a diverse cross-section of faculty. We solicit you to serve as well.
 - There is also a student representative.
 - Responsibilities:
 - Advise Drs. Patterson and Calhoun.
 - Identify means to engage all students in intercollegiate athletic activities.
 - Review and advise on the athletic strategic plan as well as athletic manuals.
 - Submit summary reports annually to the Faculty Senate (such as today).

1:28

Office of Research and Scholarship

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

- We are hiring two new faculty (one in College of Engineering, one in College of Arts & Sciences) who will be receiving STAR awards from the UT System that provide substantial funds for them to equip their research labs.
- Graduate enrollment
 - We are piloting tuition reductions to increase enrollment
 - We are developing “4+1” pipelines from undergraduate degrees to Masters degrees.
 - The goal is to increase graduate student enrollment by 10%.
- Drs. Zamuda and Bill got a prestigious high-six-figure NIH grant (this is on the main campus not the health center campus) to study Parkinson's Disease using Zebrafish as a model!

1:36

Faculty Senate President update

Dr. Sarah Sass

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- **Conversation scheduled with the President, Provost, ORS, and Faculty Senators** June 9th about shared governance, how research is valued and defined as we are R2, any changes in our T&P and hiring processes
- **Evergreen study and long-term salary planning:** Main campus meetings with senate reps in each college/school, deans, HR, Provost have started and will continue this summer
- **At-large senator election is open** until EOD on Monday
https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_81fiqwN0fjDaDJA
- **Senator reps on university committees** please send your reports by June 1st and we will report out in our July Senator-only meeting
- **Career Success conference-** need senator and/or faculty representation from each college/school –have CAS, Soules COB, and SCRH/College of Health Occupations covered. **Please get in touch with me if interested**

1:38

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Dr. Joshua Banta

- Approved at 1:38

1:39 **Adjournment**