

The University of Texas at Tyler
Office of the Faculty Senate

September 19, 2019
12:00-2:00 p.m.
Alumni House

Senate Members Present: Althea Arnold, Amanda Hall, Amentahru Wahlrab, Amy Hayes, Andres Garcia, Catherine Ross, Christine Forisha, Colin Snider, Dominick Fazarro, Frank Dykes, Gina Doepker, Jimi Francis, Joseph Glavy, Kathleen Helgesen, Mary Fischer, Mena Souliman, Nary Subramanian, Nathan Smith, Richard Helfers, Sarah Sass, Sooah Park, Venu Gopalakrishna-Remani, Wycliffe Njororai

Faculty and Staff in Attendance: Lorri Allen, Ali Azghani, Matt Brinton, Kerri Camp, Kleanthe Caruso, Ashley Dalby, Belinda Deal, Gloria Duke, Justine Faghihifar, Neil Ford, Ramona Grad, Barbara Haas, Prem Indic, Kay Jenkins, Deena King, Cynthia Martinez, Natalia Menkina Snider, Angela Nunez, Cheryl Parker, David Pearson, Lynette Sutter, Wang Yong Tai, Brent Bill, Prabha Sundaravadivel, Rob Schumaker, Tom Roberts, Stephen Rainwater, Leonard Brown, Lauren Kirby, Katheryn Courville, Gregory Bock, John Lamb, Lidong Wu, Xi Li, Carla Reichard, Christy Gipson

Faculty and Staff Zoom participants: Lauren Hendley, Debbie Gibson, Vicki Jowell, Roger Lirely, Julie Delello, Katie Stone, Janice Helfers, Kristie Allen, Sam Carrell, Margo Duncan, Scott Lapinski, Charles Brown, Beverly Golden, Tammy Cowart, Cindy Strawn, Charles Barke, Sara Bowdin, Brenda Burton, Amy Weakly, Jon Seal, Amy Tiller, Greg Brandenburg

Invited Guest Speakers in Attendance: President Tidwell, Provost Mirmiran, Colleen Swain, Kouider Mokhtari

12:00 p.m. Lunch Lynette Sutter

12:27 p. m. Welcome and Call to Order Dr. Colin Snider

- Reminder: First Senators-Only Meeting on Thursday, October 3rd at 12:30.

12:29 Approval of July Meeting Minutes Dr. Amy Hayes

12:31 President's Updates Dr. Michael Tidwell

- President Tidwell gave an overview of the updates that he gave at convocation. These included enrollment updates: enrollment is down slightly, mostly due to graduate enrollment.
- Retention is up 5-6% among first to second year students.

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- President has a meeting in Austin with Chancellor Milliken tomorrow morning about proposal for funding for the new nursing building. President believes our proposal is strong for a puff funds allotment.
- Plans for additional on-campus housing for students are moving forward. New changes in admission criteria (automatic admission for top 25% class rank students in Texas) will likely lead to increase in need for housing as the size of the freshman class increases. We are currently at 100% capacity for on-campus housing.
- President offered updates on doctoral programs- EdD in School improvement site visit happened 9/18, went well. New PhD in Clinical Psychology is underway as of Fall 2019. Announcement has gone out to other campuses about the PhD in Leadership that is in development.
- UTT has moved from a “regional school” classification to a “nationally-ranked” institution according to U.S. News and World Report.

12:43

Provost's Updates

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Announcements about new programs: new MS in Chemistry, new track in fermentation science in chemistry, and approval of new Chemical Engineering Program in the College of Engineering. There is also a proposal for a Bachelor of Social Work program that would be housed in the Department of Social Sciences.
- New PhD in Leadership will be an interdisciplinary program. Committee is comprised of members from every college.
- Recognition of successful summer camps held over the summer. Attendance was good, and the Provost encourages faculty and programs to use these camps as opportunities to recruit.
- College of Arts and Science Opinion Research Center- the university is proud of the development and investment in that program. They are working on expanding their footprint in Texas
- Annual Provost Report comes out in 1-2 weeks, report of faculty and program accomplishments.
- Reminder to work with chairs and deans on student success initiatives. The \$15,000 per department funds have been transferred to departments already. Provost asks that chairs and deans develop metrics to determine how successful these programs have been.

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- Academic calendar update: Dr. Geiger will present at October FS meeting with recommendations for revisions to the academic calendar (changes to nursing program calendar, and university-wide changes to class time schedule).

12:51

Faculty and Undergraduate Education

Dr. Colleen Swain

- Dr. Swain gave an overview of the duties of the VP of Undergraduate and Online Education. Please see attached slides for complete list of duties (so many!).
- Student success: Dr. Swain emphasized student equity, not just equality. She wants to make sure that we are serving students from all backgrounds. This applies to many decisions, such as scheduling of class times, curriculum, student resources and supports, etc.
- The U&OE office is working with Cindy Strawn to create PowerBI Dashboards that allow you to dig into data for your program. Which courses are students struggling with, or are there combinations of courses that are difficult for students? Deans, chairs, and student success liaisons have access to these dashboards.
- Patriot Advising Report Features (PAR)- currently only at the undergraduate level. Allows a student to see their degree plan and current credits and transfers, and lets advisors work with students on their plans (and not just serve as registration clerks). Two new features launch 9/20: Planner will allow student to plan out which semesters they will take each courses. GPA calculator: will allow students to predict GPA on expected course grades.
- Tutoring updates: looking at when tutoring and SI (supplemental instruction) sessions are offered. They will also be reaching out to students who don't attend SI/tutoring and gauge what the barriers to attendance are.
- Attendance: They are drafting an attendance statement to include in course catalog. Attendance matters for Title IX/financial aid funding, so looking for proactive ways of promoting attendance. They are also working on ways to deal with attendance that won't take away from instruction time but also isn't too much of a privacy invasion to students.
- **Faculty action items:** 1) Office hours- consider whether your office hours are scheduled at times that are convenient for students (consider offering at least one hour that is in the evening or virtual). Make sure that you are present for office hours. 2) Cost of materials/resources- hidden costs in addition to textbooks, like licensure, insurance (e.g., nursing students).

The University of Texas at Tyler

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- Faculty development
 - New Faculty induction program (0-3 years) and comprehensive faculty development through office of U&OE
 - They are also working with adjuncts to share policies and procedures more uniformly (things like FERPA, SAR).
 - Training opportunities for graduate teaching assistants.
 - Section 508 Requirement- requires all federal agencies need to be accessible to those with disabilities. All videos, websites, etc. need to provide accommodations. Be on the lookout for Office of Digital Learning sessions about creating accessible materials. Section 508 only applies to online learning, but you should provide these resources to students face-to-face as well.
 - Faculty Survey of Student Engagement- survey will be coming out to FT undergraduate faculty in the Spring of 2020. Survey should take up to 45 minutes. Please participate in this survey when Dr. Swain sends it out.

1:21

Special Recognitions

Dr. Colin Snider

- Dr. Mary Fischer- recognized for service to faculty and her profession.
- Dr. Gloria Duke- recognized for all of her years of service as Chair of the IRB, and to help transform the research at the university.

1:35

Updates: Office of Research and Scholarship

Dr. Kouider Mokhtari

- Dr. Mokhtari is serving as Interim Associate Provost for Research
- What does ORS do?
 - Overview of staff: Includes Dr. Reichard (Assistant Director of Research), Angela Nunez (grant coordinator), Kay Jenkins (Grant Writer), Brandon Reynolds (Economic Engagement)
 - Pre-awards, post-award, and compliance services
 - They also facilitate protection of intellectual property and technology transfer
- ORS Goals (fill in details from slides)
 - Increase # of grant applications submitted and awarded
 - Increase research expenditures to \$5 million
 - Increase research and scholarship productivity

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- Create a culture of active engagement XXX (fill i
- Important updates/announcements:
 - McAllister & Quinn Consulting firm coming to campus 9/26 to meet with chairs, deans, FS, and research council
 - Research Fellow Program- Starting this year. Deans are going to nominate 2-3 people within each college to meet monthly.
 - University Distinguished Professor- new recognition that recognizes substantial contribution to R/T/S. Includes an 8% salary increase. Request for nominations forthcoming.
 - **Cayuse for IRB- This Fall we are implementing a web-based IRB system called Cayuse. Target date for full implementation is January 2020. Should be easier to use than current system.
 - Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Coming Tuesday, September 24. Meeting primarily with STAR recipients, ORS, President and Provost.
 - Research Month is April 2020. April 2-3 are dates for East Texas Research Conference.

2:00 Adjourn

Next Faculty Senate Meeting

October 17, 2019 at 12:30 in UC Ballroom