

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of the Faculty Senate

- No commencement schedule ironed out yet but details should be coming in the next weeks. April 30 and May 1 will be commencement for past two graduating classes plus what would be normal May 2021 graduates.
- Covid rates are up. Be vigilant in care for self and others. So that we can maintain level of campus openness.
- Enrollment is up. David Barron took over: we're ahead, institutional highs of admitted for fall and those who have confirmed and paid deposit. Apps are down here and across the nation. But, those who are applying to UT Tyler are listing us as their first choice with maybe one backup. Down 7% in applicants but admits up 35%. Confirmations up 132% (paid deposits for next fall). Transfers up 59% from last year. Campus tours are booked up and overbooked.
- Tidwell back: TJC tragic event (shooting....see news). Affirmed those on campus doing what they need to keep everyone safe. No guarantee of absolute safety but we have a well-trained campus security staff. If you see something call public safety office.
- Q&A: what would merit changing spring schedule? Rates of increase of cases on campus factor in. we look at pockets and trends of infections. Two weeks ago we noticed that student athletes were increasing positive cases. Nursing students were the second pocket of Covid case increases. If the broader population sees a rise then we have more to worry about. We are open to the community about these numbers. Follow up: positivity rate counts all those who call in through the hotline not just required testing of athletes and rise in cases in the nursing pocket. See video for details.

12:55

Provost Updates

Amir Mirmiran

- Thanks to everyone for being awesome
- Update on pathway to promotion for non-tenure track faculty (good news!). see video for details. Hopefully this will be implemented by next year. Faculty have gotten an email for their review between 11/17 and 11/18. Please read and make comments to send to Dr. Geiger.
- Emphasized that 3rd year review should be delayed one year if faculty member is opting for tenure clock to be delayed by one year.
- Discussion of teaching overload policy: HOP revision to have one policy regarding this that accounts for individual department needs.

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- Distinguished professor should be created and added to HOP, nearly ready to be finalized.
- Q&A: (regarding discussion of overload policy): departments get to decide what “normal” load is. Overload is above what the department decides is normal. The point is to empower the departments to decide and thus recognize the diversity within the university. This is as opposed to creating a one size fits all approach.

1:10 Undergraduate Fellowships Katie Stone

- Invited faculty input on the creation of a structure for encouraging students to both apply for big awards (Rhodes/fullbright/Marshal/Truman etc) and be prepared. Interested faculty should email Katie Stone: kstone@uttyler.edu

1:20 USAC/Faculty Senate Collaboration Sydni Blundell/Rick Helfers

- University appreciation 2021. Last year we had 144 faculty participate in the 2020 appreciation. Request to fill out a survey that was sent out on November 5. Please fill out quick survey (are you faculty/staff and did you attend an event last year. Then at the end there is a suggestion box that rick and sydni request that we fill out). Please show your support by filling out the survey. :
https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cHohIudXiNONGjX
- Q&A : what is being done to bring UT Health faculty and staff senates into the UT Tyler senates. Answer: we are open to suggestions but basically in a holding pattern until the announcement.

1:30 Faculty Senate Update Rick Helfers

- Open discussion about how covid is affecting research over the course of the next few years so that we have documentation for questions that arise in 4 years (why didn't professor X produce more research over the past 4 years? Oh, yeah, Covid impacted data collection/archival research etc)...
- Ad hoc committees have been delayed but will be reporting again starting in January.
- Move to recommend some way to assimilate transfer students into the university to increase their success. This is super important because we currently don't have anything in place and we have a large number of transfers.
- Q&A: student success is being discussed but what about the faculty (especially with technology and online resources). This provoked a big and productive discussion that needed to be tabled. Basically there is lots of discussion of teaching but no discussion of research support. See video but this is going to be an ongoing issue.

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1:40 Adjournment

145 motion to adjourn, seconded.