

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2017**  
**Alumni House**

**Call to order: 12:30 PM**

**Adjourned: 2:00 PM**

**Members Present:** K. Mokhtari, C. Snider, G. Duke, G. Miller, F. Dykes, J. Klein, K. Nimon, S. Sass, L. Williams, M. Veronin, A. Hall, R. Stevens, S. Jones, J. Placyk, M. Souliman, J. Glavy, R. Pieper, S. Spier, W. Njororai, C. Ross, K. Camp

**Faculty & Staff in Attendance:** A. Mirmiran, S. Park, D. Bailey, J. Cotter, T. Wilkerson, S. La Londe, K. Archer, L-K. Lauderdale, C. Swain, M. Slann, M. Stadelmann, A. Hayes, C. Barke, P. Templeman, K. Bryant Jr., B. Geiger, K. Marrs, K. Helgesen, B. Haas, L. Roebuck, J. Francis, R. Cooper, V. Vaughn, J. Neel, K. A. Clark, C. Han, L. Summers, M. Gangone, G. Bock, V. Betts

**Zoom Meeting Participants:** C. Marzilli, J. Roman, K. Allen, L. Meyer, C. Parker, H. Wu, S. Gossett, E. Battle, K. Hellman, J. Lumpkin, S. Morale, A. Weakley, M. Hill, M. Carillo, M. Duncan, A. Kulkami, T. Roberts, T. Crippen, K. Anders, D. Duncan, G. Wang, S. Donaldson, S. Marzilli, R. Biswas, V. Viesca

**Invited Speakers:** President Tidwell, Dr. Amir Mirmiran, VP Lucas Roebuck, Dr. Kouider Mokhtari, Dr. Catherine Ross, Dr. Colin Snider, Dr. Gloria Duke

**12:30 – Call to Order – K. Mokhtari**

Senate President Dr. Kouider Mokhtari called the meeting to order, expressing thanks to President Tidwell for providing lunch, to Nicole Garvey for her invaluable administrative work with the Senate, and members of the IT department who provided technological assistance for the program.

**12:33 – Approval of Minutes and Senate Matters – C. Snider**

Senate Secretary Colin Snider presented the minutes from 09/21/17, with Robert Stevens moving to approve the minutes, Gloria Duke seconding, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Additionally the Senate recognized the new Class of 2020 senators. Finally, Colin Snider spoke very briefly about the upcoming work of the Tuition & Fees Committee, which is preparing a system-mandated report due in December. The Committee will work with the entire campus community in the coming weeks, including through two public town hall meetings on Friday, October 20 and Thursday, October 26.

**12:35 – President’s Update – President Michael Tidwell**

*Travel Approval* – Right Signature is being implemented as part of the university’s move to go paperless, and going forward, all travel requests and approvals must be submitted electronically with signatures via Right Signature.

*Budget Matters* – The financial books for 2016-2017 were closed on Tuesday, October 17, with a final number expected soon. The university is expecting a 5-6% shortfall for the coming year.

*Tuition and Fees* – UT Tyler is involved in part of a system-wide examination of tuition and fees, to be presented to system by the end of the year. Regents must approve the creation or increase of all fees,

and some fees also require student approval. The university will be working throughout Fall 2017 on a project to submit to the system by the end of the semester.

*Strategic Plan* – There will be final meetings on the university’s Strategic Plan next week. President Tidwell expects to present the new Strategic Plan to the Board of Regents in February 2018.

*Facilities* – President Tidwell is working on a Master Plan for facilities to present to the Board of Regents in Spring 2018. The university will hire an outside consultant firm to help in drafting a plan for facilities use and creation for the next 15-20 years based on the university’s enrollment and research needs. This Master Plan may include a proposal for a new facility for the College of Nursing. The University can expect the Board of Regents to encourage the presence of a large philanthropic component in upcoming facilities proposals going forward. As UT-Tyler moves from being primarily a commuter school to an institution with a greater student resident population, the university is exploring the possibility of a new facility for students. Finally, the university is looking into naming the streets on campus for ease of access/intelligibility for visitors and for the community.

*Advancement, Fundraising* – The Advancement Office is in the process of creating three new units: Development for fundraising; Processing for advancement; and a new third unit that will focus on three areas: Alumni Relations, Annual Giving, and Career Services. Dr. Tidwell also met with the Development Board last week to discuss fundraising priorities, including a scholarship fund for students, the naming of buildings on campus, the naming of the College of Business, and individual professorships. Finally, the search for a Vice President of Advancement is continuing, as is the search for a new Vice President of Student Affairs, with over 48 applicants to the latter position.

## **1:02 – Provost Update – Dr. Amir Mirmiran**

*Office of Research and Scholarship* –Dr. Srinu Kambhampati has accepted an offer to serve as Acting Director of Office of Research and Scholarship. This is a very important position for the university, as research and scholarship is one of the four pillars of the strategic plan. UT-Tyler will be posting the position soon with the expectation of completing the search by end of Spring 2018.

Question: Why “Acting Director” instead of “Interim Director”?

Answer: The goal is to emphasize the need for the director to continue to act to further develop the Office while the national search proceeds.

*Administrative Changes* – Dr. Marzilli has decided to return to his faculty position in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. We appreciate his service as Dean of University College and AVP for Academic Innovation and Student Success. We will soon be posting internally for the position of Executive Director of the University College. The College consists of several units, including Department of Academic Success, Office of Digital Learning, Office of Degree Completion, and Office of Pre-College Programs. The two campuses at Palestine and Longview also report to the University College.

Question: With the changes in the University College, will the university look at redefining or reassigning to the colleges some of the areas, such as dual credit or academic success, that previously operated under the University College?

Answer: The university will continue to dialogue with the campus community on this matter, and has moved toward dual credit being controlled by departments and colleges, with the University College working with high schools while serving as a bridge-builder between programs that are passionately represented on campus and the broader off-campus community those programs are meant to serve.

*Graduate Assistantships* – UT-Tyler launched a graduate assistantship program in Spring 2017 and expanded it in Fall 2017. Our focus has been on graduate students who work on their thesis/dissertation to ensure accountability and productivity. Faculty Senate has asked the Provost's Office to look into expanding the program to non-thesis option. The Provost has asked Graduate Council to look into the matter and see how we will be able to ensure accountability and productivity if there is no collateral in the form of a graduation requirement. The Provost hopes to be able to report back on the Council's recommendation by the next Faculty Senate meeting.

### **1:16 – Marketing & Branding – VP Lucas Roebuck**

Marketing's importance rests in building trust, both with the legislature and within the university community. Going forward, his office is focusing on two areas: deploying the agency model to improve efficiency, trust, and consistency on campus; and the website, which his office hopes to make more user-centric, becoming more attractive and helpful for prospective students while continuing to serve current students and Faculty, Staff, and others on campus. For the website, his office is currently interviewing for a web development designer. In Spring of 2018, his office hopes to unveil its rebranding effort, with an ultimate website redesign complete by Summer 2020.

Question: The faculty page is the main site in attracting graduate students and has to be frequently updated. How will his office address this need?

Answer: The importance of attracting graduate students is understood, and the office hopes to work with faculty in making their faculty pages as dynamic and informative as possible without removing older items that continue to work well.

Question: When will teams in the Agency Model be assigned to different colleges to help work with them?

Answer: The office is currently finishing up its staffing, and is working towards assigning each Team to its respective college in the coming months.

Question: When will the schedule for rebranding be revealed?

Answer: The office is working on it. Currently, VP Roebuck is working on a strategic plan for marketing that has already been presented to the cabinet, and will soon be presented to the Deans. The hope is to unveil the schedule in Spring 2018.

### **1:45 – Senate Task Force on Interdisciplinary Studies – Dr. Gloria Duke**

Dr. Duke and Dr. Danita Alfred are leading a taskforce on interdisciplinary research. This taskforce will work with faculty, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, the Office of Research and Scholarship, and other areas on campus in order to eliminate academic silos and integrate cross-campus collaboration. There will be more information forthcoming as the taskforce meets with these and other actors.

### **1:46 – FAC Update – Dr. Kouider Mokhtari and Dr. Catherine Ross**

*Workload Policy* – UT system has proposed amendments to the current workload policy (Regent Rule 31006), which is “one-size-fits-all” in its current form. Proposed amendments give flexibility to universities in assigning workloads. The proposed amendments are scheduled for consideration by the UT System BOR at its meeting on November 8-9, 2017.

UT System wishes for each campus to adopt or develop its own flexible version of the amended policy.

Question: Is there a timeline for when new policies on workload have to be in place?

Answer: As the FAC and System are still working on this, the timeline for implementation is not yet known.

Question: How will that policy be developed?

Answer: The particulars are to be determined, but if/when the regents approve the new policy, each UT campus will have its own committee to develop the new policies for their respective campuses.

*Non-Tenure-Track Faculty* – A draft document is under development by a UTS Faculty Advisory Council Task Force. The Faculty Advisory Council is concerned about policies in UT System academic institutions relating to the use of both full-time and part-time non-tenure system (NTS) faculty, also known as contingent faculty. The document makes recommendations about Use of adjuncts, hiring, contract terms, appraisal, and promotion for full-time NTS faculty, rights and privileges, equity issues, etc.

*Dual Credit Study* – We have interviewed significant numbers of students and faculty about dual credit in our 8 UTS academic institutions. 40% of UT Tyler students and 90% of UT Austin students have taken some form of dual credit. The students like the courses, they do not save much money, at most about \$1,000. Questions of quality still very real. A joint task force between UT System and the Texas association of community colleges (CCs) and school districts (very political!) working on the problem. So is the THECB (coordinating board). CCs don't like it much more than we do. A major paper in the works at UTS. Katie Buerger added that UT-Tyler currently has 800 students in the dual credit program, and she will be working on increasing faculty interactions with high schools and of dual credit students' experience with UT-Tyler in advising and enrolling in dual credit courses.

### **1:56 – For Your Information**

Ashley Bill reminded faculty that they can submit midterm grades for students. This will allow the Department of Academic Success to help more students in an effort to improve retention.

Dr. Julie Delello reminded faculty of the CETL's upcoming workshop on teaching large classes. The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Brent Iverson, Dean at UT-Austin and a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. The workshop will be October 31, 10:00-11:30.

### **2:00 – Adjourn**

Gloria Duke moves to adjourn. Lance Williams seconds. Unanimously approved.

*Rescheduled for November 16, 2017 Meeting:*

Reporting Process for Academic Misconduct