

The University of Texas at Tyler

Office of the Faculty Senate

Thursday October 21, 2021

12:30-1:40 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Recording with captions is available at:

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/lqAOoRzAAC3jt1DBjRA5bchJFa2735GMj91Dokj1A3Bz2vCcWJlftnofMaGfqv2c.LXMJForJP6eZt59X>

AGENDA

12:30

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Sarah Sass

- A suggestion has been made to put the name of your college next to your name to help us get to know each other. This is especially important because of the merger.

12:32

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Dr. Sarah Sass

- Approved at 12: 32

12:32

President's Update

Dr. Kirk Calhoun

- COVID rates on campus are at the lowest level since the second major wave began. Anyone can review these statistics at: <https://www.uttyler.edu/coronavirus/> (scroll down on the page to find the dashboard).
- Thanks to faculty and staff for making the merger so smooth
- Some money from the state has been allocated for a new science building, and Dr. Calhoun is optimistic that the remaining funds will be acquired eventually.
- Significant remodeling and expansion of the nursing building is also planned.
 - The medical school facility will be built in the UT Health East Texas medical center downtown, and the nursing school will have space in there as well to poise them for continued growth.
- Making one institutional seal, academic mark, and athletic mark for both the main campus and Health Science Center
 - UT-Tyler's orange is being transitioned to a burnt orange, similar to UT System and UT-Austin. The system Chancellor feels that the current bright orange is too much like the University of Tennessee.
 - The seal:
 - The seal is for formal university functions. It contains small Latin writing.
 - The Health Science Center campus's former seal is being retired, although the grand terrazzo floor images will be retained. Both campuses will use the current UT-Tyler main campus seal going forward.
 - The academic mark:

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- The academic mark is used for stationary, email signatures, website banners, and presentations.
- The decision was made to discontinue the current T-flag, and instead to make a new academic mark that hews to the UT East Texas branding. This is because:
 - The current academic mark is not separated from the athletic mark, contra to most institutions
 - Incorporating the sacred American flag into logos of any kind is generally viewed by universities as problematic.
 - UT System gave the direction to unify all UT-Tyler-affiliated entities like UT Health hospitals under the same umbrella with a similar-looking mark. UT Health East Texas vehicles have been wrapped with a mark already, and it would be cost-prohibitive to change all of those vehicle wraps.
- The academic mark is supposed to be dignified and “boring.” It is not the same as the athletic mark, which should be distinct and used for sporting purposes to get students and alumni excited about their teams.
- If there are no objections, as there appeared not to be, Dr. Calhoun will give this proposal to the Board of Regents in November of this year.
- V.P. Beverly Golden (marketing) contributed substantially to our understanding with a PowerPoint presentation that revealed the new academic marks.
 - Concern was raised that the book was large and the star was small in the new mock-ups, contra to the seals for UT-System and UT-Austin. But others preferred the greater emphasis on the book as compared to the star. There was no clear consensus.
 - Feel free to email V.P. Golden with your feedback. You can see the academic mark in the recorded Zoom meeting:
 - https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/lqAOoRzAAC3jt1DBjRA5bc_hjFa2735GMj91Dokj1A3Bz2vCcWJlftnofMaGfqv2c.LXMJForJP6eZt59X
- The athletic mark
 - Dr. Calhoun would like to discuss changing from the T-flag to something else. This requires an extensive dialogue with students, alumni, and other stakeholders, because the athletic mark is a source of great emotion, as it is supposed to have that role in rallying fans to support their team.
 - One idea is to make Swoop into an athletic mark somehow, thus preserving the tie-in to our “Patriots” nickname but without the iconography of our sacred American flag.
 - UT System wants an answer about the athletic mark by May 2022

12:59

Provost’s update

Dr. Amir Mirmiran

- Three pieces of good news:
 - According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, we are seeing the fastest growth of freshmen (25% growth) of any university in the State of Texas.

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- The Graduate School is celebrating their 50th anniversary with a large volume of applications.
- The Coordinating Board of Higher Education selected UT-Tyler as one of ten 2021 Star Award recipients for how we manage learning and the campus environment during the pandemic. Dr. Mirmiran thanks everyone.
- Faculty are empowered to move courses online for the week after Thanksgiving and the final exam, as long as it is in close consultation with their department chair and dean.
 - The deadline is November 1st. Please let your students know either way. Action is therefore required on everyone's part.
- Happenings in November to keep in mind:
 - 11/4: the Career Success Conference
 - <https://www.uttyler.edu/career-success-conference/>
 - 11/11: the T&P workshop
 - The off-site certification compliance report (CCR) by SACSCOC will be presented to our campus in November. The next step will be to arrange a site visit.
- Feedback is needed regarding the merged HOP document. He needs this feedback by November.
- Please provide comments/feedback to Dr. Mirmiran regarding the Dean search for COB.
- The search for the Dean of the medical school is going well.
 - Four excellent candidates have been short-listed, at least two will be brought in for an in-person interviews that include conversations with out faculty.
- Searches for V.P. of Marketing and V.P. of advancement are going well. The initial screening processes are under way, with a target to invite top candidates to campus in the spring.

1:10

Quality Enhancement Program

Director Katherine Stone

- This initiative is to incorporate real-world problem-solving into our courses.
- This has been under development since 2016.
- There is a QEP steering committee and a student steering committee.
- Individual colleges should have their own QEP committees.
- There are pilot projects under way to gather data in chemistry, civil engineering, and English courses.
- The idea is for every discipline to have one course with a “signature assignment” that has a real-world assignment and rubric to assess before-and-after learning.

1:16

Career Success Conference

Dr. Rosemary Cooper

- The conference is on Thursday, November 11th of this year. Please publicize to your students and encourage them to attend.
- Conference is half as long as 2019's.
- Speakers from 1:15 – 4:45
- Networking reception from 5:00 – 6:30pm. All are especially welcome to this event.
- See the website for details:

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<https://www.uttyler.edu/career-success-conference/>

- 30 more faculty are needed to help volunteer. There are multiple volunteer training sessions.
- See the Zoom recording of the meeting for details:
<https://uttyler.zoom.us/rec/share/lqAOoRzAAC3jt1DBjRA5bchJFa2735GMj91Dokj1A3Bz2vCcWJlftnofMaGfqv2c.LXMJForJP6eZt59X>
- Staff volunteers are also requested.
- Rooms will be limited to 75% capacity with hand sanitizer and masks made available.

1:23

NCAA Compliance Guidelines for Faculty

James Bonette, Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance

- Student athletes must be provided the same resources and opportunities as all other students, but nothing more or less.
 - Treat academic misconduct by student-athletes exactly the same as you would for any other students, but it is a good idea to give the Athletics Department a heads-up.
 - Faculty must provide the exact same extra-credit and make-up opportunities to student-athletes as they do to any other student, but nothing more or less.
 - It is the responsibility of the athletes to maintain their good grades, not yours.
- Student-athletes are expected to prioritize school over athletics.
 - They are not allowed to miss class for practices.
 - If an athlete is going to “away” games or a tournament, they should have provided you with a list of those events at the beginning of the semester. No extra days off at the front or back end are allowed for the students. If their bus leaves at 3:00pm on Thursday, they still have to go to their Thursday classes until then.
- Faculty are considered “boosters” which has some special significance to the NCAA. We must interact with athletes with caution. For instance:
 - Do not meet with athletes away from campus, even if a coach tells you it’s okay. Tell Dir. Bonette instead.
 - Meeting with prospective or current student-athletes on campus to discuss academics (but not athletics!) is permissible.
 - But never publicize a meeting with a prospective student-athlete.
 - Do not recruit athletes in any way, shape, or form
 - Do not call prospective student-athletes, even if coaches tell you it’s okay
 - If you receive calls from prospective or current student-athletes to discuss academics, it is permissible to talk with them about academics. But direct any athletics questions to the Athletic Department.
 - Do not wager on UT-Tyler games.
- For any concerns regarding adherence to NCAA policies, contact the faculty athletics representative Dr. Paul Roberts (Soules College of Business).
- A concern was brought up that student-athletes sometimes collude during study halls (presumably meaning they copy from one another and hand in the same thing). Dir. Bonette replied that coaches and especially assistant coaches are responsible for monitoring their own study halls.

1:33

Faculty Senate President update

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Dr. Sarah Sass

- A task force on salary compression has been convened, led by Dr. Dominick Fazarro.
 - Representation is ad-hoc. A discussion ensued that there needs to be representation from the Health Science Center, which is currently lacking.
- The faculty senates were merged in a draft of the HOP that needs updating to include the School of Nursing, the Health Occupations College, and the medical school.
 - Dr. Rich Helfers is leading a task force to work on it.
- There is an anonymous Qualtrics survey going around about the pros and cons of the research environments on our campuses, commissioned by UT System Faculty Advisory Council. Here is the link:
 - https://uttyler.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WLaRbdsJROT15E
 - So far faculty complaints have indicated IRB compliance here could have better communication and less adversarial.
- Senior senators have been assigned the task of communicating our senators-only meetings to their colleges. To find out who the senior senators are, visit:
 - <https://www.uttyler.edu/faculty-senate/senators/>
 - The one who's been there the longest is the senior senator.
- It is great that COVID cases are declining but that is because of our diligence. Modeling mask wearing and vaccination is important. PPE is available upon request
- Imperative to communicate whether you are going online or in-person after Thanksgiving. The SGA reiterated to Dr. Sass that this is very important to them.
- Next senators-only meeting rescheduled to November 11th so as not to conflict with the Career Success Conference.

1:40 Adjournment