

# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Office of the Faculty Senate

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Thursday September 17, 2020  
12:30-1:55 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

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### AGENDA

#### Zoom Attendees:

Lynette Sutter, Jerry Stuff, Takova Wallace-Gay, Marti Halbrook, Matt Stith, Sheldon Davis, Kouider Mokhtari, Chris Thomas, Rick Helfers, Kim Nimon, Benjamin Tseng, Yonjoo Cho, Amentahru Wahlrab, Kimberly Harvey-Livingston, Beverley Golden, Gracy Buentello, Cheryl D. Parker, Jonathan Belew, Amy Hayes, Catherine Ross, Sarah Norrell, Colleen Swain, Gina Doepker, Amir Mirmiran, Sydney Blundell, Heshium Lawrence, Janice Helfers, Barbara Wooldridge, Shannon Rice, Kathryn Martinez, Sarah Bowdin, Lisa Jett, Vicki Jowell, Premananda Indic, Saren Spicer, Barbara Haas, Coby Dillard, Danita Alfred, Ashleigh Day, Ona Tolliver, KT Helgesen, Blake Bumbard, Andrew Pettee, Olga Berkout, Sarah Sass, Olivia Paek, Kathy Gohmert, Michael Tidwell, Colleen Marzilli, Colin Snider, Mary Fischer, Lauren Kirby, Althea Arnold, Zahide Sunal, Christine Forisha, Janet Gehring, Erin West, Dominick Fazarro, Andres Garcia, Brenna Scott-Rothrock, Matt Brinton, Nicole Schugel, Julie Delello, Rebecca McKay Johnson, Josh Neaves, Kerrie Anne Ambort Clark, Yong Tai Wang, Paula Tate, Cynthia Martinez, Nary Subramanian, Lauri D. John, Scott Dillingham, Kimberly Laird, Randy LeBlanc, Cindy Strawn, Brenda Burton, Glenn Barnes, Neil Dong, Samantha Estrada Aguilera, TD Kimbro, Ashley Dalby, Sam Carrell, Julie Anderson, Emily Battle, Margo Duncan, E. Cory Sills,

12:30	<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	Rick Helfers
12:35	<b>Approval of July Meeting Minutes</b>	Amy Hayes/Amentahru Wahlrab
12:40	<b>President's Updates</b>	Michael Tidwell

- UT Chancellor [James Milliken](#) was on campus. He asks that we send Dr. Tidwell any updates, impressions of semester. The Chancellor walked through campus, visited classrooms and faculty and commented that UT Tyler has a higher rate of contact time between faculty, staff, and students.
- **Merger:** The UT Tyler and UT Health Science Center prospectus is under review by SACS. The review board should let UT Tyler know by first part of December about approval.

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- **Enrollment** updates: application for semester up, acceptances up, enrollment up 3.2% over last year; we have students from 46 of 50 states, and 6 of 7 continents; this is due to adjustment of enrollment standards (accepting top 25%); rankings have gone up; national university and Carnegie; possible ranking adjustments producing better enrollment; President says enrollment is just shy of 10,000.
- **Budget:** budget is still tight; budgets in Texas take extra time to take effect because of how revenue is collected; economic downturn will be felt in two years; revenues collected today will not harm us until years to come. So we pinch pennies today as we move to those future financial effects;
- **Covid:** new data collection methods for covid recording; need to know number of people we are testing and the positive/negative results positive **daily**—going into effect as of 9/18/2020. See [dashboard: https://www.utt Tyler.edu/coronavirus/](https://www.utt Tyler.edu/coronavirus/). Also, rapid tests available soon. Questions were raised by faculty about which test. Apparently both types (saliva swab and nasal). It was pointed out that saliva doesn't seem to give as many positives as the nasal). Reminder: University's COVID-19 hotline at 903-565-5999. COVID Reporting [Form](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout_id=32) - [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout\\_id=32](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout_id=32)
- **Spring Schedule;** new normal still in effect; hybrid but schedule is not predicted to change (spring break, start and end dates should be the same/on time). Of course, health of community...

12:55

Provost Updates

Amir Mirmiran

- Provost expressed **thanks** to those serving on the IRT;
- **Enrollment** further update: increased retention to 79.5% (90% is the goal); also, higher number of first year students this year than last year. Also, thanks to Cynthia Martinez and OIP, we have record new international students (260 total);
- **Not all campuses are experiencing the same things:** Houston Engineering Center limited by Houston community college not letting any faculty on campus and thus all UT Tyler faculty on that campus are working remotely. This may change in October if Covid rates decline;
- **Chancellor met with SGA president** and indicated that mask wearing is not something that students object to;

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- Chancellor said we have more onsite presence than any other campus; 65% of courses are either fully face-to-face or are hybrid; 45% of students have some level of face to face classes. Almost 1 of 2 students are meeting face to face.
- **Synchronous online classes** will be made available universally; chairs have been notified; Maymester will happen but unclear if it will be separate or concurrent with summer 1;
- rankings change: ranked in *Washington Monthly* up from 212 to 179 from last year to this year; ranking changes due in part to social mobility;
- **Merger:** 25 page summary prospectus made available to faculty senate Executive Council (though the full document is apparently 1800 pages).
- Had a meeting with UTRGV provost and Cathy Ross and ADT about ambassador program;
- Transition process: **dean searches** for Health and SCOB;
- \$15K for student success will continue;
- plagiarism software apology for late change and lack of faculty engagement—this decision was mandated by system;
- school of medicine could begin as early as 2023; but this needs further approval; questions about funding for the medical school and what that might mean for other academic programs was raised. Assumptions that funds would not go away from existing programs and could add some funds (especially health fields);

1:10

Title IX Update

Blake Bumbard

New processes in place. First: what has not changed: primary intent and object stays the same: To provide students and employees with a safe learning and working environment that is free from sexual discrimination, harassment, and violence. It should be noted that while the definition of sexual harassment has changed under the new Federal education guidelines, UT Tyler remains committed to old standards. The new definition is as follows and can be found [here](#): Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the institution conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the institution on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (Quid Pro Quo);
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the institution's education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault," "dating violence," "domestic violence," or "stalking" as defined under Clery/VAWA.

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Mr. Bumbard, UT Tyler's Title IX person, emphasized that when something does happen we respond; employee reporting stays the same: mandated reporters (faculty/staff) still have duty to report; changes: definition has changed, especially in point two above (by adding the word AND rather than OR: so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive) (Note again: policy change from US Department of Education); second change: what triggers a university's response? Used to be based on what the university knew or should have known. But now only if University has "actual knowledge" will Title IX trigger. In other words, get the reports to the title 9 coordinator. 3<sup>rd</sup> change: most reports are 3<sup>rd</sup> party (not the victim); new regulation requires actual victim to sign a formal complaint. Title 9 coordinator can sign a complaint though (might be needed if offender has a pattern of behavior but the victim does not want to file a complaint); reasons we may/must dismiss: title 9 does not protect you if you are abroad (study abroad); alternative relief: dismiss under title 9 but continuing under sexual misconduct policy basically things stay the same; continue to have informal resolution if both parties agree; if student and fac/staff no option of informal resolution; links to follow: to report: <https://www.uttyler.edu/titleix/>; to UT Tyler policy: <https://catalogs.uttyler.edu/UTTyler/HOP/Series-200-General-Policies-and-Procedures/2-4-3-Sexual-Misconduct-link-to-policy>

1:30                    **Military and Veterans Success Center**                    Coby Dillard

- Mr. Dillard is in his 6<sup>th</sup> week here: 500 students fit into his profile area; GI bill and other Veteran Services. Questions arose about when do we contact the center, usually when there is concern with a military affiliated student (includes dependents). Happy to talk to faculty and staff: Coby Dillard [cdillard@uttyler.edu](mailto:cdillard@uttyler.edu). Also, faculty contact/liaison is Dominick Fazarro.

1:45                    **Faculty Senate Update**                    Rick Helfers

- Diversity and inclusion committee: if you are interested please reach out to your fac/senate rep and/or Rick Helfers (fac/senate president)
- Tuesday teaching meeting; good place to vent or get advice
- Ms. Tolliver said to submit concerns to the Care Team; noncompliance for example; CARE Team Referral Form - [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout\\_id=2](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout_id=2); can also call Andrew Pettee: Please do not hesitate to call me directly at 903-566-6291 or email me at [apettee@uttyler.edu](mailto:apettee@uttyler.edu)
- COVID Reporting Form - [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout\\_id=32](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasTyler&layout_id=32). **No student is "exempt" from reporting.**
- Next meeting will be Oct 15

1:55                    **Adjournment**