

**Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes**  
**October 25, 2019**

**Members present:**

Bob McDonald, Courtney Meyers, Suzanne Tapp, Mitzi Lauderdale, Comfort Pratt

**Members not present:**

Mark Webb, Ali Duffy, Brie Sherwin, Angela Lumpkin, Upe Flueckiger, Patrick Hughes, Ali Nejat

**Guests:**

Lou Densmore

**Approval of Minutes:**

Because there was not a quorum present, the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

**Welcome:**

Bob McDonald welcome Executive Council members.

**Discussion:**

*TA Membership Application Due Date/Nomination Letter Due Date (Lou Densmore)*

On behalf of the Membership Selection committee, Lou Densmore said that the committee would like to propose a ten-day delay from the date that the nominees' full application is due and the date that the nominators' and recommenders' letters are due. For the year 2020, the proposed due dates are: Wednesday, March 25 for applications by the nominee and Friday, April 3 for letters by nominators or recommenders.

In addition to preventing problems resulting from late application submissions and nominators and recommenders who receive the link too late to submit their letters, this will also allow recommenders and nominators additional time to review the submitted packet (from the nominee). The committee agreed that it is the responsibility of the nominee to send their packet to recommenders and nominators.

*Subcommittee for Visibility and Impact (Comfort Pratt)*

See attachment. Comfort Pratt reported on the recent meeting of the subcommittee, including their discussion on visibility and impact with points about teaching resources, peer evaluations, graduate student/teaching assistant preparation, development for assistant professors, and an idea about partnering Teaching Academy members with a new faculty member and a teaching assistant in a triad relationship to work within content knowledge and teaching. Courtney Meyers talked about the earbud project and how the Teaching Academy members might work with new faculty from their colleges. She also mentioned the TeMPO Program and its impact. Bob McDonald noted that a mentoring program is a part of his vision for the Teaching Academy (partnering with deans and department chairs to identify new hires).

Comfort Pratt noted that the committee voted to recommend calling Teaching Academy members "fellows." The committee noted that the use of the word "fellow" might be contextual based on discipline (some disciplines would view it as a higher distinction) and said that the committee would need to consider it further. Bob McDonald will seek advice from the Provost's Office.

Comfort Pratt also discussed a possible logo for Teaching Academy members to use with their emails (taken from the recent Teaching Academy blazers). Comfort will send this logo to the Teaching Academy Executive Council and suggest that Teaching Academy members consider adding this to their email signatures.

### *Teaching Academy Voting Protocol (Bob McDonald)*

Bob noted that there is an issue within the Teaching Academy Voting Protocol. Although the issue of reviewing/scoring all applicants is addressed, the protocol does not address how committee members should vote/recuse themselves when they have personally written a letter of recommendation for a particular candidate.

Suzanne asked if this question was in regards to all awards or specifically in regard to the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award. It was agreed that it was specific to the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award.

Comfort indicated that there was a potential problem that if members were allowed to recuse themselves from certain applicants, then eventually it could limit the number of reviewers for candidates.

The Council suggested adding this line to the voting protocol: "Teaching Academy Executive Committee members may not write letters of support for the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award because committee members serve as reviewers for this award."

### *Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award OP Changes (Bob McDonald)*

Bob McDonald talked about the recent Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award process. There is not protocol in place to discuss voting procedures when there is not a majority of the committee members present.

The committee also discussed changing the proposed wording in this OP to say, "service and community outreach and engagement?" For the next meeting, there will be copies of OP 32:13 for the committee's review and further discussion.

### **Provost's Council Minutes:**

Bob McDonald gave an update on several items from the most recent Provost's Council meeting. There was a recent townhall regarding conflicts of interest, specifically NSF and NIH and new regulations, and there will be additional townhall discussions on this topic. There will also be continued focus on research productivity and new rankings of journals. There was an update on faculty award opportunities. Mitzi Lauderdale discussed state compliance regulations regarding the percentage of faculty who are on development leave, and the difference between Fulbright leaves and development leaves. Lauderdale also noted that during development leave, faculty are not allowed to teach and perhaps this is a question that should be raised if we value teaching (so that there is a possibility for collaborative opportunities or opportunities to develop teaching/teach in a new environment). The President's Faculty Book awards were discussed and it was noted that there were only three applications for the President's Excellence in Teaching Professorship. The committee discussed how the Teaching Academy might promote this opportunity. There was an update on the faculty success taskforce. The Provost's faculty fellowship had eight applications. Academic Council and Chair updates were given with a focus on risk management, Strive, and faculty credentialing. Genevieve Durham DeCesaro talked about the Chair Handbook and its coming online publication. They also discussed the academic calendar for 2025 and OP updates (including spousal accommodations and non-tenure earning ranks promotion policies). Dean Williams asked about guidelines for college promotion and tenure committees, and encouraged revision of the OP to encourage diversity on these committees. Carol Sumner asked committee members to submit religious holidays to help build a more inclusive university-wide calendar. The committee also discussed Pell grant status.

**Action Items:**

Minutes will be distributed ahead of time for the committee's review.

**Adjourn:**

Comfort Pratt motioned to adjourn the meeting and Courtney Meyers seconded.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Suzanne Tapp.*